



The University of Kashmir

# MEDIAtimes

MERC LAB JOURNAL 2008



**Generations  
for Peace**

A central graphic featuring a collage of various camera lenses and lens elements, some showing internal reflections. Red splatters, resembling blood, are scattered around the lenses, particularly on the right side. The background is a mix of blue and white streaks, suggesting a sky or a high-speed action scene.

# CONFLICT WITHIN A JOURNALIST





Cheif Minister and Pro-Chancellor University of Kashmir Mr. Omar Abdullah with the delegates from NASSCOM at two-day J&K IT conclave organised by EMMRC and MERC in collaboration with NASSCOM.



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Punjabi, Director Doordarshan Srinagar, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi as dignataries at the Valedictory function of the 17 day Television Production Workshop organised by MERC in collaboration with EMMRC.





## Message from the Vice Chancellor

Media Education Research Centre (MERC) is the primary Centre for training the young aspirants in media related activities. In this behalf, the Centre has to create the avenues of imparting practical training to them.

It is a pleasure to learn that the Centre is providing an opportunity to students to exhibit their writing skills through different publications. The 18th Annual Publication of Media Times is one such exercise where students are being offered a forum through which they are provided practical exposure and hand-on exercises to be better journalists of tomorrow. The publication is based on features, articles and research based write-ups.

The Department also publishes a fortnightly lab newspaper MERC Times where the students learn day to day reporting and editing.

I do hope that the Centre would continue to groom the students so that they become the harbingers of positive changes in the society. I am sure that under the guidance of efficient faculty and upgraded infrastructure the department will emerge as one of the excellent institution of the budding journalists.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the editorial team and students on their commendable effort in bringing out this publication.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Riyaz Punjabi".

**Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Punjabi**







## **Professionalism in Journalism**

### **From HOD's Desk**

Print media, having a history of being the torch bearer of truth, is known to have given voice to voiceless and finally recognition to neglected. Campaigns and crusades have been launched and sustained through print media, more so in the past, as the electronic media is now fast encroaching upon its space, due to its immediacy and attraction. Nonetheless, the print media has reinvented itself and remains the most potent means of communication. Notwithstanding the fact that there are several examples of gross misuse of printed word by vested interest, the print media on the whole has been struggling to seek and present the truth in the purest form. At times it has failed, even compromised, but mostly it succeeded in arriving at the truth and placing the same before the readers. It is this characteristic of print media that made it the most feared, respected and serious medium of communication, and resulted in creation of journalism as a preferred career option.

Journalism, today, has matured into a professional subject and developed on scientific lines, with its own language and grammar that is distinct from literature. A sound knowledge of language with practical field experience results in making of a successful journalist. But as the demand for trained and experienced journalists –reporters and editors, has increased tremendously, owing to proliferation of newspapers, magazines and other television news channels, there is a need to produce professionally trained and qualified manpower for the growing media industry. This is exactly what we are doing at Media Education Research Centre.

At MERC, we blend the classroom academics with practical field exposure to various spheres of journalism. The curriculum includes a variety of skill development courses, a thorough study of journalism ethics, history, media institutions, media content and journalism as profession. Besides, we lay strong emphasis on social, political, cultural and developmental role of media in creating a conscious society. We are committed to produce a highly informed, strongly committed, practically trained and professionally confident media practitioners, who are able to inspire the younger generations and make a strong contribution in creating a vibrant and well informed society.

While this annual publication, “Media Times”, has been providing an excellent opportunity to our students for years to hone their skills, the launch of fortnightly, “MERC TIMES” in 2008 has offered them yet another platform to practice their journalistic skills. At MERC, we realise that the programme we offer should have a strong vocational orientation, wherein experimental learning provided by classroom laboratories and on the job internship is a key component. A beginning has been made and a lot still need be done. With a solid support from the University authorities, we at MERC are trying to develop a synergy in association with various media organisations, from within and outside, to achieve the dream of making MERC a flagship department of the varsity and pride of the nation.



**Dr. Shahid Rasool**  
Head of the Department



## Pen and Peace

### From Editors Desk

In the contemporary world, the words like conflict, war, violence, clashes, and skirmishes are not new. Everyday we come across these words in the media. As such, the question arises as to what is the duty of a journalist? Is it reporting the horrors of war and violence?

The choice is either to join the chorus of chest-thumping outrage against the enemy or else to tell the story of war in such a way that makes us understand and value peace. These tricky options are difficult to answer but people today need peace more than anything. The emerging world scenario, with too much discontent and disgruntlement, requires an unswerving escort towards concepts that can alleviate the misery of people. Thus, all journalism schools need to incorporate peace journalism in their curriculum.

Peace Journalism is when editors and reporters make choices - of what stories to report, and how to report them - which create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value non-violent responses to conflict. Peace Journalism is supposed to use conflict analysis and transformation to update the concepts of balance, fairness and accuracy in reporting.

Peace Journalism approach provides a new road map tracing the connections between journalists, their sources, the stories they cover and the consequences of their reporting - the ethics of journalistic intervention. It applies an awareness of non-violence and creativity to the practical job of everyday reporting.

There is growing recognition among policymakers and conflict management experts that the media should be a building block of any comprehensive peace building strategy.

We at Media Education Research Centre (MERC) are attempting to produce quality journalists who are ready to go to the field and report for peace. We are attempting at training them to be responsible citizens who can bring about a positive change in the society with their reporting tools.

In fact, MERC has a history of producing reporters/editors/writers for the media industry both in the State as well outside it. Many of our alumni have proved their mettle in the field, negotiating outstandingly between the professional constraints and the conflict pressures.

Media Times has been a platform to allow our students experiment with their expression, within the creative domain of professionalism. Continuing with the mission, this issue of Media Times has tried to infuse the concept of power of pen among the students. It is another endeavor targeted at striving to encourage them to be pro-active and perceptive with such school of thought.



**Muslim Jan**  
Editor

# GENERATIONS FOR PEACE

**Nida Rafiq Sheikh**, a third semester media student who was selected for Generations for Peace camp 2009 in Abu Dhabi shares her experiences and thoughts.

"I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

**T**here were people with different faiths, different colors, different accents, and different languages yet there was a commonality and that was that we had all assembled there to work for peace. It was at times difficult to understand each other, but we managed to communicate in different forms. Sometimes singing, sometimes playing and sometimes by just some words. We shared our ideologies, our stories, our sufferings and our experiences.

It was an experience of a lifetime for me to know people from such diverse backgrounds and cultures. The Generations for Peace Camp, launched by Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan, in 2007, was an initiative for peace. This year it was organized in Abu Dhabi, and I was among the selected delegates.

The program brings together leaders of youth from divided communities and trains them to unite the young. This year fifty delegates from ten countries attended the peace camp. And the reason I chose to be a part of it was that we Kashmiris want peace more than anything!

Prince Feisal in his inaugural speech said, "We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our great humanitarian, founding partner, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan for his invitation to hold our third camp in Abu Dhabi. As a result of our previous two camps nearly 150 graduates have returned to 16 countries to cascade



>> Nida Rafiq Sheikh with other delegates at the 'Generations for Peace' camp in Abu Dhabi

their new knowledge and skills to thousands of young people. We are looking forward to these numbers accelerating further and into new territories after this first camp of 2009 and have HH Sheikh Hamdan for making this possible".

This camp gave me the opportunity to meet people from different conflict zones. We tried to understand different conflicts. Delegates from Nigeria, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon have taken part in the earlier program also, but for the first time there were delegates from India, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, as well as the host country. This camp widened my outlook about not only the political affairs across the world but also about the diversity of different cultures.

The camp started on 1st March, 2009 and in the first classroom session delegates were supposed to

tell their stories. It was a very emotional session and the heart-wrenching tales of the sufferings of people from different conflict zones made the atmosphere of the conference hall very grave. Hearing the stories from the horse's mouth for the first time, I realized that there is a lot of suffering across the world and it's high time that the young people from across the globe should come together and have one voice in promoting peace.

The entire concept of bringing together people of such diverse backgrounds together was very pioneering. The contemporary world is changing at a fast pace. Rapid technological innovations and industrialization have ushered in an age of materialism and consumerism whose primary objective is money and profit-making. While a part of the world is experiencing rapid development, the major part of the world is still striving to acquire its basic necessities of life.

While we talk of globalization and global citizenship, we cannot overcome the narrow limits of national, regional and cultural differences. We talk of the necessity of peace when we allot a substantial part of our national budget for acquiring arms and ammunition. We talk of secularism, liberty and fraternity yet we fail to respect the religious feelings of others. These contradictory pulls and pressures have made the world and its residents increasingly violent and arrogant. The generation that is coming up to take the responsibility of the future world is a generation with dwindling values and emotions. In such a situation, scholars are increasingly stressing on the necessity of spreading the culture of peace among the younger generation so that the world becomes a better place to live in.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) also supported the Peace Camp- 2009 by providing coaching and curriculum support. NBA All-Star Rolando Blackman and Olympic Gold Medallist, Jennifer Azzi were there lending basketball instructions to the camp delegates.

We had interactive classroom sessions combined with practical sports covering rules and skills in four sports - basketball, football, softball and volleyball. The curriculum stressed on peace building, focusing on the need to build tolerance and understanding so

that youth from 'communities in conflict' can find common grounds rather than be divided by differences. We also had a full fledged session on dealing with Media in the conflict zones because the organizers believed that the key to spreading the global message of Generations for Peace is to build strong relationships with the media. The intensive classroom sessions to address conflict resolution were combined with practical sporting sessions conducted by professional coaches and we learned the value of the media in spreading the seeds of peace. We were taught by media professionals how to work with the media and to better understand the journalists' needs, no matter which type of media they may represent.

Everyday we had to prepare presentations in groups comprising of people from different regions and this helped us to understand each other better. All this bonded us into new friendships and we pledged to work collectively for World Peace to the best of our capabilities.

Generations For Peace works for bringing together like-minded individuals and partners who believe that commonalities outweigh differences and that planting the seeds of peace is a shared responsibility for all. The cascade programme has resulted in growing numbers of Generations for Peace Projects being instigated in the countries to where graduates have returned to after their training. The camp also taught participants how to train other trainers, who can then plan and implement sporting programmes with children through a series of workshops, interactive seminars, presentations, debates, role-play and sporting sessions. Topics cover leadership, teamwork, building dialogue, tolerance and respect, anger management, conflict transformation, peace education, working with children and youth, self confidence, sport, religion and politics. Peace Pioneers are expected to train at least 20 trainers every year; work with at least 100-200 children annually; be an advocate for peace and to support other Peace Pioneers.

It was a great learning experience and I hope I can make a difference for the people of my place with what I have learned there and in the words of Generations for Peace slogan am able to "pass it on".



# CONFLICT WITHIN A JOURNALIST: MUNTADHAR AL ZAIDI

A journalist took an extreme step to express his anger. **Azhar Qadri** analyses whether or not he is a torch bearer for contemporary journalists ?

Unprejudiced and unbiased are the key words that are taught to a student of journalism. Many in their journalistic career do adhere to these notions, and many just think that they are, even when the others know they are not.

In November 2001, George W. Bush, the then President of United States of America dictated to the world, "Either with us, or against us". This was a warning from the man who then commanded world's most powerful army, and claimed to be the upholder of Freedom.

Seven years later, on December 14, 2008, a young Iraqi journalist, Muntadhar al Zaidi, responded to Bush's diktat. He was supposed to be unbiased and unprejudiced, but he chooses a side.

During a press conference in Baghdad, Iraq, al-Zaidi threw both of his shoes at then-United States President George W. Bush.

"This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog," yelled al-Zaidi in Arabic as he threw his first shoe towards the U.S. president. "This is for the widows and orphans and all those killed in Iraq," he shouted as he threw his second shoe.

This was for the first time in the Modern history of the world, that a Journalist so aggressively expressed his emotions. And this was a wake up call that journalists are not mere robots, who just report the death and pain.

Al-Zaidi's reports often focused on the plight of widows, orphans, and children in the Iraq War. Re-

porting so much of death and destruction forced al-Zaidi to choose a side, and when he saw the man whom he believed was responsible, al-Zaidi was quick to react and so he did.

The International Federation of Journalists while commenting on the issue, said the incident "reflected deep anger at the treatment of Iraqi civilians during US occupation over the past four years of which journalists have been major victims".

While Muntadhar al-Zaidi was hailed as "hero" by many, some including the Iraqi government con-



demned his action. But what remains unanswered is whether or not, a journalist has the right to react to the situation. Or are reporters always expected to be like robots, or are they supposed to behave normally, like others would have done.

This young Iraqi journo is today seen as an iconic figure, but he is not the only one who has felt the pain of people whom he reported, but he surely was

among the first to react to what their conscience felt was right.

The moment when this man took off his shoe and directed them at Bush, was surely one of the defining moment of the year 2008. With it died the journalist inside the man whose dream of living a peaceful life was shattered by the cries and wails of those who were killed in the process of Bush's 'Iraqi Freedom'.

Muntadhar al-Zaidi reacted because he witnessed pain and devastation of everything around him, and this made him to react. Since the war is

yet to be over, and even if it does, it is surely to start somewhere else. So Muntadhar may not be the last to react in such a way.

In this world, which has been polarized into "with us" or "against us" camps, the journalist faces the brunt of all the warring sides. In conflict zones the reporters are threatened, beaten, are kidnapped or are ultimately killed, for speaking the truth and sometimes for speaking only the truth. In the meantime journalist continue to fight there own emotions and do what they are meant to do, report like robots.

## **Dreamer is Dying**

by Azhar Qadri

I am a Dreamer  
I have a Dream  
Of mesmerizing meadows  
Of sizzling sunset  
Of serene streams  
Of walking the untrodden ways

I am a Dreamer  
I have a Dream  
Of beautiful angel  
Of her locks  
Of living with her far across the mountains  
Of thanking her for being there for me

I am a Dreamer  
I have a Dream  
Alas! Dream is vanishing  
The cries, becoming more silent  
Of mourning mothers  
Of wailing widows

I am a Dreamer  
I have a Dream  
The Dream is vanishing  
The Dreamer is Dying  
The Dreamer should die!

# CONTEMPORARY MEDIA TACTICS

*Iqbal Ahmed analyses the contemporary Media trends and explains how with changing times Media is also changing.*

Every generation creates its own trends in journalism. Technological changes however, have liberated the limited reach of media. Technological advancement has promoted and exposed media to a plethora of fields and ultimately a meteoric rise to money and fame. Do the contemporary media serve their basic motive? Or is it that with the technological growth, flavor has been added and the real purpose of journalism lost?

In contemporary times is Media:- Independent? ..... NO. Watchdog?..... NO. Unvarnished? ..... NO.

Then what? Sensationalized, Trivialized, Degraded, Enslaved, Fake, and Exploited!

All because of money! Yes that is it! Now, what is journalism for? Empowerment probably leads the list. Masses, when empowered by the free flow of information, are ready to jeopardize all their prejudices. They let their bare wounds bleed and let their eyes drain tears; pacify their heart and soul for a little more endurance. This is to create new rules for their survival and acceptable social system. Isn't the media to give voice to the voiceless? Of course, it is for the same, but for them 'POLITICS' matters. The threat of censorship to most of the media has become a stumbling block for its proper function. Political pleasure, now a day, makes the mare go. Noam Chomsky says, 'The real mass media are basically trying to divert people. Let them do something else, but don't bother us (us being the people who run the show). Let them get interested in professional sports, for example. Let everybody be crazed about professional sports or sex scandals or the personalities and their problems or something like that. Anything, as long as it isn't serious. Of course, the serious stuff is for the big guys. "We" take care of that.'

Is media the exact reflection of reality? Yes of course. Reflection is the complete function of a mirror, and the exact reflection demands the exact and spotless mirror. But our media knows no laws of reflection. What should one expect from a cracked mirror?

Nevertheless, some escape from this funda, no joyous movement yet, they carry the properties of convex and concave and reality can't be buried in oblivion! Most of them are seeds of same pumpkin and carry all these properties. Media is to influence the public opinion; at least this is not fake! Sure, but what should one expect from the hatch of this snake?

A jug full of pure milk is liked by all, as it has a good influence. Contrarily, if a spoon of pure Alcohol or pure Venom is mixed with this pure Milk, what will be the influence? Beyond mythological concepts, the second category of milk would be of provocative and killing nature. If the journalist's first obligation is to the truth, first loyalty to the citizens, then why do they not dare to sell pure milk? What about the loyalty? If

M = media S = society T = truth Mn = money, then  $M \times T = L$  (loyalty).  $M \times T \times S = E$  (empowerment). and  $M \times Mn = D$  (degradation).  $M \times T \times Mn = SN$  or  $TR$  (sensationalism or trivialization). Journalism, in order to survive in such a hostile ambiance, is no longer enough to report the facts. It is now necessary to report the truth about the facts. And for truth to prevail, journalists must make clear that to whom they owe their first loyalty. With its vast and direct influence on the public opinion, journalism can not be guided only by economic forces, profit and special interests; it must instead be on the track of realization. Once the seed hides itself under the soil, which is its proper place for better existence, it results in the garden of flowers and fruits.



# EVOLUTION OF LOCAL CABLE CHANNELS

**Rafiq Ahmed Wani** weighs the pros and cons of local cable channels.

Human communication has transcended through different phases, from oral to the modern sophisticated and dynamic media and Internet. It is through these modern means of communication the World has become a global village where information is in every body's pocket. Man is a social animal and it becomes mandatory for him to know what is happening in his society. This romance that exists between the knower and knowee is held fast by media that traverse information to every corner of the world, to every individual that too 24x7.

Today, one of the biggest problems the world is facing is information overload. There is a mushroom growth of media channels all over the world and especially in India, every body is becoming a journalist and the people are becoming frustrated by the sensationalization that these channels are creating. Kashmir is no exception in this regard.

Talking about the local media of Kashmir, it can be easily said that our media is jack of all trades. First of all comes the news broadcast from the local cable channels. The part that these channels played and are playing in the turbulent atmosphere of the valley is exemplary.

The previous year Kashmir witnessed a mass uprising on the Amarnath land controversy. Thousands of protesting people came out on streets and every bit of that upsurge was covered by the local media. The inhuman treatment that every Kashmiri got during these protests was bravely covered by local me-

dia that too in tense situation where anything could have happened to them. The state administration felt that these channels were exaggerating the facts and were creating law and order problem. The government therefore imposed a ban on news programmes on many local cable channels.

One can easily recall from this ban the vernacular press act of 1878 when British rulers imposed severe restrictions on Indian media, although, it was primarily the print then which faced the brunt.

The ban on local cable channels infused a rein of anger among Kashmiri masses.

Local channels have also done a commendable job in highlighting the common man's issues, but when these local channels are critically evaluated there are certain loopholes which need to be addressed. In the area of entertainment our media is juxtaposing on the lines of commercialization. Quality content is nowhere to be seen on these channels, and most of them are showing pirated version of Hindi films.

Also, producing remake versions of Kashmiri folk song, whose content is purely based on mystics and spiritualism, and degrading them to the hip-hop is, to say the least, condemnable.

Even though, local media has done some commendable work and created a niche for itself, it has much more to do to compete with other national channels. There is a tremendous scope of improvement.

“There is a mushroom growth of media channels all over the world and especially in India, every body is becoming a journalist”

# Shades of Bollywood

From the era of silent movies to the “Masala flicks” of contemporary times, Bollywood has come a long way, discusses **Raunaq Zahoor**.

**T**here are very few people in this world who do not watch movies. And when we talk about India, from a rich business man to poor slum dweller, Bollywood influences all.

Indians are too sentimental when it comes to films. They are simply crazy for film stars. Whatever be the content of film, it is the lead actors who make the film popular. The film which stars their favourite actor becomes their favourite film, no matter what the content.

The popularity of Bollywood movies are based on the acting, singing, dancing and strong plot lines which connect deeply with important cultural values of India. Bollywood, on an average, produces 800 movies per year.

Bollywood has come a long way since Dundhiraj Govind Phalke, popularly known as Dada Sahab Phalke, made the first movie, *Rajah Harish Chandra* in 1913. The film was a huge success. Then came film makers like D.G. Ganguly, Chandan Lal Shah and Himanshu Rai. It was only in 1931 that first Indian talkie ‘*Alam Ara*’ was released. *Devdas*, *Mukti Toofan*, *Jai Bharat* and many others were the other hits of the initial era of what was called TALKIES.

Among the pioneers of Indian cinema is the name of Satyajit Ray. Satyajit started his career as film director in 1954. His works include *Pather Panchali*, *Aparajito*, *Charulata*, *Teen Kanya*, *Shatranj ke Khaladi* which had well knit plots. This gave him respect among the viewers as well as critics.

After independence, Indian film industry produced classics, worth mentioning among them *Mother India*, *Jhanak Jhanak Payal baje*, *Aawara*, *Barsat*, *Bobby*, *Mera Naam Joker*. It should be noted that the first colour film released in India, “*Jhansi Ki Rani*” was a big flop on box office.

The sixties witnessed *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Ganga Ja-*

*muna*, *Sangam*, and *Yaarana*. Among them all *Sholay* was the biggest success.

In seventies and eighties violence had become a norm on screen. In nineties film makers stressed more on romance and songs in movies. Today film makers like Karan Johar, Farhan Akhter, Aditya Chopra, David Dhawan continue to give us movies based on romance, family values and cultural themes.

Many changes have taken place in Indian cinema since its birth. Bollywood has been changing its colours with the change in mood and tastes of audiences. Some directors have transformed themselves into actors, Farhan Akhter, and some actors have changed into directors like Amir Khan.

In today’s times people have a hectic life style. Bollywood proves to be a stress buster. Films like *Hera Pheri*, *Hungama*, and *Hulchul*, have been very popular because of the humorous plot. Bollywood is also trying to create awareness among people and educating them. Some movies are trying to highlight various social issues. We have the example of movies like “*Babul*” which promotes widow remarriage. Films like “*Tare Zameen Par*” “*Iqbal*”, “*Black*” and others have helped in educating the people about special abilities of people with certain disability and helped in understanding the feelings of a disabled person. Movies like *Chak de India*, *Rang de Basanti* have rekindled patriotic values.

Although, Bollywood entertains, but there is an auditory sensationalism. Music is used in all Indian movies but sometimes it is over used. If we trace the history of music in movies it started long back, just after cinema was born. When movies were screened during silent era, the noise created by projector was distracting, the musicians were hired for playing music in theatres when movies were screened. They played music according to the mood of film. This

solved the problem of distracting noise but music became an important part of film. No film maker in bollywood would take the risk of making film without music. Sometimes, it is because of the music that a film becomes a huge success at box office. The improper use of music makes some films a failure, inspite of a good plot and super stars.

It has been observed that Indian masses prefer watching bollywood movies rather than Hollywood movies. Hollywood has dominated most of the film industries across the world. In India it has failed to make any serious impression on common masses,

except a few movies like Titanic, Superman, Spiderman, etc. These movies were liked when they were dubbed in Hindi. Indians love bollywood movies because of their extravagant nature.

Bollywood has always reflected different hues and aspects of life. It definitely has an impact on our society but all depends on how we perceive. The most harmless movie can become harmful if it is perceived in that way. People should understand what is good and what is bad. They should be wise enough to judge the pros and cons of the movie they watch.

## Rolling the Chair or Gearing the Chair

Faheem ul Islam

Finally I've been 'crown'd',  
and my 'rivals' have been  
'drown'd'.  
Can you 'listen' to the 'sound',  
I'm no more 'bound'.  
This's nad the 'first round',  
I'll 'come again' to the 'ground'.  
I'm a 'play boy',  
but, will perform my 'duty' as a  
'cow boy'.  
I've a big 'challenge' on my  
'shoulders',  
which appear to me 'nothing',  
but mere 'boulders'.  
This's been ma 'ultimate desire',  
to make people 'dance on fire'.  
I'll work in the 'show',  
with a 'wit to resist' any 'blow'.  
The 'process' though is very  
'slow',  
but with 'progress' I'll 'glow'.  
I'm 'young',  
I'm 'dynamic',  
I'm 'experienced'.  
Aren't you convinced?  
I was just 'twenty eight', you  
heard,  
when in parliament my 'first  
speech I delivered'.  
What ma 'pa' has been doing,  
don't expect the 'same' from me.  
As I'm going 'far beyond him',  
just 'wait and see'!  
'Dad' will look after the 'party',  
I'll look after the 'affairs'.

I'm no 'mean',  
as others will look after 'their  
chairs'.  
This is 'important' to 'mention',  
there'll be very 'little' to be given  
as 'pension'.  
I'll 'groom ma loom',  
leave 'no room in gloom'.  
I'll show you 'half moon full',  
for sure you'll 'boom'.  
This is ma 'promise',  
this is purely 'cream',  
this'll all remain,  
but, a 'dream in a dream'!  
Keep't in your 'mind',  
fix and paste,  
these are just 'six',  
shouldn't get 'waste'.  
Who says while in 'chair',  
everything will be 'fair'?  
This has been a 'trend',  
for 'people' like me, not to 'care'!  
When I turn ma 'dad's age',  
I'll nad live a 'cage'.  
But will be 'surfing a page',  
about 'me',  
about ma 'life',  
about ma 'children', and  
about ma 'wife'.  
Even if I'm 'bottom down' to 'one  
last breath',  
even if I'm 'six feet' from 'the  
edge',  
I'll 'drag' you all on my 'sledge',  
with no 'pledge'!

He will ask you 'there',  
hey you all,  
why did you make him so 'tall'?  
And walked on his 'footsteps' to  
'fall'.  
Why didn't 'you',  
with your 'subconscious' make a  
'talk',  
and,  
by 'good',  
for 'good',  
with 'good',  
to 'good', didn't you 'walk'?  
This is not a 'satire',  
I'll never 'retire'.  
I'll not create any trouble,  
as people here are busy in 'hubble-  
bubble',  
making this 'land' a readymade  
'rubble'!  
Forget 'papers',  
enjoy 'wafers',  
I'm not the one who 'caters',  
I'm the one who 'matters'.  
I'll 'cheque' you 'anywhere',  
with an account 'nowhere'.  
I'm but in 'coalition',  
this is a 'humble submission',  
'select me', 'elect me',  
in the next 'assembly election'.  
I'll have nothing to 'confess',  
nothing to 'regret',  
if you could all my 'wrong' forget!



# TRADITIONAL MEDIA AND DEVELOPMENT

**Syed Liyaqet Geelani** writes about the role of folk media in educating the society.

It is apparent that mass media such as newspapers, television and films in their present form can not adequately perform the development roles expected of them. It is mainly because they don't reach enough of the third world population with credible and relevant information.

New communication technologies promise greater efficiency and accuracy in the dissemination of information. But the rural areas of developing countries do not benefit from these advances because of lack of human and material resources there. There are valuable contributions to be made by the folk media to support and promote development and family planning programs in these areas. Folk media can integrate cultural values, beliefs, attitudes with national and community needs.

Folk media include visual, verbal, aural forms accepted by a specific community and used to entertain, inform or instruct. Poetry, puppetry, songs and dramas are examples of dynamic folk media. These are adaptable and capable of incorporating new forms and ideas. In the early 1970's two conferences were held to discuss the ways in which folk media and mass media could be used in family planning programs, bringing the idea closer to practical implementation. Historically folk media has played a role in informing, instructing and motivating specific audiences.

Folk media are flexible, portable and generally inexpensive. However a careful balance must be main-



tained in using folk media to guard against the possibilities of destruction of its form.

The best approach, seems to be to use folk media to arouse the audience feelings and create an atmosphere for change, followed by mass media presentation of more detailed information and viewed illustration.

The contribution of traditional media is quite inevitable in various fields like that of family planning, health, education, cultural promotion etc in rural areas. This is that very form of media which has the potential to transform the whole society, the best source of education and awareness among the masses especially in rural areas. Hence if folk media comes with new technology, it can prove even more significant in moulding societies in positive direction, which can provide a helping hand in the development of the nation.

# FASHION AND MEDIA

Fashion facts IN and OUT from the perspective of **Nazima Shafi.**

**F**ashion is changing, slightly elusive, and extremely seductive. It has the power to transform an image and make a social statement.

Fashion refers to the styles and customs prevalent at a given time. The term “fashion” is frequently used in a positive sense, as a synonym for glamour, beauty and style. Fashion is a sort of community’s art, through which a culture examines its notions of beauty and goodness. The term “fashion” is also sometimes used in a negative sense, as a synonym for fads, trends and materialism.

A number of cities are known as global fashion centers and for their fashion weeks, where designers exhibit their new clothing collections to audiences. Paris being the foremost fashion destination. To some, fashion is an art form. To others, it is almost a religion. But for most people it is a method of utilizing clothing, accessories and hair to show or hide something about them. We can use fashion to express ourselves, to serve as an extension of your personality.

Now the question here arises is that who decides what is ‘IN’ and what is ‘OUT’? Celebrities and other opinion leaders are usually the first to sport new looks, spurring the buying public into accepting emerging trends. So everyone from big-name designers to celebrities may be behind influencing the direction fashion will go in. But ultimately, it is the consumer, who will decide what is ‘IN’, when you choose whether or not to buy.

The press attends fashion shows presenting designer collections and then gives increased coverage to trends they think their readership is interested in, giving rise to fashion journalism. Commentary can be found in magazines, newspapers, on television, fashion websites, social networking sites and in fashion blogs. At the beginning of the 20th century, fashion magazines began to include photographs and became even more influential than in the past. In cities throughout the world these magazines were greatly sought-after and had a profound effect on public taste. Talented illustrators drew exquisite fashion plates for the publications which covered the



most recent developments in fashion and beauty. The most famous of these magazines was La Gazette du Bonton which was founded in 1912 by Lucien Vogel. Vogue, founded in the US in 1902, has been the longest-lasting and most successful of the hundreds of fashion magazines that have come and gone.

Television coverage began in the 1950s with small fashion features. In the 1960s and 1970s, fashion segments on various entertainment shows became more frequent, and by the 1980s, dedicated fashion shows like Fashion Television started to appear.

Fashion, by description, changes constantly.. For some, fast-paced changes in fashion embody many of the negative aspects of capitalism which results in waste and encourages consumers to buy things unnecessarily. Other people enjoy the diversity that changing fashion can apparently provide, seeing the constant change as a way to satisfy their desire to experience “new” and “interesting” things.

# CHILD LABOUR

## A SLUR ON THE FACE OF HUMANITY

The future of humanity is in jeopardy, warns **Nazir Ahmad Ganie.**

**I**t was just midday, when the rain started pouring down and everybody in our classroom decided to go to canteen. My friends started chatting and discussing about the rainy season. In the meantime, a good looking, cute little boy came with some glasses of tea, all his clothes were wet and he was shivering with cold. An innocent boy who should have been in school was serving the intellectuals and scholars of the highest seat of learning. No doubt, the rate of child labour is increasing day by day. If we, the responsible citizens of the society cannot stop it, we should at least create awareness about how disastrous a nation can be, if these children are maltreated!

Child— the father of man, is builder of the nation. It is indisputable in view of the overall and long ranging consequences of the practice of child labour and deserves to be placed high on the list of our priorities. Child labour means engagement of children in gainful occupations which are often hazardous to their health and deny them the opportunities of development.

The existence of child labour is a slur on a modern state, which seeks to promote the all round development of its citizens. Children are the future of a society. They are like buds which need to be properly nourished and nursed, so that they bloom fully, grow into able human beings and contribute their worth to the future development of the society. On the contrary, instead of being sent to schools, they are made to work.

Child labour is a global phenomenon. However, it is more concentrated in developing countries as compared to developed countries in the world. Despite all the public awareness programs, India is today having the largest population of working children in the world. Most of the child workers come from poor families which



cannot afford to spare their children from work so as to augment their meager family income. Most of these workers are concentrated in the unorganized sector of the economy comprising farm, forestry, livestock, fishing and household industries where the productivity per man is low.

Different International, national and local organizations have been conducting seminars, awareness programs and campaigns about child labour. According to an estimate of the International Labour Organization (ILO), children constitute around thirty percent of the world's population. An estimated 218 million children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labour, excluding domestic, some 126 million of these are engaged in hazardous conditions such as working in mines, industries, chemicals with dangerous machinery and in agriculture. Millions of girls, who work as domestic servants especially, are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked, 5.7 million forced into debt bondage or other forms of slavery, 1.8 million into prostitution and pornography, 0.9 million into other illicit activities. However, the vast majority of the child laborers, 70 percent or more work in agriculture.

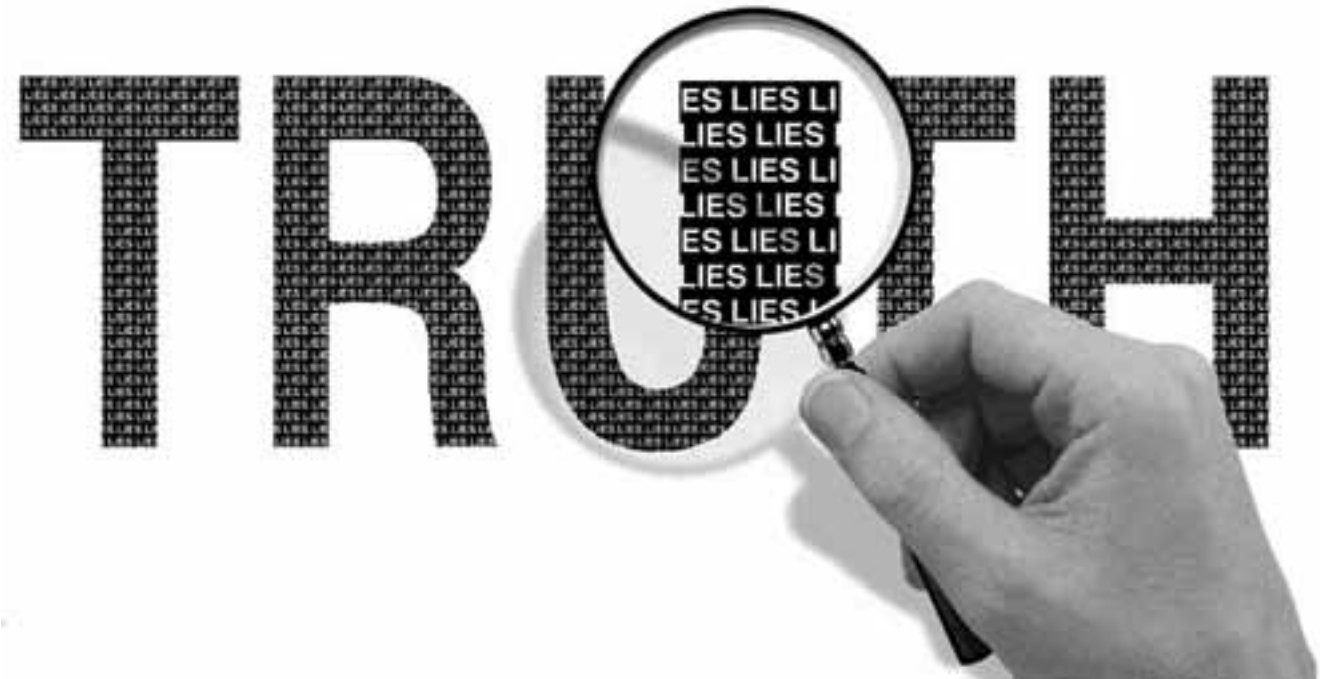
In our state, Jammu and Kashmir, although the number of child laborers is not so high but it is not negligible as well. The children working in different fields and sectors like carpet weaving, handlooms and handicrafts, hotels, mechanical workshops and others are badly affected. Working in these institutions make these children under developed physically, mentally and socially!

Child labour menace is a black spot on our society, it should be uprooted as soon as possible other wise our future would be dark and dangerous and even unpredictable.



# THE TRUTH... ABOUT TRUTH

Truth is the most alien thing known to humans, explains, P.S. Bali.



Is the value of truth worth more than the security of the hopeful stories fed to us everyday? What is its value? Is the whole truth even possible, or wanted? The value of truth has come up in conversations with friends lately. Is its value in what we want to hear? Is its value in what's real? Truth is something different to every one. In my opinion truth or its perversions can make or break a relationship, and its untruth that gives us a sense of unease. Truth can give a freedom that is beyond the lies. Is this something we want or is the truth too painful to live with? Many of us live in a world where the truth is perverted into something that is more opinion than truth. In many ways, we are fed with what we want to hear. We do the same to others. We live in a masked world that takes joy in rosy outlooks. Reality is way too painful. News on television is slanted, and newspapers are biased toward opinions that bear the stamp of political correctness. Can we as a people bear to hear what is real? I wonder! Everyone wants to hear that every-

thing is going to be all right. Is it? I truly doubt it, after all life throws us very unfair problems. We want to believe that we can hold back the passing of time so we believe the advertisements that promote youthful products and even when we ought to know, better we buy them. We want to believe that a war is going to bring peace, but after war there is always another war. In relationships, we sell our biased stories to keep the peace or preserve the relationship. Hiding behind lies, we smooth over the bumps. The sadness of our reality is but a dream that we swallow hoping that it isn't so. However, it is so! Reality isn't very fun most of the time. Is the whole truth possible? I don't know, maybe not. All I know is that sometimes the varnished truth chips away at the very fabric of love, life and friendships. It leaves behind a hollow kind of life that is worse than hype or spin of any created reality. I am learning to be truthful, I am not always successful. It is far too easy to be a peacemaker and cover the harder facts that occur in everyday life.

# VILLAGE PROFILE

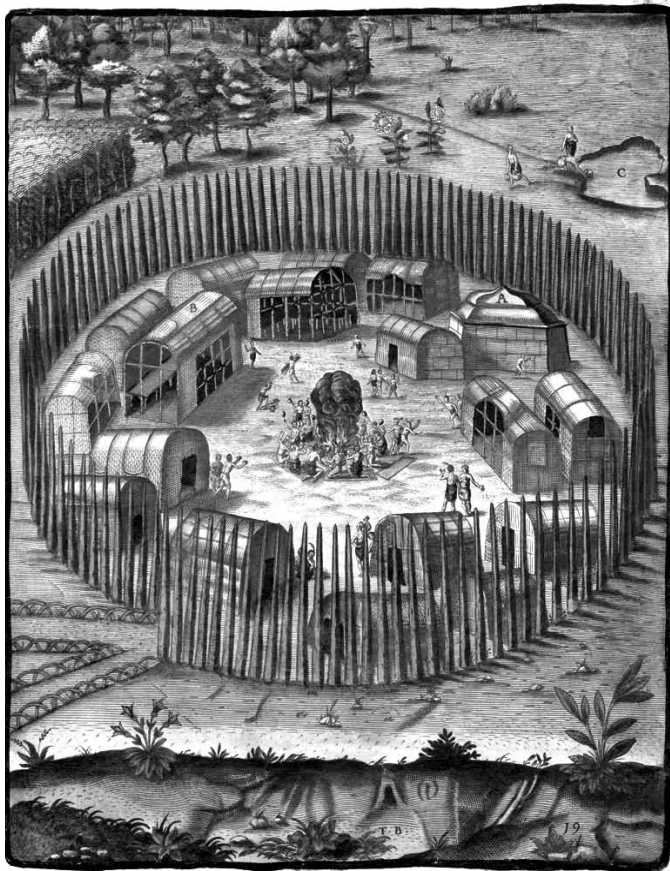
**In the era of modern gadgets and gizmos, there is a village called Taki-Sangreshi which exists in isolation, writes Sameer-ul Hassan.**

The world is changing fast so are its people. Month's distance got reduced to hours and the hour's distance to minutes. The traditional pigeon mail has been replaced by the electronic mail. Now almost all the countries are linked with each other either through air services, roads, or sea routes but Taki-Sangreshi, a village in out skirts of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is yet to have a road. In this era when the roads are considered to be the nerves, this village has a nerve in the shape of a narrow footpath.

Taki-Sangreshi is a beautiful and picturesque village located in the lap of mountains decorated with small and tall evergreen pine trees, the only thing which soothes one's heart and rest Allah knows well. This small village is barely 24 kilometers from the heart of the Srinagar known as Lal Chowk and matches in no ways with the district Srinagar. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century when the whole world is laden with technology, they are yet living a primitive life and are unaware of all new technological advancements except radio, television, watches and only three young lads in the whole village having mobile phones.

This village housing 50 families is yet to get

basic infrastructure and is deprived of all essential requirements like motorable roads, health centre, and pure drinking water. Even a ration store is unavailable! This village has to face more severe problems during winters and virtually remains cut off from rest of the state for 2-3 months.



This village doesn't deserve such a pathetic condition. Abdul Qayoom Reshi, 28, a resident of this village said, "We are very unlucky not to have a motorable road here; we are facing a lot of hardships due to unavailability of roads. We have to carry all the material whether eatables or any other thing on our shoulders". The limited connectivity has deprived us of everything of the modern world, he mournfully added.

Almost all the residents of this village are mainly involved in labor and embroidery works and only four are government employees. Farming and grazing cattle is the main occupation of this small village. Maximum of houses here are made of earthen bricks with few tin roofs.

Literacy wise the village is lags much behind and only two students have qualified matriculation examination till date. Illiteracy rate of this village

is 98 percent. The village single storied middle school comprising three rooms. 45 students are currently on rolls. In case of bad weather, all the students of eight classes are taught in a single room and if nature shows a bit of mercy on them then they get a chance to study in the small school lawn without much disturbance.

The students are too shy to talk. After a lot of cajoling I finally succeed in making Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, a 6<sup>th</sup> standard student to talk about his schooling and he hesitantly replied, "We lack infrastructure since one room is our office and the other room is occupied by the land owner who is demanding a new building from government in lieu of his land".

When I further asked him if he knows anything about computer and cable television, he bluntly said "no". Then after a small pause he replied "I have heard about cable television on which a lot of movies are shown but I have neither heard nor read about computers till date".

Mohi-ud-din expressed his desire to study fur-

ther but laments of having no qualified person there who could guide them. He said they are helpless and have to go for tuitions to other villages which are at least 6 kilometers away.

If there would have been roads it could have made their education much easier. They could have easily gone to a good school and could easily go for higher education.

Taki-Sangreshi village lacks a sub health centre resulting in many health problems and ignorance of dangerous diseases. Recently one pregnant woman, Shameema, gave birth to a dead child on way to the hospital. "We took her on charpoy and it took us more time because we were walking carefully", said Ghulam Nabi, the husband of the unfortunate lady.

"The only thing we want is that our children should not face the hardships which we have faced. Our children too have right to education like other children of the valley. So we pray to Allah, hoping our hardships will soon come to an end." said residents of Taki-Sangreshi village.

**E**ducation is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

**Albert Einstein**



# Changing Relations: Bodies and Bullets

Changing times lead to creation of new relationships. The violent contemporary times are the designers of a novel relation between the oppressors and the sufferers, says **Muzaffar Wani**.

Human life is based on relationships. Some are quite obvious while others are beyond the realm of observation. From history we learn that there used to be a relationship between body and soul and those people may be termed strange in modern context who enjoyed the delight of this discovery. But the time kept passing and also the relations. For now a new relationship has evolved which is cherished by a lot of people who have taken over to guard peace. Here bullets love bodies! They make their home in human bodies by piercing, cutting, and tearing the flesh to find a suitable place where they can reside peacefully. This relationship may seem strange to some but others know that this forms holes on one side and the gorges on the other!

Here the bodies are bisected and exposed, they are not diseased but get infected with one harsh stroke and the wounds don't even get the time to be treated. Even if they get treated, then it is with bayonets in place of scalpels, that too with open eyes and with out anesthesia. This



relation gives headless bodies, bodiless heads, broken ribs and pierced stomach and it is so strong that some times shroud is not worth opening, sometimes the coffin is to be carried empty and sometimes grave need not be dug!

There was the time when the parts used to be organized, performing their assigned duties. But now they are scattered, fluttering in all directions with out any sensory impulse from the brain and the circulation of the heart oozing and precipitating on the dust! The world seems to be a shop of prosthetics with limbs, flesh, skin and intestines on display every where!

In cyber world and the age of wheels, arms

have to take over the function of legs. While sometimes, spoons are there but not the hands, and the job is to be done by the legs. Legs without trunk and the bodies with saw on their feet!

Here you will find hearts at market places exposed to everybody as if nobody understood them in their life. Feelings! In that dark country there is this intimate relationship between tires, blood and roads. The fluid which should have been circulating in the veins and arteries of an artist is used as ink for the art, resisting the whips of brushes and painting the highways, shops and streets- the vampires emphasizing the delicacy and aesthetics of the pictures. A new leap in prosperity, where the blood of bodies is used for the colour of flag!

The language of reds is spoken far and wide, the little angel's school teacher will never beat him as his white uniform is also dyed red- red bag, red books...! Long after the soul has left, bodies are still dragged like brooms wiping the dust and piled as if logs of wood!

Where is this relationship leading, development or degradation? It may be development for the ones who watch the obscene bodies and not the mutilated ones, who hear the lesbian sounds but not the miserable screams. Surely, it can't be development for the mother who saw his son's clear face in the morning and, at the afternoon found no place on his face to bestow him the last kiss!



Forgive, O Lord,  
my little jokes on  
Thee, And I'll forgive  
Thy great big one on  
me.

Robert Frost



# TWENTY-20

## They say it is Cricket

From gentleman's game to the game of glamour, Cricket has been transformed, says, **Waheed Mirza**

If late W.G.Grace happens to visit a cricket field again with a Twenty-20 cricket match going on, he will but obviously be more than confused. From coaching manual to wily slogs, from battles of attrition to hit or get out shows, from gentlemen's game to

cheer leaders - changes that the first real legend of the game wouldn't have imagined in his wildest of dreams. Twenty-20 cricket, bang-bang version, is home to all these innovations.

Twenty-20, the brainchild of English and Wales Cricket Board, introduced in 2003 domestic season to fight dwindling crowds and reduced sponsorships turned out to be a successful experiment. It's fast paced, exciting and entertaining nature made it to gain popularity in its maiden season and had more takers than detractors. Twenty-20 made 2003 English domestic summer very successful as fans poured into grounds and sponsors lined up in numbers signaling the herald of a new era in cricket.

Feeling the lure and popularity of this newly born format, other cricket boards needed no second invita-

tion to subscribe to it. The domestic championships like Stanford Twenty 20 held in West Indies, Big Bash Twenty 20 held in Australia turned out be mega success in terms of both spectators and television viewership and sponsorship. The twenty 20 competitions

have become permanent fixtures in the domestic circuit in all these test playing countries. Twenty 20 soon found its feet at international level as the first international match was played in 2005, featuring Australia and New Zealand.

Buoyed by the fan following and market value, ICC organised world Twenty-20 championships that only rained sixes and fours - something what the crowd comes to watch and cheered for.

The real taste of Twenty-20 was experienced in BCCI owned, cash rich, Indian Premier League, IPL, - punctuated with so many "FIRSTS". Be it auction of players and franchises or marriage of cricket with Bollywood. Indian Board presented it in its own avatar. Besides top cricketers on show, Bollywood stars in the stands became a permanent feature - entertaining



fans to the maximum -rightly dubbed as Cricketainment. The quantum of IPL success can be confirmed by the fact that league had more television viewership than ICC's 50-over Cricket world cup of 2007. Even the release of a number of Bollywood films was postponed during IPL. It gave Indian domestic players opportunity to rub shoulders with some top class cricketers. The IPL has changed face of cricket not only in India but World over. Twenty-20 in its brief history has covered lot of ground with private leagues coming into fore. The Essel group backed ICL, yet to be recognized by ICC or BCCI, despite all the odds, not only lured top cricketers but have found fans world wide. The Stanford's "Take 20 million dollars home match" between Stanford superstars and English team has shown world's top business tycoons are foreseeing huge market in this format. The exciting and rapid style of this format has brought money to the game, that has made cricketers feel secure financially even after post cricket life. The make up of Twenty 20 satisfies almost all the demands of modern cricket fan brisk, paced with full of excitement,

entertainment, energy and hardly dishes out dull moments. The concept of free-hits, cheer leaders and bringing new shots to the game have made it even more appealing. The game thrills fans by innovative stroke play, athletic skills and no mercy attitude of batsman towards bowlers. Its three hour time span befits this competitive world where there is paucity of free time. This format has also found its fan base in women.

With almost every t20 domestic competition being televised, it has given lesser known players platform for recognition and a secure healthy future. Money that cricket boards earn from this format can be invested for promotion of test and one-day cricket. With International Cricket Council looking for global promotion of the game,t20 can be used to lure non cricket playing nations to the game. This so-called disco version of cricket is here to stay and is going to rule the roost in future. I am sure Grace would have been all praise for this mega in the mega format. As they say- change is the name of the game.

“The difference between the old ballplayer and the new ballplayer is the jersey. The old ballplayer cared about the name on the front. The new ballplayer cares about the name on the back.”

Steve Garvey

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# GOLFING IN KASHMIR

**Benish Ali** explores  
the unknown world of  
golf in Kashmir.

**A** game of etiquettes. A game in which the player has to take the ball from the tee (beginning point) to the hole (end point). The uniqueness of golf, and perhaps its unique appeal, lies to a great extent in its playing fields, their beauty and variety. With few exceptions, other sports have rigid boundaries.

Golf as a game originated some 6 centuries ago in St Andrews, Scotland. Sailors who used to dock at the port of St Andrews had to walk a couple of miles or so to the town. To amuse themselves on the way, they would swing a stick at a root, and the man who got there in the fewest strokes was the winner. From this humble beginning golf has now become a royal game out of reach of many.

Golf was introduced in India by the British and the first golf course in India came up in Calcutta. Then the British looked towards Kashmir. They found it an ideal Golfing destination and the very second Indian golf course was made at Gulmarg in around late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This golf course has the distinction of being the highest green golf course in the world.

Kashmir's relief and terrain is ideal for golf. Kashmir has golf courses for all level of players. These offer a difficult choice for golf fans- greens and fairways, amidst mountains or next to the lake, surrounded by the forests or in the heart of the city. In the different verdant golf courses in Kashmir, one is able to play longer hours than in the plains because of lower temperatures prevalent here.

There are five different golf courses in Kashmir, three of which are in Srinagar. The other two are at Gulmarg and Pahalgam. The Royal Springs Golf Course situated at the foothills of Zabarwan in Sri-

nagar is of international repute. A new golf course is coming up in Sonamarg.

Although the resources for playing golf in Kashmir are amazingly abundant, but still there are really very few people in Kashmir who play golf. Only around 500 people play golf in Kashmir. "Lack of proper golf coaching academies, the expenses involved in the game are responsible for poor response of people", says Shabir Ahmad, a golfer. He added that obtaining membership to the golf courses in Kashmir is a difficult job.

Also the customs around here prohibit women from playing golf. Hardly one or two ladies play golf in Kashmir. In Kashmir golf may be abbreviated as GOLF- Gents Only Ladies Forbidden.

But there's one lady in Kashmir who made name from golf and. She is Nuzhat Gul, turf manager, Royal Springs Golf Course. She is the only lady turf manager in whole of India.

In Kashmir golf is being put forth as a tourism stunt. The tourism authorities are trying to attract high spending tourists especially the Japanese. "If utilized carefully Golf in Kashmir can be a great asset and can help our economy", says Fida Iqbal, a golfer. More and more local and national tournaments are being held in Kashmir to attract outsiders. RSGC is often visited by people like Kapil Dev, Ajay Jadeja, Priyanka Chopra etc.

Golf in Kashmir has a great future, as this place fulfills golfing requirements to a maxim and offers a great variety to local, national, international golfers alike. But to let golf in Kashmir take a full bloom it's important that the available resources are used judiciously.

# Coping with recession

Recession is everywhere. Haunting everyone.

**Aadil Massod** discusses the way out of this Global depression.

**M**y cousin, the person I used to look up to, not because he was a saint but I was impressed by his style. Thanks to a handsome salary he used to earn! Working as a research analyst in a Multi National Company (MNC) life was perfect for him. He used to spend weekends at 'Café Coffee Day', praising greatness of these MNC's.

His life was amazing until the monster of recession reared its ugly head.

Suddenly economy plunged, chaos and confusion rippled from top to bottom. Banks became bankrupt, drastic job-cuts and the worst part, life of ordinary person suffered, so did his family. And then, the noose got tighter and tighter. Apparently it seems to be like a natural calamity; sparing nobody.

In economics we have rule of demand and supply. The rule which dictates the life of ordinary men, to the extent that one day life seems manageable and the next day he thinks about committing suicide. Why not? His bread and butter have been snatched by market forces. This recession has forced common man to go into depression.

The problem needs to be understood thoroughly and ground realities need careful examination. In the hour of crisis, panic buttons have been pressed and series of reactions have started from production cuts to job cuts. It may give a temporary relief to companies who have been able to bear the brunt; however, this is no permanent remedy for such a deep problem.

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As the say, every action has equal and opposite reaction. When person loses the job due to production cuts, purchasing power parity gets drastically changed. As a customer he is forced to cut down on his expenses, which results in decrease in the demand of the product. This in turn leads to decrease in production and process goes into a whirlwind of chaos.

In the past recessions, the economy was based on agriculture, and the main reasons were droughts and famines. That was tackled by increasing the production in subsequent years, but same cannot be achieved when the economy is based on tertiary sector. And in the era of liberalization and globalization,

the situation becomes worse.

Wisdom lies in increasing the purchasing power of common man which will in turn increase the demand of production. The government has to play a key role in providing stimulus by reducing taxes. Reduction of taxes will certainly give consumers an impetus to spend more, though; some may argue what about the expenses of government for running the administration. The answer to that could be by rectifying mismanagement of funds and decreasing the exponential graph of corruption.

In bad times companies have to cut down on direct and indirect expenses. Simultaneously, they have to be more flexible and polish the new talent. Big bosses with lucrative salaries need to do their bit. They have to cut their expenses and perks, till good times are back. So why to wait when we need to take bold decision, and implement harsh measures.



## Best of MERC TIMES

MERC Times is the fortnightly Lab Newspaper of Media Education and Research Centre, University of Kashmir. It is an initiative taken by the department for the benefit of students. The Lab Newspaper was started in September 2008. The exercise is of the students, by the students and for the students. So far five issues of MERC Times have been published.

It provides a forum to students wherein they can incorporate their skills and proficiencies in various fields of print journalism. They can report, write opinion pieces, edit or proof read according to

their preferred choices. All necessary information right from reporting to printing is provided to the students by teachers and experts.

Instantaneous feedback is provided to the students from within the department and from other renowned print media journalists of the valley. This gives them a chance to learn and helps improve their skills before moving into the field.

The following are some of the exceptional write ups from the MERC Times newspapers published from September to December 2008..



# CRAZED IN CURFEW

I have witnessed death, so closely, so clearly, and so callously. Curfew has hardened my belief that death is the ultimate solace. It is only the death I believe in... **Tasim Zahid** walks through the alleys of Curfew

I should have done this a long time ago. In the last three (or is it four?) days of curfew. I have been intending to write. However, I have made up some brilliant excuses to excuse my self from writing. I have been playing games on my antique computer or else I have been reading about superheroes and comic books on the Internet. And once in a while, I check out the death toll.

There is something which is gnawing at my heart. Every night, I hear sounds in the distance. They sound like women and children screaming. To shut their voices, I talk to my half-sleepy friends on the phone till I am bored to the point of exhaustion and fall asleep. But even in my sleep, the voices are not shut out.

They invade my dreams and my thoughts. I dream that I am trying to set up a date and then suddenly without a warning, the dream changes. I am being chased in a dark alley which has no end. I cannot see what is chasing me, but it's closing on me. As that thing grabs me, cold sweat breaks out and the walls fall down on me. Bang! I wake up in cold sweat to hear the wails again.

Then suddenly in the distance, something clatters. I think it is gunfire. I know it is gunfire. Some where, some place, probably another person is getting shot. A cold impassive bullet is piercing his heart and puncturing out his aspirations, hopes and dreams along with his blood.

I think about his blood and suddenly I see his father with his hands on his son's cold body. I see his mother impassive towards the world. I see his widow and I see that she sees nothing. I see his son, who has just understood that death makes people cold. I see his daughter, who simply cannot see.

I see his grave as they dig it. I ask the mourners,



“what will they write on his tombstone?” My question hangs in the air like a long-standing heavy fog that forgot to go away. No one answers me. I look at the mourner's face next to me.

It is ...indescribable. Then I realize he is the man whose funeral I am attending. I understand, all the mourners who are taking the dead man to the grave are the dead men per se.

I am back in my bed, suddenly. My neighbor's TV is blaring news (ad). Hostages in city of temples; Floods in the Laloo-land; A new CM in the tribal state; The land of pure will get a new president (who is either a liar or a lunatic); A Wife tells the world's most powerful nation to elect her husband but no word on the dead man who attended his own funeral.

Suddenly the TV goes silent along with the rest of the world. The firing is still going on. I am safe. I am far from the sound.

Suddenly, the sound gets closer, closer and closer... The bullet that will claim me will come soon. It will be an easy death because I am no wolf and I need no silver bullet. It will be lead bullet for me.

It will find its way to my heart. Peirce it and rest in the deepest part of my dark heart. And I will be at peace. At long last!



# T-SHIRTS TALK.....

There is a trend in the younger generation of wearing T-Shirts which flaunt interesting quotes. **Nida Rafiq Sheikh** takes you into the world of these talking T-Shirts.

“I am here for fun” this was the line that a young teenage boy was flaunting on his t-shirt during the recent protests in Kashmir. Contrary to that another exuberant adolescent was showing off his t-shirt one liner “I love freedom”. I don’t know whether these one liners were intentional or accidental but somewhere it struck my mind that they can leave an impact and catch attention. That’s why sporting of t-shirts with an attention grabbing one liner is so much in vogue worldwide.

It began in the 1950s, when T-shirts became extremely popular both in Europe and America, and advertisers realized that they were a great way of promoting products. Soon we had T-shirts with slogans written on them. The title of a well-known book on communication published in the 1990s is called “Can you put it on a T-shirt?”

Throughout the 1980s and ever since in Japan, T-shirts have flourished as a personal expression. T-shirts with bold slogans were popular in the UK in the 1980s.

Since the late 1980s and especially the 1990s, T-shirts with prominent designer-name logos have become popular, especially with teenagers and young adults. These garments allow consumers to flaunt their taste for designer brands in an inexpensive way, in addition to being decorative.

In the US open of 2006, Sania Mirza’s t-shirt one-liner made headlines in the American media. It was “Don’t stand in my way”. This made her ambition for reaching to higher levels evident.

Screen printed T-shirts have been a standard form of product advertising for major consumer products, such as Coca-cola and Mickey Mouse, since the 1970s. However, since the 1990s, it has become common practice for companies of all sizes to produce T-shirts with their corporate logos or messages as part



of their overall advertising campaigns. Like the coca-cola’s popular one-liner “Thanda matlab coca-cola” or the Pepsi jingle “Ye dil maange more” or the most recent Dew’s one-liner “Darr ke aage jeet hai” is usually seen on the promotional t-shirts of the company.

The early 2000s saw the renewed popularity of T-shirts with slogans and designs with a strong inclination to the humorous and/or ironic. The trend has only increased later in this decade; embraced by celebrities, such as Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, and reflected back on them, too.

The political and social statements that T-shirts often display have become, since the 2000s, one of the reasons that they have so deeply permeated different levels of culture and society. The statements also may be found to be offensive, shocking or pornographic to some. Many different organizations have caught on to the statement-making trend, including chain and

independent stores, websites, and schools.

Today, wearing a t-shirt with message is very common globally. They say they wear it on their sleeve and their t-shirts talk about them. In Kashmir also people wear these “talking t-shirts” as I call them. They are flaunted by boys mostly because of the cultural, religious and social guidelines that Kashmiris follow. However, some girls also wear them.

Everyday on my way to the university I come across many people wearing t-shirts with one-liners. Recently, I read this line on one t-shirt “Girl friends are like medicines. They come with expiry date.” Another very interesting t-shirt one-liner that struck me was “I was born intelligent. Education ruined me.” Other interesting t-shirt one-liner’s that one can come across on the streets of Kashmir are, “Cereal Killer” “Give my money back” “My mom thinks I’m cool”. Wearing of these kinds of t-shirts is not a rage in the valley still; one can find people wearing them occasionally. The people from the valley mostly do not prefer t-shirts with strong messages or sayings. The small populations of people who do wear these

kinds of t-shirts prefer humorous lines like “Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don’t have film.” Or “I couldn’t repair your breaks so I made your horn louder” or “God must love stupid people, he made so many” Or “I have a blood group with an attitude.....B+ve” Or “Hell was full so, I came back.”

Since, the talking t-shirt culture is a fast growing trend worldwide and a very popular trend in advertising and propaganda in the west. It could be well im-

plemented in our valley as well. The college and university students can wear them as a style statement as well as for displaying their thoughts and beliefs. One thing that students like me can write on their t-shirt can be, “Hard work has a future payoff but laziness pays off now” or “Hard work never kills anybody..... but why take a chance.” Today, you can get anything written or printed on your t-shirts according to your needs and desires so; it wouldn’t be difficult to get a “talking t-shirt”. I saw a journalist recently sporting the following one-liner on his t-shirt “I am the king

of multitasking.” There are many sites which sell t-shirts with one liners like Band-tees.com, T-shirt humour.com, Funny-T-shirt.biz, itiswhatitis.co.uk, teesnthings.com, etc.

As we are all aware that it is extremely difficult for students like us to take away the current conditions of our Vale from our mind so while writing this it came to my mind what if the current key players in the affairs of our State would create t-shirts with one-liners depicting their ideology and stands? So, what would be the one-liner for the t-shirt’s of our mainstream political parties? Probably...., “I don’t have a solution but, I do admire the problem.” And the

one-liner for the t-shirts of separatists would be, “All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.” And then the ordinary citizens of Kashmir could also wear a t-shirt with the message, “Eat well, Stay fit.....Die anyway”.

Now, I am also thinking of buying a “talking t-shirt” for myself and the one-liner for that may possibly be, “I am nobody & nobody is perfect..... therefore, I am perfect.”

“Everyone  
has a  
photographic  
memory.  
Some don’t  
have film.”

# CAUGHT IN CONFLICT

**Sumayyah Qureshi.**

I try to sleep, its hot inside .There are no lights, no fan, no television to watch, no electricity. The room is completely dark. Not a voice is heard.

Everything has fallen silent with the night. I can only hear the ticking of the wall clock but I can't see the time. Maybe it's around 10:30 or 11pm.

My sister Muneeb wakes me up by a slight touch at my shoulder. I had fallen asleep for a while. She talks in a different tone, it's hardly audible. She is speaking too slowly. She tells me about the announcement from the mosques. I hear it but I don't understand what they are saying. I come out of my bed to hear the announcements. My sister follows. I move towards the window. Now I can hear it loud and clear .Slogans shouted from the loudspeakers (Narei Takbeer Allah u Akbar) reverberate in the air. The man behind the loudspeaker requests the people of the area to gather near the mosque. He repeats the same words again and again. Many people have gathered near the mosque as I can hear their voices .They are sloganeering, shouting on top of their voices...Hum Kya Chahaten... Within no time, all the loudspeakers from different mosques resonate the slogans.

I ask Muneeb to wake up father and mother, and tell them there is some announcement being made in the mosque. In a moment, my parents enter my room. I open the window so as to let them hear the

announcements clearly. I ask my father, "Are you going"? He replies, "If all the people from the neighborhood go, I will be going too".

As we all stand near the window, Muneeb is saying something. It irritates me, I yell at her to stop making sounds.

.....  
**I too want  
to join the  
protestors, I  
too want to  
be part of the  
sloganeers,  
but being a girl  
is the major  
barrier**  
.....

While I sit on the window, mother is still trying to listen to the announcements. None of us speaks a word. The silence is broken by a phone call. I look for the cell phone, it's on the almirah. I pick it up quickly, trying to lower its volume. I have a grisly feeling of receiving the phone call at this odd hour. I ask myself as to why are they calling at this time. It's no time to call anyone. Nonetheless, I answer the call. On the other side is my uncle. I can tell from his voice he is worried and there is a note of concern in it. He tells me that

troops have barged into the houses of people at many places. So be together and remain alert.

The calm in our house is disturbed as I break this news to my parents. My father looks more nervous than my mother. He moves out of the room, comes back, and does it again. He tells us to lock the main gate. Maybe he is more worried about me and Muneeb .He wouldn't have been so worried had we been boys, I thought.

Mother said that tonight we all will stay together. After about an hour of standing near the window, we move out of our room, into our parents' room. I hear the movement of vehicles on the road, perhaps the garrison vehicles. Fear creeps inside me.

We are talking in hushed up tones. There is a dim

moonlight in the room. The moonlight helps me to look at the faces of my parents and Muneeb .My mother says, "People used to come out on the streets and shout slogans in the early 1990s and the same is happening now".

It refreshes my memory of the 90s when I was quite young in my first or second standard. The announcements are still going on telling people to come out of their houses and gather near the mosques or bear the consequences .There are so many questions in my mind that remain unanswered. Father says, "I wish Kashmiris had opted for something else. We are losing so many lives every day; nothing is more precious than a human life". Maybe he is speaking out of fear. Muneeb says it is all due to the dirty politics played by the politicians.

I too want to join the protestors, I too want to be part of the sloganeers, but being a girl is the major barrier .Again the same old questions what would parents say, "Will they allow me to go out and the society, which perhaps exists or not, I don't know". Being a girl, I am at a wit's end...perplexed and perturbed as well.

After about three hours, there is silence. Maybe people are tired shouting slogans. Many people might have preferred to stay home as my father for different reasons. For fear of being beaten by troops or the fear

of leaving family alone.

Mother and father have fallen asleep. Muneeb is by my side, the slight movement of her feet tells me she is awake .She asks me why am I writing. Perhaps my writing at this hour seems strange to her. I can hear nothing except the barking of dogs and the noise of insects. Its over I tell myself looking through the mesh of the window .Outside its dark but the little moonlight helps me look at the trees in the garden which stand there witness to all that happened.

I am scribbling the incident, but can't even look at the words that I am jotting down quickly. Muneeb interrupts me by asking why all this is happening... Can't we live in peace? I have no answers to her question.

Dogs are howling outside. I remember the words of my father who says it is a bad omen whenever he hears it. It further adds to my fear but I am ready to face anything worse. The thought of troops entering houses and beating people doesn't let me sleep .I look at the main gate of my house listening to any movement in the street.

Morning may bring something I never thought about, good or bad. The ticking of the clock is loud and clear, and it seems getting faster with the silence. I am waiting for the dawn to break.



**Tune in to  
Radio Kashmir  
for  
KU Radio Digest  
on  
Every 2nd and 4th Thursday  
at  
8:30 AM**



# CASHMERE CAMOUFLAGE

“There is a big business in camouflage these days  
We can be anything we want to be at last!  
A summer wood, an autumn wood, a big beige dessert,  
We can even be dead grass, we can be snow.”

(Henry Carlile)

**Rounaq Zahoor**

**T**he word camouflage reminds me of chameleons. Chameleons have the ability to alter their colours through the use of chromatophores. They change the color to match the surroundings, to deceive their prey or predator. Camouflage is a characteristic associated with animals but it is exhibited by humans as well.

Just like chameleons we change colours to suit our needs. However, our camouflaging is not physical as in case of animals. We exhibit camouflaging in our behavior. We often hide our true self for one reason or other, some times we are in sorrow and we don't want to show. We hide the sorrow behind the facade of happiness. Similarly, sometimes a need to hide our excitement may arise. We hide our joys and pains by camouflaging.

‘A man may smile and smile and smile, and yet be a villain’- Shakespeare.

Some people wear a smile all the time but they may not be good at heart. They pass smiles now and then to make you feel good about them. But they have a selfish motive behind their rasping smile.

At times you may draw from the behavior of a person that he is a well wisher but he may prove to be your worst enemy. You may hate some person more than anything but he may prove to be your best friend in future. You never know!!

Remember face is not always the index of mind. Whatever the reason behind camouflaging, it is de-

ceiving. It leaves an impression completely different from what the person actually is. When some day, you confront his real self; it shocks!

These days camouflaging is spreading like anything. People are changing colors while the election fever is here. Politicians contesting in elections are wearing different colours, trying to woo the maximum number of people. Soon after the elections, when any of them gains political power by the votes of these people, the “attractive” colours will disappear. The man sitting on the power chair will show his real colour. People then understand – ‘this man was camouflaging’. Why? Camouflaging helps politicians to cajole innocent masses.

Not only politicians, even the masses show colours at different times. Some people supported insurgency first, then poll boycott campaign and finally at the time of elections they voted for their favourite leader. Is this camouflaging by these people or a result of leaders luring by camouflaging.

Camouflaging is so widely spread in humans now that it is difficult to know what is real and what deception is. Chameleons have been left far behind in the frequency of changing colours. In fact, we have evolved to polychromatic beings.

And, if you want to save yourself from falling in any kind of a trap, camouflaging can help. But if you want to save yourself from those who camouflage, just remember:

Appearances are deceptive and all that glitters is not gold.

# Letter to Late Faiz

## Dearest Faiz.

I have read you through hollow, dark nights. The sky would be starry or cloudy but you always slept near my pillow. I was alone reading you. Were you alone writing for me?

You live somewhere on my bookshelf, on the second row, neatly stacked in several translations. You live some where in my laptop, far from the nudity. You hum in the cassette player, almost always. You looked nice in 1951. You have been always young on my CD shelf. You are alive in my room. Not a mere silhouette, but a rebel... in flesh and soul.

Nayyara sings you while I read the rebels silhouette- throughout the nights, long and painful as they are. There is no one to talk to, no one to tell the stories of loneliness, of fear, of misery and of madness.

Do you know how crazy the world is? Someone kills someone here. Dreams die everyday. I see them split into two besides the guillotine, hanged from the withered branch.

Things are so bad, you know. I am alone. Some times I walk through the crowded streets of Lal Chowk, u know where Lal Chowk is? I am sure you do- after all, u were married to Alys here. So, Lal Chowk is all crowded, most of the time and I walk through the lanes, by-lanes looking for stories. Deaths are preferable. Some young guy dies and I make it to the front page. I look for dead, like a scavenger- ask for addresses, color of the gate. Most of the time I end up in a wrong place but it is a story nonetheless. So many dead in Kashmir- I will never come out of the front page. I am thriving on the death.

So, I walk through the crowded Lal Chowk and suddenly I feel, 'What the hell am I doing here?' And

at that moment, I feel the who of sadness come over me. I feel as if there is no purpose in my life. I feel so alone. And then I read you- all through the lonely nights, long and bleak as they are.

No body reads your poetry here except my friends and me... of course. I love you. We are both tangled up, you know- you and me. You fought for this Pakistan, didn't you? Then why do you hide in my room now, on my book rack, in my cassette player. Go and see what has become of the pure land.

It is red with blood... your Pakistan.

So is my Kashmir, screwed up. You know, I saw intestines, red with blood, hanging of this boy's belly. His mouth was open, his tongue out. He gasped, taking in as much breath as he could to stay alive... but he died.

Are intestines so important? How come you never wrote about them? I bet, u never saw intestines in



your life. Wish you had seen the boy, at least, you would have written a poem on intestines. The intestines would have lived for ever, a romantic tribute to the boy who died there and then. It would have been in the book, right next to dogs or In search of vanished blood.

What could I write? 2 dead, seven injured.

Or, Dear Faiz, you should have written on the last page of your book.

zahid- only read me, don't believe me...

**Zahid Rafiq**

# PEN THE SWORD, WRITING THE BATTLE

Why don't people write, even when they possess the most brilliant ideas? Why are many beautiful thoughts lost each day? **Benish Ali Bhat** tries to answer these questions.

Picking up a pen to write down your thoughts is what I feel one of the most difficult things to do. Although for some it is very easy. For many of us it is a big battle, with many hurdles, lost by many, won by a few. Each day many of us fight out this hard battle.

Battle of writing is generally fought in three phase. Generation of a thought in your mind which you want to convey is the first stage. While witnessing something that affects you, ongoing politics or any inspiration a thought generates and you want to convey it but the very next moment its dumped because you think it is not worth conveying. (At least, try conveying first! Imagine how many ideas might have been lost like this!)

The idea generated may be taken to be cross checked by another person who unfortunately turns out to be a pessimist and the idea is dumped. (Who would like to write when told, "Ah? Who'll read this?" Your chips are down, finally!)

Your idea is final but you are too lazy to pick up a pen and write. (Chodo na yaar, koun likhe ga!)

Or you know that it's a brilliant idea and you're



sure that everyone will like it but you whisper, "I'll write it tomorrow....." (Mostly this tomorrow never comes. I've personally experienced this!) Also in places like Kashmir some circumstances prevailing even in the 21st century lead you to the use of candle light. This serene light opens doors to new thoughts and visions but it never allows you to write without damaging your eyes!

Some of you would pass the ideation phase to the next one i.e. putting the thought to paper. After emerging victorious from the first phase of the battle of writing you start preparing for this phase of actually giving a word picture to your thoughts. Now what do you do in this phase? "I can't find the paper". "Oh no! The pen is not working". (End of the idea and of

course the story too!)

If you do start to write, you fumble and find that you don't master the language. (Angrezi ne dokha dey diya!) Some of you do know the language but the words fail you and you aren't able to give a word picture to your thought. (Writer's Block, they say!)

Or just as you are in the middle of the writ-

ing process, someone calls you for another work and..... the draft never completes!

Sometimes you fall asleep while writing and all the thoughts get lost in dreams. (Dekho mene dekha hai ye ik sapna, phoolon ke sheher me ho ghar apna, jo bhi mene socha tha main bhool gaya!)

Some of you who, luckily, pass this phase too, enter the next which is conveying or publishing it. You're now in the last phase of the battle of writing where you are actually trying to let others know about your thoughts. Situations arising can be:

Lack of confidence in your power of writing can be a hurdle here. You end up never conveying your thoughts to others and these are either treasured or your draft may even find the way into the dustbin. (Open the closed doors, be confident and never think about what others say.)

Or you can have no time to convey your draft personally or to take it to a publishing house and also that you forget it soon. (Fast paced life man, what's the value of thoughts?)

You do not know how to convey it or where to publish it. The draft stays in your room and enjoys

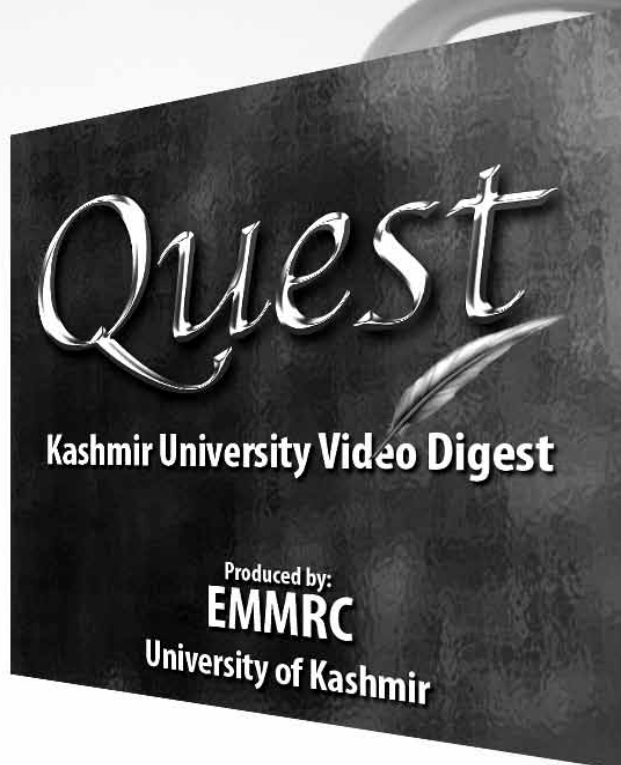
the dust that covers it. (Aajkal ki dunya me- you need to know everything otherwise the dust will cover you too!)

When you send it for publication in a newspaper it has the editorial scissors waiting to trim it and also the fact that the newsprint may not have enough space to carry it. (Don't lose heart, send it to another one and keep trying, trying and trying.....) Sometimes it happens that your thoughts do get published but you are criticized a lot and you never write again. (Be happy, criticism is a healthy sign that you were read.)

For the very few of you who've passed all the three phases- CONGRATULATIONS! On winning the battle of swords!

In the various phases of the battle, numerous thoughts and innovative ideas are lost and just imagine how rich the world would be if these would have been conveyed.

Therefore, if you have a thought, just pick up your sword and fight the battle with all your might until you emerge victorious. And yes, DON'T LOSE HOPE, is the moral of the story.



**Watch  
Quest  
on  
DD Kashmir  
at  
8:35 PM on all Fridays**



# CONSERVE KASHMIRI LANGUAGE

**Nida Rafiq Sheikh** traces the history of the Kashmiri language, and cautions about the fading popularity of this language among the people who ought to uphold its sheen.

A language is a dynamic set of visual, auditory, or tactile symbols of communication and the elements. Our language that is Kashmiri is also unique in itself. Kashmiri, popularly known as Kashir, is an Indo-Aryan language. Even the opponents of this linguistic classification grouped it with Dardi, Shrinia, Khowar dialects, which are spoken in the areas adjacent to the valley in its north and north-west.

Language historians and linguists have often, however, concurred on the theory that the above-mentioned dialects fall in the category of languages that bear resemblance to the Indo-Aryan as well as to the Indo-Iranian languages. In 1919 George Abraham Grierson wrote that “Kashmiri is the only one of the Dardic languages that has a literature”. Kashmiri literature dates back to over 750 years, this is more-or-less, the age of modern literature including English. We are lucky to have such a wonderful language as our mother tongue. Even as Kashmiri language is losing its charm, we hesitate in using it as a conversational language. Even the pre-

“  
The college and school students feel embarrassed to talk in Kashmiri with their friends and teachers. They normally speak in Urdu but, also communicate in English even informally.

school and school going children are not restrained from learning or speaking Kashmiri language. This is because parents think it below dignity if their children communicate in Kashmiri. “Not knowing our mother tongue” has become a status symbol for us which is very unfortunate. The first words that a child speaks are generally words from his mother tongue but, it’s not the case in Kashmir. However, it is embarrassing for a modern Kashmiri mother if her children communicate in Kashmiri language.

“  
Language is a part of an individual’s identity and we Kashmiris are losing an important part of our identity in the form of our native language. It is very important for the youth of any place to transmit the traditions and culture of the particular place he belongs to. So, the Kashmiri youth should also play an important role in promoting the Kashmiri language. They have to stop looking down upon it and feel proud of not only their language but also about other indigenous things of Kashmir. That way we can preserve our culture and language.

The college and school students feel embarrassed to talk in Kashmiri with their friends and teachers. They normally speak in Urdu but, also communicate

in English even informally. At least in an informal conversation people should talk in their native language so that it doesn't vanish from our state. We need to use it as often as we can so that it is carried on safely to the next generation. There are people who go out of the state for their education or jobs and then even tend to forget the Kashmiri language. Some pretend they have forgotten it just to brag and boast that they have been working or studying outside state. If this attitude continues then things will really go worse as this clearly shows that there is a section of society who considers it thwarting to know their own language. They look down upon it and believe Kashmiri language is for the communication of

uneducated and under-privileged people.

However, the reality is different. Kashmiri is a beautiful language and most importantly it belongs to us. So, it deserves respect from every Kashmiri since Language is something that everybody should respect and revere. We need to feel proud of it rather than look down upon it. Let's speak Kashmiri and give it the same respect as other people give their respective languages. Let's try to make it popular among all sections of society and make the use of Kashmiri language a style statement for us. Let all the modern Kashmiri parents know that learning Kashmiri language is as important for their children as is learning other foreign languages.

## Overtaken by Memories

Faheem ul Islam

You came to my life, as comes 'newborn'.  
I grew in your 'lap', as grows 'corn'.  
Your 'memories' hold me, as holds 'arm'.  
Your 'words' hold me, as holds 'hug, warm'.  
I 'walk' with them, walk 'alone',  
on the 'ways' not 'known'.  
For 'dreams', so far not 'shown',  
for 'pictures', 'war blown'.  
You left me in the 'midst', among 'beasts', 'wildest'.  
You went 'home',  
leaving me in 'foam'.  
Tearing the 'thread' apart,  
it is hard to 'restart'.  
'Leaving' so 'early',  
with things 'undone',  
words 'unsaid',  
emotions 'unfelt',  
sentiments 'unshared',  
complaints 'unexpressed'.  
Is this 'explanatory'?  
Or 'exclamatory'?  
Is your heart 'inflammatory'?  
Or it still lies in 'factory'?  
Will you come 'again'?  
With no more 'pain'.  
Or we meet 'there'?  
Where everything will be 'fair'.  
Where every 'act' will 'count',  
where 'good' will 'mount'.

Where 'roads' become  
'narrower',  
where no one is 'borrower'.  
Where no one takes 'side',  
where 'angles' are not so  
'wide'!  
But, I am standing by my  
'window',  
waiting for someone to 'sow',  
and stand in a 'row',  
together to 'bow'!

# Global warming - Kyoto protocol and the big emitters

**Mehmooda Bashir**

**T**he Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding agreement under which industrialized countries agreed to control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to stop the increase in global warming that has taken place during the last 150 years.

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC), an international environmental treaty produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3–14 June 1992. The conference is unofficially known as Earth Summit. “The treaty is intended to achieve “stabilization” of green house gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” The Kyoto Protocol was ratified on December 11, 1997 at the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the treaty in Kyoto, Japan and became legally binding on February 16, 2005. As of November 2008, 183 countries have agreed to the protocol, which was approved until 2012

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions of developed countries by 5.2% worldwide, resulting in the reduction of global warming and its negative effects on the planet, animals, plants, and humans. Countries that agree to the Kyoto Protocol will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming including: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and

perfluorocarbons (PFCs) by 5.2% below 1990 levels. The target date for the initial agreement is 2012.

National limits of greenhouse gas emissions range from 8% reductions for the European Union to 7% for the U.S., 6% for Japan, 0% for Russia, and increases of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland.



The countries are allowed to trade emissions' credits to meet their obligation under the Kyoto Protocol, if they maintain or increase their greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions' trading allows nations that can easily meet their targets to sell credits to those that cannot. Countries that agree to the Kyoto Protocol will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming including: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) by 5.2% below 1990 levels. The target date for the initial agreement is 2012.

The Kyoto Protocol sets specific greenhouse gas

emissions' reduction targets for each industrialized nation. To meet the targets, most nations will have to:

- restrict their biggest polluters;
- reduce emissions from automobiles; and
- use renewable energy, such as solar power, wind power, and bio-diesel fuels.

However there is wrangling going on between the two group of people one supporting the implementation of the kyoto protocol, while as the other opposing its implementation. The former group terms the kyoto protocol as cost effective. While as the later one terms the kyoto protocol as an institutionalised conspiracy to slow down the economic progress of the industrialised nations and a subtle way to transfer wealth to the third world countries.

The environmentlists have warned of the serious consequences if the emission of the green house gases is not stabilized before it's long. Phenomena like bleaching of the coral reefs, raised sea levels leading to subsequent flooding and submerging of the low lying areas, genetic adaptation, extinction of some species and destruction of habitat of certain species living in tundra or Arctic may occur. Hoegh-Goldberg has estimated that the sustained global warming in

excess of 1c would cause bleaching to become an annual event in the most of the oceans leading to severe effects world wide. since 1880 the average temperature of our planet has risen by 0.8c.

Although Most industrialized nations support the Kyoto Protocol.

But the United States of America, which generates more greenhouse gas emissions than any other nation, more than 36 percent worldwide is yet to rectify the protocol. George w bush in 2001 in his statement insinuated that united states would not rectify the protocol for he believed that the agreement to be "fundamentally flawed". Initially, Australia also declined. These countries wanted the agreement to be less demanding and more flexible. however, In December 2007, Australia ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

United States tops the list of biggest emitters but is still adamant not to rectify the protocol. However, No one dares USA either to adapt or support the protocol which aims to save the world from impending disaster as a result of GLOBAL WARMING. This gives only one message to the world, "might is right".



The sun, the moon and the stars would  
have disappeared long ago... had they  
happened to be within the reach of  
predatory human hands.

~Havelock Ellis~





# Journalists Killed in 2008: 41 Confirmed

Research Report of the Committee for Protection of Journalists (CPJ) indicates that the following Journalists have been killed in 2008. They either died in the line of duty or were deliberately targeted because of their reporting or their affiliation with a news organization.

## **AFGHANISTAN: 2**

**Carsten Thomassen, *Dagbladet***

**January 15, 2008, Kabul**

Thomassen, a 38-year-old Norwegian who worked for the Oslo daily *Dagbladet*, was among eight people who died in a coordinated suicide bomb attack at Kabul's Serena Hotel, a gathering place for much of the country's expatriate community.

**Abdul Samad Rohani, BBC and Pajhwok Afghan News**

**June 7 or 8, 2008, Lashkar Gah**

Rohani disappeared on the evening of June 7. His body was found with multiple bullet wounds the next day in a cemetery near Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, according to local and international news reports. Rohani was the Helmand reporter for BBC's Pashto service and contributed to the Pajhwok Afghan News agency, the country's largest independent news service.

## **BOLIVIA: 1**

**Carlos Quispe Quispe, Radio Municipal**

**March 29, 2008, Pucarani**

Quispe, a journalist working for a government-run radio station in Pucarani, died March 29 after being severely beaten two days earlier by protesters demanding the ouster of the local mayor.

## **CAMBODIA: 1**

**Khem Sambo, *Moneaseka Khmer***

**July 11, 2008, Phnom Penh**

A journalist with the opposition-aligned Khmer-language daily *Moneaseka Khmer*, Khem Sambo was shot twice while riding his motorcycle with his 21-year-old son, according to international and local news reports. His son was also shot and killed. The gunmen, who were on a motorcycle, sped away after the shooting, news reports said.

## **CROATIA: 1**

**Ivo Pukanic, *Nacional***

**October 23, 2008, Zagreb**

Pukanic, owner and editorial director of the Zagreb-based political weekly *Nacional*, and Niko Franjic, the marketing director, were killed when a bomb placed under the journalist's car exploded outside the paper's offices, according to press reports and CPJ sources. Local press re-

ports said Pukanic and Franjic were close to the car when the blast took place. *Nacional* often exposed corruption, organized crime, and human rights abuses, local sources told CPJ.

## GEORGIA: 3

**Alexander Klimchuk, freelance, Caucasus Images**

**Grigol Chikhladze, freelance, Caucasus Images**

**August 10, 2008, Tskhinvali**

Klimchuk, 27, and Chikhladze, 30, were killed in South Ossetia on August 10 when they tried to enter the regional capital, Tskhinvali, according to news reports and CPJ interviews.

**Stan Storimans, RTL Nieuws**

**August 12, 2008, Gori**

Storimans, a 39-year-old Dutch cameraman who worked for the Hilversum-based television channel RTL Nieuws, was killed in an attack in the central Georgian city of Gori. His colleague, reporter Jeroen Akkermans, suffered shrapnel wounds to his leg and was hospitalized in a Tbilisi clinic, Jaspir Teijsse, a spokesman for RTL Nieuws, told CPJ.

## INDIA: 4

**Mohammed Muslimuddin, *Asomiya Pratidin***

**April 1, 2008, Barpukhuri**

About six assailants armed with “sharp weapons” attacked Mohammed Muslimuddin, a correspondent with the vernacular daily *Asomiya Pratidin*, near his residence in the village of Barpukhuri in central Assam state, according to local news reports. He died of multiple injuries to the head, chest, stomach, and back en route to a hospital in the capital, Guwahati, the reports said.

**Ashok Sodhi, *Daily Excelsior***

**May 11, 2008, Samba**

Sodhi, a senior photographer with the local English-language *Daily Excelsior* in Indian-controlled Kashmir, was killed in crossfire in Samba, close to the border with Pakistan, according to news reports.

**Javed Ahmed Mir, Channel 9**

**August 13, 2008, Srinagar**

Security forces shot and killed Mir while he was covering protests during a spate of violence in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, according to the BBC and local journalists.

A BBC report said the cameraman, who had two other jobs to support his wife and three children, was called from a wedding to cover a growing protest rally on a main road in the state’s summer capital, Srinagar, and was shot in the head while waiting for equipment to arrive from the news channel.

Local journalists told CPJ that he worked for the local news station, Channel 9. Amin War, a photographer for the local *Daily Tribune*, told CPJ by telephone from Srinagar that he witnessed the shooting. He said Mir was working at the time of his death, although he was not carrying a camera, and was among several killed or injured when security forces opened fire on the protesters.

The BBC report said that 26 people were killed as police tried to restore order. A transfer of land to a Hindu shrine in June fueled protests in the unstable Muslim majority state, where separatist groups lead an often violent movement for independence for Kashmir, which is also claimed by Pakistan.

**Vikas Ranjan, *Hindustan***

**November 25, 2008, Rosera**

Ranjan, a correspondent for the Hindi-language daily *Hindustan*, was shot in the town of Rosera in the Samastipur district of northern Bihar state, according to Alok Mohit, news editor of the English-language sister paper *Hindustan Times*, who spoke with CPJ by telephone.

## **IRAQ: 11**

### **Alaa Abdul-Karim al-Fartoosi, Al-Forat January 29, 2008, Balad**

Al-Fartoosi, a cameraman for satellite channel Al-Forat, and driver Alaa Aasi were killed by a roadside bomb as they entered the town of Balad, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, at around 6:15 p.m., according to the director of external relations for the channel, Mihssen Mohammad Hussein.

### **Shihab al-Tamimi, Iraqi Journalists Syndicate February 27, 2008, Baghdad**

Al-Tamimi, head of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, died of complications from injuries suffered in a targeted shooting in Baghdad on February 23. Jabbar Tarrad al-Shimmari, deputy head of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, told CPJ that al-Tamimi, 74, died from a stroke four days after the attack.

### **Jassim al-Batat, Al-Nakhil TV and Radio April 25, 2008, Al-Qurna**

Al-Batat, a correspondent at Al-Nakhil TV and Radio, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen while walking in the town of Al-Qurna, north of Basra.

### **Sarwa Abdul-Wahab, freelance**

**May 4, 2008, Mosul**

Abdul-Wahab, 36, a freelance journalist and

contributor to the *Muraslon* news site, was shot and killed while resisting abduction in the Al-Bakr area of Mosul.

### **Wissam Ali Ouda, Al-Afaq May 21, 2008, Baghdad**

Ouda, 32, a cameraman for Al-Afaq television, was returning home from an assignment at about 5 p.m. when he was shot in the Obaidi district of Baghdad, according to CPJ interviews and news reports.

### **Haidar al-Hussein, Al-Sharq May 22, 2008, Buhrez**

Al-Hussein, a 37-year-old journalist who worked for the Baghdad-based daily *Al-Sharq*, was found dead in Buhrez, Diyala province, three days after he was abducted by armed men.

### **Mohieldin al-Naqeeb, Al-Iraqiya June 17, 2008, north of Mosul**

Al-Naqeeb, a 49-year-old journalist working with the local affiliate of state-run Al-Iraqiya TV in Nineveh province, was killed in a drive-by shooting north of Mosul.

### **Soran Mama Hama, *Livin* July 21, 2008, Kirkuk**

Mama Hama, 23, a reporter with the Sulaymania-based *Livin* magazine, was shot by unidentified gunmen in front of his home. He had received threatening messages before the slaying, local journalists told CPJ, and had written articles critical of local authorities.

### **Musab Mahmood al-Ezawi, Al-Sharqiya**

**Ahmed Salim, Al-Sharqiya**

**Ihab Mu'd, Al-Sharqiya**

**September 13, 2008, Mosul**

Senior correspondent al-Ezawi and cameramen Salim and Mu'd were kidnapped along with their driver, Qaydar Sulaiman, while working in the Al-Zanjali district of Mosul, Al-Sharqiya television said in a statement.

## ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY: 1

**Fadel Shana, Reuters**

**April 16, 2008, Gaza Strip**

Cameraman Shana, 23, was killed and soundman Wafa Abu Mizyed was wounded after they stopped their vehicle to film Israeli military forces several hundred feet away, Reuters reported. Shana was using a tripod-mounted camera when an Israeli tank fired on the men. Eight other bystanders, most under the age of 16, were killed.

## MEXICO: 1

**Alejandro Zenón Fonseca Estrada, EXA FM**

**September 24, 2008, Villahermosa**

Fonseca, host of a morning talk show on the local radio station EXA FM, was hanging anti-crime posters on a major street in Villahermosa, capital of the Gulf Coast state of Tabasco, around 9 p.m. on September 23 when he was approached by four unidentified men riding in a van, witnesses told local police and reporters. One of the posters read, "No to Kidnappings," while another declared support for Tabasco's governor, Andrés Granier Melo.

## PAKISTAN: 5

**Chishti Mujahid, Akbar-e-Jehan**

**February 9, 2008, Quetta**

An unknown gunman killed Mujahid, a veter-

an columnist for the weekly, in a targeted attack outside his home in Quetta.

**Siraj Uddin, *The Nation***

**February 29, 2008, Mingora**

Uddin died in a suicide bombing that took the lives of more than 40 people, according to Pakistani news reports. The attack occurred at the funeral of a slain police officer.

**Mohammed Ibrahim, Express TV and *Daily Express***

**May 22, 2008, Khar**

Ibrahim, a reporter for Express TV, was gunned down by unknown men outside Khar, the main town of the Bajaur tribal area in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, according to news reports. The journalist was returning by motorcycle from an interview with local Taliban spokesman Maulvi Omar, according to the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and Imtiaz Ali, a *Washington Post* correspondent based in the nearby regional capital of Peshawar.

**Abdul Aziz Shaheen, *Azadi***

**August 29, 2008, Swat**

A Pakistani airstrike hit the lockup where Shaheen was being held by a local Taliban group in the Swat Valley in Pakistan's tumultuous North West Frontier Province, according to local news reports citing a Taliban spokesman. The spokesman, Muslim Khan, said Shaheen was among at least 25 people killed in the strike, according to the *Daily Times* newspaper. The precise location of the Taliban hideout was not reported.

**Abdul Razzak Johra, Royal TV**

**November 3, 2008, Punjab**

Six armed men dragged reporter Johra from his



home in the Mianwali district of Punjab and shot him, according to the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ). The attack came a day after his report on local drug trafficking was aired nationally. Colleagues said Johra, 45, who had done earlier reports on the drug trade, had received threats telling him to stop covering the issue.

## **PHILIPPINES: 2**

**Martin Roxas, DYVR**

**August 7, 2008, Roxas City**

Two men shot Roxas in the back as he drove his motorcycle from DYVR in Roxas City, on the country's central Panay Island, where he worked as a program director and had just concluded his midday show, according to news reports. Police said Roxas died at a local hospital from a gunshot wound to his spine, the reports said.

**Dennis Cuesta, DXMD**

**August 9, 2008, General Santos City**

Two gunmen traveling by motorcycle fired several shots at Cuesta, a program director and anchor for DXMD, an affiliate of the Radio Mindanao Network, on a public street in General Santos City on August 4, according to news reports citing police.

## **RUSSIA: 2**

**Magomed Yevloyev, Ingushetiya**

**August 31, 2008, Nazran**

Yevloyev, 37, owner of the popular news Web site *Ingushetiya*, was killed in police custody. Yevloyev died from a gunshot wound to the head sustained while being transported by Ingushetia police following his arrest at the airport in the regional capital, Magas. Ingushetia police immediately called the shooting an accident, say-

ing Yevloyev had tried to take a gun from one of the arresting officers. Yevloyev's relatives, colleagues, and friends told CPJ they believe he was murdered to silence the Web site, one of the few remaining independent news sources in Ingushetia.

**Telman Alishayev, TV-Chirkei**

**September 2, 2008, Makhachkala**

Two unidentified assassins killed Alishayev, host of the program "Peace to Your Home," which was broadcast by TV-Chirkei in Makhachkala, the regional capital of the southern Russian republic of Dagestan. The assailants shot Alishayev as he waited at a traffic signal while driving home from a local mosque about 8 p.m., local press reports said. He sustained head and shoulder wounds and died in a hospital the next morning, the news agency Interfax reported.

## **SOMALIA: 2**

**Hassan Kafi Hared, Somali National News Agency**

**January 28, 2008, Kismayo**

Hared, 38, a reporter for the Somali National News Agency, was killed during a midday attack on a medical assistance vehicle in the southwestern port town of Kismayo, according to news reports and local journalists.

**Nasteh Dahir Farah, freelance**

**June 7, 2008, Kismayo**

Farah, 27, vice president of the National Union of Somali Journalists and a contributor to several local and international news outlets, was shot by two men in Kismayo as he walked home from an Internet café at around 7 p.m., local journalists told CPJ. Farah was rushed to a local hospital but

died within minutes from blood loss, the journalist union reported.

## **SRI LANKA: 2**

**Paranirupasingham Devakumar, News 1st**

**May 28, 2008, Jaffna**

Devakumar, Jaffna correspondent for the independent channel News 1st, was stabbed to death when he was attacked by supporters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), according to Sunanda Deshapriya, spokesman for local press freedom group the Free Media Movement.

**Rashmi Mohamed, Sirasa TV**

**October 6, 2008, Anuradhapura**

Mohamed, a provincial correspondent for Sirasa TV, was covering the opening ceremony of the new office of the United National Party (UNP) in Anuradhapura when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

## **THAILAND: 3**

**Athiwat Chaiyanurat, *Matichon*, Channel 7**

**August 1, 2008, Chaityamontri**

A reporter with the Thai-language daily newspaper *Matichon* and a stringer for the army-owned television station Channel 7, Athiwat was found dead in his home in the town of Chaityamontri in the southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat.

**Chalee Boonsawat, *Thai Rath***

**August 21, 2008, Sungai Kolok**

Chalee, a reporter with the country's biggest Thai-language daily, was killed while covering an explosion in restive southern Thailand, according to local and international news reports.

**Jaruek Rangcharoen, *Matichon***

**September 27, 2008, Don Chedi district**

Jaruek, a reporter with the Thai-language newspaper *Matichon*, was shot and killed in a market in the Don Chedi district of Thailand's western Suphanburi province, according to the Thai Journalists Association, a local press freedom advocacy group.

# MERC NEWS

**E**ducational Multimedia Research Centre and Media Education Research Centre in collaboration with BBC World Service have undertaken a two-year project, Capacity Building in Social Affairs Reporting in Kashmir media. The project is being funded by Ford Foundation, New York. Besides enhancing coverage of social affairs, disaster related issues in Kashmir media and strengthening links between media and industry in the valley and media departments in the University of Kashmir, training is being imparted to the faculty and working journalists followed by a workshop for the students.

Educational Multimedia Research Centre organized a workshop, training of trainers from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. The International resource person for the programme was Mr. Stephen Hall. Faculty members from EMMRC and MERC and some local working journalists participated in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Punjabi the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Mrs. Yvonne MacPherson, Country Director BBC World Service Trust, and Ms. Raveena Agarwal, Programme Officer from the Ford Foundation were also present. Dr. Saleema Jan, Research Scientist, EMMRC and Ms. Harpreet Kaur and Mr. Haroon Rashid from BBC World Service Trust coordinated the workshop.

## **Achievements:**

Mr. Nasir Mirza, Sr. Asstt. Professor MERC published a paper titled as "The Regional Language Press in J&K" in a UGC sponsored publication "*A Reader on Print Media in India*".

Dr. Sabeha Mufti, Senior Asstt. Professor (MERC) was resource person at a workshop on 'Context Reporting and Instant News at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on March 01, 2009. She also presented a paper on "Multiple Versions of Reality. An Audience Perspective" at an International Seminar at School of Social Sciences, JNU on March 9, 2009.

Ms. Muslim Jan, Editor cum Research Assistant, MERC attended a one day International conference on "Peace in South Asia: Special focus on J&K organized by Foundation for Peace and Sustainable Development, New Delhi on Jan 30, 2009. In addition, she attended a three day International Seminar on "India chapter on Peace after 26/11 organized by SAFMA and SEHMAT at New Delhi 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2009.

Ms. Syeda Afshana, Asstt. Professor at MERC, attended a two day Intra Kashmir Conference organized by Centre for Dialogue & Reconciliation (CDR) at Jammu, Feb (27-28, 2009). She was also nominated as a member of Board of Studies for School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora Kashmir.

## **Activities:**

Students of MERC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester attended a 14-day Television Production workshop from Feb 24 Feb-March 14, 2009. The workshop was organized by EMMRC, Srinagar to give the students a feel of the practical aspects of production work including outdoor shooting and multicam setup

in the studio. The students were divided into 4 groups; each group made a multicamera discussion programme and a 10-minn documentary. The discussions were about topics like sensitization in media, social marketing, child labour and cinema and society. The films dealt with topics like Royal Springs Golf Course, Living on the Edge on hazards faced by journalist in conflict areas, Glimpses of Sheri-i-Khas and Children of conflict.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Dean Academic Affairs, coordinated by Dr.Saleema Jan, Research Scientist, EMMRC and Mr. Faheen, Asstt.Professor MERC.

### **Lectures Delivered:**

Dr.Shahid Rasool, HOD, MERC delivered a lecture on “New Media Technologies” at Mass Communication and Journalism Department University of Imphal, Manipur in Feb,2009.

Mr.Nasir Mirza,Sr.Asstt.Professor at MERC, addressed a session on “Protest Literature” organized by Creative Writers Society of Aligarh Muslim University on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2009.He also conducted the sessions with MCJ students of IG-NOU as a counselor.

Dr.Sabeha Mufti, Senior Assistant Professor at MERC delivered a lecturer on: Media Scenario in Kashmir on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2009 at IIMC, New Delhi and at Global Study Project at School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi on “Representation of Reality, Media in Contemporary Conflicts”.

Ms.Syeda Afshana, Asstt.Professor,MERC delivered a lecture on “ Writing Skills” at the College of Education, Srinagar on March 12,2009.

### **Guest Lectures at MERC:**

- Ms. Shaheena Khan,delivered lecture on ‘Radio News’ in May 2008.
- Mr. Humayun Qaiser delivered a lecture on ‘Contemporary Radio Scenario in Kashmir’ in July 2008.

- Mr. Bashir Arif delivered lecture on ‘Commercial Broadcasting’ in July 2008.
- Prof. Anand Kumar from JNU, delivered a lecture on ‘Print Media and Contemporary Scenario’ in July 2008.
- Mr. Suvojit Bagchi, Senior Producer, BBC World Services, New Delhi delivered a lecture on ‘Challenges before Journalism Today’ in August 2008.
- Mr. Shujaat Bhukhari, Sr. Journalist delivered a lecture on ‘Exclusive Stories’ in September, 2008.
- Riyaz Masroor interacted with the students of the department during feedback session of MERC Times.
- Mr. Sameeran Walvekar, director EMRC, Pune made presentations on ‘Sting Operation’ and ‘Broadcast Journalism’.
- Mr.Ashok Kaul, renowned Mumbai film maker delivered a lecture to the students, faculty members and research scholars of MERC on ‘Animation and gaming’ on March 25, 2009.

### **Students’ National/ International Participation:**

Nida Rafiq student of M.A.3<sup>rd</sup> Semester was selected for Generations for Peace camp in Abu Dhabi from 01<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. The Generations for Peace is a global initiative of Prince Faisal of Jordan which aims to bring together youth leaders from around the world and trains them to unite the young and to promote peace throughout the world.

Nazir Ahmad Ganie and Owais Mushtaq, student of M.A.3<sup>rd</sup> Semester attended the youth Festival organized by Punjab University, Chandigarh and represented Kashmir University in western Music, skit, quiz.

Benish Ali Bhat, student of M.A 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester participated in a national debate on ‘Education improves Environment’ held in New Delhi in October, 2008.





Dignitaries at the Inaugural Function of Institute of Kashmir Studies



Dignitaries Gracing the occasion



Afghan minister(L) At the Inaugural Function of IKS



Iqbal Day celebrations at Gandhi Bhawn

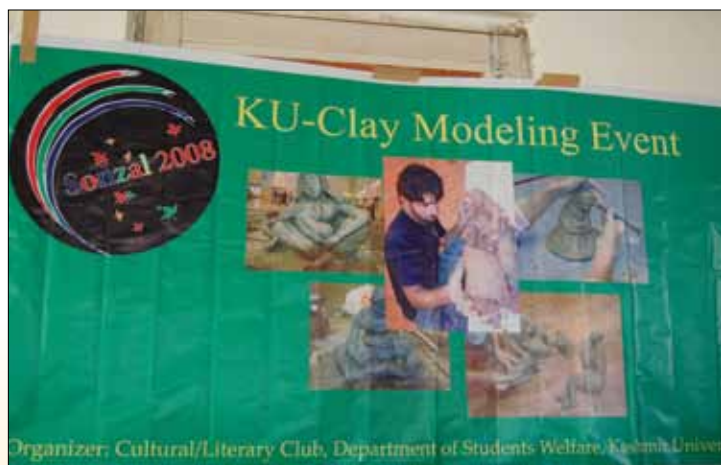


Two Day National workshop Organised by the department of Law



Guests at the 4th J&K Science Congress





An event of Sonzal Youth Festival 2008



Science Congress being held at Convocation Complex



VC Chairing the two day national Seminar on Role of Islam in transforming Kashmiri Society at Gandhi Bhawan



Panel Discussion Organised by the Academic Staff College,  
University of Kashmir at SKICC



Experts interacting with students during the Seminar Organised by the Department of Law



NSS Function at Kashmir University





BBC trainer delivering lecture to MERC students, during hostile environment training workshop



Student taught the ways to confront difficult situations while covering conflict, during the workshop



Launch of the fortnightly MERC lab newspaper 'MERC TIMES'.



2nd Semester students of MERC at the Valedictory function of the Television Production Workshop.