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Private airlines put on hold protest action

FIA hopes talks with government will resolve issues

Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI: All major private airlines, who had called for a strike on August 18, have decided to put their proposed protest action on hold in view of the "agitated public sentiments and potential inconvenience to thousands of travelling public." In a brief statement here on Sunday night, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) said the decision was also prompted by the government's "willingness" to enter into dialogue. The FIA expressed the hope that talks with the government would lead to re-

dressal of the grievances of the civil aviation industry. The statement was issued on behalf of Jet Airways, Kingfisher, GoAir, SpiceJet and IndiGo. The U-turn by the FIA came within 48 hours of the call for suspension of all domestic flights on August 18 in protest against the high rate of sales tax on the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and airport taxes. The government had firmly ruled out the possibility of giving any bailout package to them. While favouring the way of dialogue to sort out the problems faced by the industry, Civil Aviation Minister

Praful Patel had said the government understood the difficulties being faced by the aviation sector. However, it did not support any move that would cause inconvenience to the travelling public, he said while asserting that Air India would mount additional flights on that day. Even before the FIA formally withdrew its call for suspension of flights, cracks had started appearing in the grouping. IndiGo and SpiceJet backed out of the protest action and favoured talks with the government. According to the FIA, the estimated losses of the indus-

try in 2008-09 would be Rs. 10,000 crore. FIA secretary general Anil Baijal had said the estimated cost of the additional imposition of levies by the airport operators for the industry would be close to \$250 million in a year. While saying that the industry realised its role in the life of a nation, he said it may not be able to continue operations in view of the indifference shown by the government towards the industry. **Editorial on Page 10**

PWR building shows indigenous capability, says Kakodkar

T.S. Subramanian

CHENNAI: India building an 80 MWe Pressurised Water Re-



globally unique," he added. The FBRs would use plutonium-uranium oxide as fuel. The AHWR to be built would



HAVING THEIR WAY: Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (right) and Harbhajan Singh emerge from the BCCI office after the Board's working committee meeting in Mumbai on Sunday. - PHOTO: AP

BCCI opposes doping clause

Special Correspondent

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has declared the 'whereabouts' clause of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) as unacceptable for its cricketers. In doing so, cricket's apex

WADA where he or she could be accessed for an hour each day before each quarter (of 90 days), for surprise 'out-of-competition' testing. If a player is not available when the WADA team visits him or her for tests on three successive occasions, stringent penalties, including a

clause citing three reasons. BCCI president Shashank Manohar explained the three reasons. "One is that some players are under security cover and cannot disclose their day-to-day movements. Secondly, they feel that the clause constitutes invasion of their privacy. Thirdly, the

BRIEFLY

Take over RIL gas distribution: Left

NEW DELHI: Left MPs on Sunday demanded that the government take over the marketing and distribution of gas produced by the RIL to ensure that the national asset is not surreptitiously appropriated as "family property." - PTI

CAT ruling

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The recent ruling of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in a case relating to the dismissal of an employee of the Accountant-General's office has put the agitating unions in a fix. - Details on Page 4

Maharashtra staff to go on strike

MUMBAI: Around 22 lakh Maharashtra government employees will go on a strike from August 4, demanding the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission report.

Buta Singh briefs Manmohan

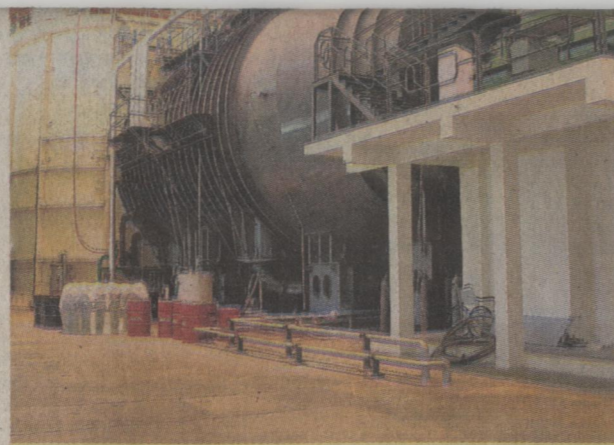
NEW DELHI: The former Union Home Minister, Buta Singh, on Sunday ruled out his resignation after the arrest of his son in a bribery case and said he had briefed the Prime Minister on the issue. "He has and sought more details," he said. - PTI

near here marks the beginning of its indigenous PWR capability," Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman Anil Kakodkar said on Sunday.

An identical PWR of the same capacity would propel the indigenous nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant that was launched on July 26. The two PWRs were built by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Enriched uranium would fuel them, and light water was both coolant and moderator. The Rare Materials Project at Ratnahalli, near Mysore, produced the enriched uranium. "For nuclear power generation also, the PWR technology is most popular worldwide," Dr. Kakodkar said.

On Sunday, reporters were shown the PWR built on a beachhead at Kalpakkam. The reactor, built under a highly secretive project called Plutonium Recycling Project (PRP), has been operating from September 2006. The non-descript PRP building has the display of a sculpture of a dolphin outside.

The PWR, housed in a huge hall, has a massive pressure



A BEGINNING: The 80 MWe indigenous PWR at Kalpakkam. In the foreground is the pressure hull and behind is the shield tank that contains water and the reactor. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hull, a shielding tank with water and reactor inside, a reactor pressure vessel made of special steel, a control room and an auxiliary control room.

"The reactor is running now. All the safety related parameters are monitored in the auxiliary control room," said A. Moorthi, scientific officer, BARC, who showed reporters round the reactor. The land-based reactor and

the PWR that has been packed into Arihant's hull are on a 1:1 scale.

Dr. Kakodkar said the PWR at Kalpakkam was an addition to the nation's family of reactors. The Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which use natural uranium as fuel, "are world class." "Our Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) are globally advanced. Our Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) is

Srikumar Banerjee, Director, BARC, called the introduction of indigenous PWR technology in the country "a major step" in the activities of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The BARC was mandated to develop a land-based prototype PWR and also a compact nuclear pack for submarine applications.

"The complexity increases manifold in a submarine due to the miniaturisation of the already complex systems," Dr. Banerjee said. Besides, power should rise fast from 25 per cent to 100 per in a few minutes in the reactor of a nuclear-powered submarine. It should reach full speed in a few minutes. So, special attention had to be paid to the design of the reactor.

S. Basu, Director of BARC Facilities at Kalpakkam, said the successful operation of the PWR at Kalpakkam for the past three years generated data for the submarine version.

Arihant was a joint project of the DAE, the Navy and the DRDO.

Another report on Page 13

Thangal buried with State honours

Abdul Latheef Naha

MALAPPURAM: Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) State president Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal, 73, was buried with full State honours at the Panakkad Juma Masjid on Sunday afternoon. Tens of thousands of people from different walks of life paid their last respects to the great leader.

A host of dignitaries, including Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi, Union Minister of State for Railway E. Ahamed, Leader of the Opposition Oommen Chandy, and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Ramesh Chennithala, paid their tributes to Thangal.

Thousands of people were disappointed as they could reach nowhere near the body of Shihab Thangal, who died at a private hospital here on



LAST RITES: The body of Panakkad Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal being lowered into the grave at the Panakkad Juma Masjid burial ground on Sunday.

Saturday night.

The Kodappanakkal house of Shihab Thangal at Panakkad near here choked with the emotional turnout of people since his body was brought there on Saturday night. People poured in thousands through the night, blocking traffic at all points

leading to Panakkad.

The body was shifted to the Municipal Town Hall at Malappuram by 7 a.m. on Sunday after the obligatory bathing and wrapping it in white Kafan (shroud). Long, multiple queues of people reaching beyond Munduparamba and Kizhakkethala were soon

formed. Traffic to Malappuram was diverted at many points.

Mass prayers

The Town Hall witnessed mass prayers for Thangal every 15 minutes. Top Muslim leaders, including Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliar, led the Janaza prayers.

The body was taken to the Panakkad Juma Masjid by 2 p.m. After a few rounds of prayers and a gun salute by the State police, the Janaza of Thangal was lowered into a six-foot grave at 3 p.m.

The burial prayer beginning with *Allahumma zabbithhu indassuhaal, Allahumma alhimhul jawaab* rent the air as the mourners threw three handfuls of sand into the grave.

The tombstone at the grave read in Arabic: Syed Mohammedali Shihab, born May 4, 1936 and dead August 1, 2009.

See also Pages 4 & 20

try is seen to be standing firmly behind a set of star Indian players.

Eleven leading Indian cricketers, including Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, have refused to comply with WADA's prescription, which is intended to test players at random for drug use.

The deadline expired on July 31.

Under the 'whereabouts' clause, a player has to inform

years, could follow.

The BCCI, however, restated its readiness to accept the ICC anti-doping code of 2009 in a modified manner and endorsed the ICC's drive to make cricket drug-free.

At the its working committee meeting here on Sunday, the BCCI decided to keep the ICC engaged in discussions by offering a concession on the issue of 'out-of-competition' testing, but rejected outright the 'whereabouts'

Mr. Manohar said: "The meeting was convened because of the concerns raised by the players on particular clauses of the Code. We feel the 'whereabouts' clause is unreasonable. We would like the ICC to name the player or players for out-of-competition testing and promise to produce them within 24 hours. We agreed to the Code, but not the mechanism or system of operating it."

LONDON: An NRI businessman and two of his British accomplices have been arrested here on the charge of duping more than 600 people, including the former cricketer, Darren Gough, and singer Jerome Flynn, to the tune of £ 80 million in a 'Ponzi' scam. — PTI

SUDOKU
— Back Page

Policemen injured in attack near Adoor

Staff Reporter

PATHANAMTHITTA: A Sub-Inspector and two constables were injured in an attack by a group of anti-social elements during an operation to nab goons who were allegedly escorting a spirit-laden lorry at

Thuvayur, near Adoor, on Sunday afternoon.

The police party led by the SI, S. Nandakumar, had an encounter with the gang of goons on the road and two of them were arrested while others fled the scene.

The two arrested were

identified as Prem (23) of Shah Bhavan in Sasthamkotta and Shinu Daniel (20) of Shinu Bhavan at Kadambanad, near Adoor.

The SI with a fractured arm was rushed to Adoor Taluk Hospital, later. The constables injured in the attack,

Sreekumar and Prasannakumar, were given first aid.

District Superintendent of Police K.K. Chellappan visited the Adoor police station. He said the police had identified all the other culprits and they would be brought to book soon.

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CLASSIFIEDS
MART Page 2

More Regional Advertisements: Pages 6 & 7

Kalpatta Yesterday 31/24	Vadakara Yesterday 31/24	Kozhikode Yesterday 31/24	Kozhikode Today The day will be pleasant. The sky will remain cloudy to overcast. Light to moderate spells of rain/shower are likely. High 32°C low 24°C. RH max 95%. Read RH as Relative Humidity
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Kozhikode Tomorrow
The day will remain comfortable. The sky will be cloudy to overcast. There are chances of rain/shower. High 32°C low 24°C. RH max 95%.
SKYMET

AROUND THE CITY

Medicine distribution against fever

KOZHIKODE: The city Corporation, in assistance with the Panniyankara Homoeopathy Dispensary and the Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project, will start distribution of homoeopathic preventive medicine against viral fever to the public on Monday. The medicine will be available for free at all corporation health circles from 9 a.m., corporation's Health standing committee chairman Kanangot Haridas said on Sunday. — Staff Reporter

BSNL 'Kalotsavam'

KOZHIKODE: The ninth edition of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) Kerala Circle 'Kalotsavam' will begin at Nalanda auditorium here on Tuesday. Kathakali guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair will inaugurate the festival at 9.30 a.m. Talents from different telecom districts will vie for honours in various events during the two-day festival. — Staff Reporter

Meeting

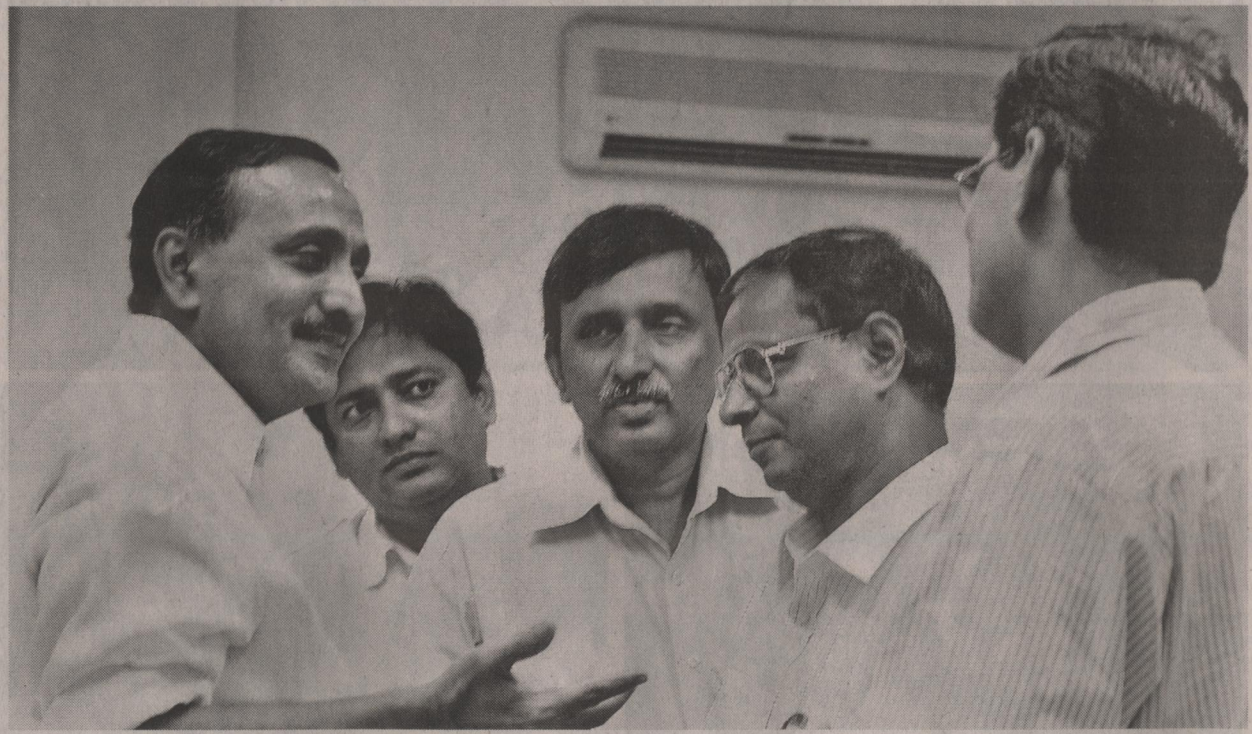
KALPETTA: A meeting of the principals of the government, aided and unaided high schools; sub-district educational officers; and the principals of the teacher training institutes in the district will be held at SKMJ Higher Secondary School here at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. — A Correspondent

MT presents awards

KOZHIKODE: Inannith

Fever outbreak: expert team arrives in district

Holds talks with Health authorities, medical college doctors



MAKING A POINT: M.K. Raghavan, MP, with the Central team members who have arrived to study the outbreak of fever in the district during a discussion at the Collectorate in the city on Sunday.

— PHOTO: S. RAMESH KURUP

Staff Reporter

KOZHIKODE: A four-member expert team arrived in Kozhikode on Sunday to conduct a three-day study of the fever outbreak in the district.

The team, headed by George Jacob of the National Institute of Virology's Alappuzha unit, was appointed by Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad after Kozhikode MP M.K. Raghavan raised the issue in the Lok Sabha

examine suspected cases, collect samples, study records, visit households of fever-afflicted persons, house-visits to identify various mosquito sources and analyse past years' data on fever outbreaks.

The expert team will visit Panangad, Balussery, Koyilandy and Atholi on August 3; Ulliyeri, Narikkuni, Koden-cherry, Kuttiyady and Nadapuram on August 4; and Kozhikode city and Maruthangara on August 5.

be applied to cases of post-fever arthritis.

Team briefed

Doctors of the Kozhikode Medical College and district homoeo doctors explained the nature of the fever outbreak in the district, the symptoms, treatment protocol and the problems being faced by medical staff.

P.K. Sasidharan, Head of the Department of Medicine, Kozhikode Medical College, told the team that medical

fogging and spraying activities by authorities are just a part of source destruction activities and required citizens to take the responsibility for eliminating any source of stagnant water in their surroundings.

Members of the expert team opined that more samples of suspected chikungunya cases need to be collected from specific neighbourhoods to help pinpoint exact locations of sources.

Doctors of homoeo dispen-

Central team to tour Wayanad tomorrow

To assess damage to crops, property in the recent rain

A Correspondent

KALPETTA: A Central team will tour Wayanad on Tuesday to assess the damage to crops and property in the rain that the lashed the district a few weeks ago.

The three-member team will reach the district on Monday evening and visit Thanjilode, Chulukka, Kanthanpara, Vattathuvayal, Neelimala and Meenakshi in the Mepadi region on Tuesday morning.

Lives were lost and property and crops were damaged in the landslips that accompanied the heavy rain in the region.

The team will move to Kottathara in the Kalpetta region and Tavinjal and nearby places in the Mananthavady region.

The team will hold a dis-

cussion with the district authorities at Collectorate conference hall, near here, District Collector in-charge and Additional Divisional Magistrate K. Vijayan told *The Hindu*.

Estimated loss

The loss in rain-related calamities in the district has been estimated at Rs.151crore, he said.

The district received a 15-year record rainfall of 41 cm in three days, 13 per cent of the average rainfall in the district a year.

Sada Kant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, is the team leader. K. Manoharan, Director, Directorate of Tobacco Development, Union Ministry of Agriculture, and Sanjeev Kumar, Regional Officer, Department of Road Transport and High-

ways, are its members. Sajith Babu, Assistant Commissioner, Land and Revenue, will assist the team.

In Kozhikode today

Staff Reporter writes from Kozhikode:

The delegation will tour rain-hit areas in the district on Monday and assess losses. The delegation will be briefed by the District Collector at the Collectorate conference hall at 10.45 a.m.

The team will reach Kuttiyadi at 1 p.m. It will study the change in course of the Kuttiyadi river at Central Mukku.

The delegation will proceed to Perambra and will assess the crop loss at Edavaradu.

The team is expected to reach the Koolimadu and Cheruvadi areas at 4.15 p.m. and Kodencherry at 5.30 p.m.

Shihab Thangal mourned

Staff Reporter

KOZHIKODE: Many prominent people and organisations have condoled the death of IUML leader Panakkad Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal on Saturday.

The Muslim Educational Society (MES) described Shihab Thangal as a strong leader who took a tough stance against communalism and terrorism. Shihab Thangal was the first president of the MES College, Mambad, when MES took over the college in 1969. A condolence meeting was presided over by MES president P.A. Fazal Gafoor.

General secretary P.O.J. Lebb

ba, treasurer A. Muhammed and secretary C.T. Zakir Husain spoke.

Samastha Kerala Jamiyathul Ulema general secretary Kantapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar said Shihab Thangal was a leader acceptable to all, a gentleman and a religious scholar. The Muslim community and the country had lost a leader capable of handling matters with farsightedness, a message said.

Jama'at-e-Islami Kerala Ameer T. Arifali said the death was a great loss to the community and the State. He had contributed a great deal to the unity of the Muslim

community, Mr. Arifali said.

Solidarity State president P. Mujeeb Rahman also expressed deep grief at the death. Popular Front of India (PFI) all-India chairman E.M. Abdurahiman, in a message, pointed out that Shihab Thangal was a spokesperson of the Muslim community. He stood for cooperation and consensus, it noted. PFI State president Nasaruddeen Elamaram and general secretary Abdul Majeed Faizi said Shihab Thangal was a rare personality. He was respected by all, a message stated.

See also Page 4

BRIEFLY

LDF meeting on August 8

PALAKKAD: Leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and Minister for Water Resources N.K. Premachandran has said that the State committee meeting of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) scheduled to be held in Thiruvananthapuram on August 8 will discuss the issues concerning the self-finance colleges. Inaugurating a State camp of the Revolutionary Youth Front (RYF) at Malampuzha, near here, on Saturday, the Minister said that the LDF would try to remove the anxiety of youth organisations on the self-finance college issue. Mr. Premachandran said that the LDF should regain the people's confidence especially on communalism and terrorism. It should be more cautious on the issues concerning terrorism, the Minister said. The meeting was presided over by Koorilangal Kunjumon, MLA. —Staff Reporter

KUWJ office-bearers

KOCHI: K.C. Rajagopal of Malayala Manorama has been elected president of the Kerala Union of Working Journalists. Manoharan Morayi (Deshabhimani) is the new general secretary. At the election held last week, a 30-member executive committee was also elected. — Special Correspondent

Holiday for MES

KOZHIKODE: All educational institutions of the Muslim Educational Society (MES) in the State would remain closed on Monday as a mark of respect to the late Panakkad Syed

'Thangal blended spirituality with politics'

Religious heads, leaders pay homage to IUML leader

Staff Reporter

MALAPPURAM: A host of political and religious leaders arrived here on Sunday to pay tributes to Indian Union

Muslim League State president Panakkad Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal who died on Saturday night.

Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan, who arrived in the morning along with Revenue Minister K.P. Rajendran, said the death of Shihab Thangal was a great loss not only to the Muslim community, but to the entire State.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, who represented the Congress high command and the Union government, said Shihab Thangal was a rare combination of spirituality and politics. A towering personality and undisputed spiritual leader and politician, Shihab Thangal showed the world how both qualities could be blended, he said.

Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musaliar, general secretary of the All India Jamiyyathul Ulama, praised the efforts made by Shihab Thangal to achieve unity of Sunni factions in Kerala. He hoped that his successors would continue his efforts earnestly.

Leader of the Opposition

Oommen Chandy, who stayed back for the funeral along with Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Ramesh Chennithala and M.I. Shanavas, MP, said Shihab Thangal was a leader with no parallel in the history of Kerala politics.

K.M. Mani, chairman of Kerala Congress(M) and the former Revenue Minister, described Shihab Thangal as a great personality who upheld all virtues such as humility, grace, and mercy throughout his life.

Minister for Local Self-Government Paloli Mohammed Kutty said the IUML leader had the rare quality of keeping away from controversies and disputes.

United Democratic Front (UDF) convener P.P. Thankachan said Shihab Thangal's death was an irreparable loss to the UDF. He remembered that Shihab Thangal with his unique style of reticence had contributed a lot towards strengthening the UDF.

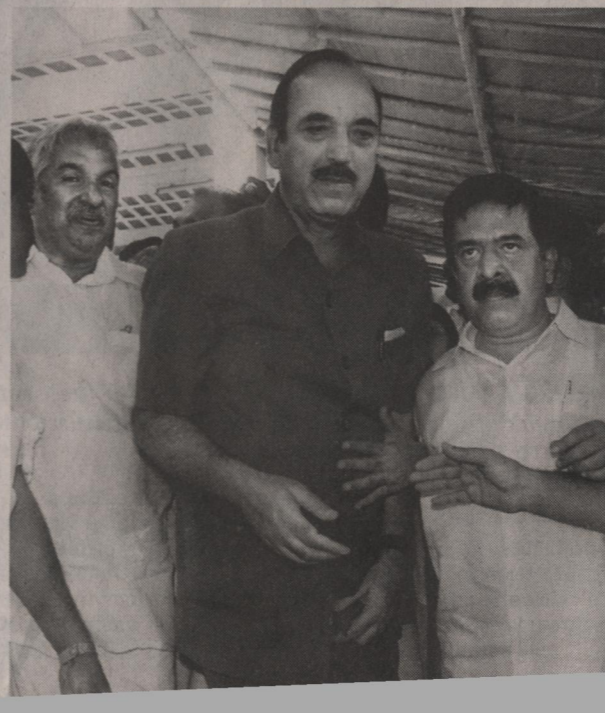
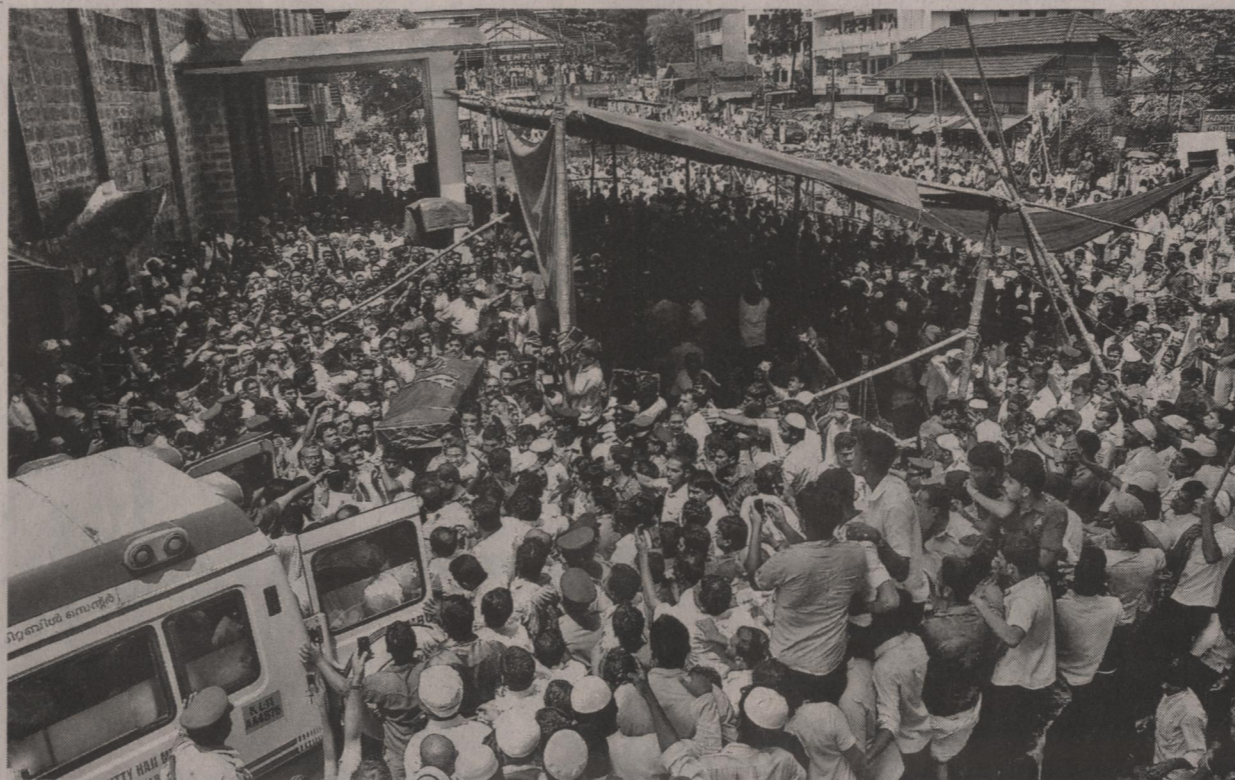
O.P.M. Sayed Muthukoya Thangal, Kazi of Malappuram, said that Shihab Thangal, who was Kazi of over 300 Mahals, had proved to be a role model for other Kazis. He showed how issues could be handled without embittering anyone, the Kazi said.

Hyderali Thangal named successor

Staff Reporter

MALAPPURAM: Syed Hyderali Shihab Thangal, Malappuram district president of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), was on Sunday unanimously chosen to

Mohammedali Shihab Thangal. The State secretariat of the IUML met at Panakkad in the evening and decided to give charge to Hyderali Thangal. IUML national president and Union Minister of State



Reluctant but influential politician

Girish Menon

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Panakkad Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal, who passed away on Saturday, was one of the most reluctant players in Kerala politics, yet very influential.

He assumed the leadership of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) quite reluctantly following the death of his father, PMSA Pookoya Thangal, who was the party president then.

Born on May 4, 1936, Thangal bestrode Kerala politics, becoming the final word in the IUML and perhaps even in the United Democratic Front (UDF).

His association with the Congress began much before the UDF consolidated itself into a structure as it is today. Ever since, he had never deviated from his pro-Congress stance even though there were several occasions when rabid elements in his party and community had made attempts to turn the course of the Muslim League's history. He was one of the few Kerala leaders who were above controversy, setting high standards of probity in public life.

Despite the power he wielded, Thangal never hankered after political office. He preferred to head the party's State unit and kept away from electoral politics. Such was his influence that his followers spoke to him only in hushed tones of reverence. In the last two years, Thangal was involved in bringing all scattered Muslim groups under one umbrella.

Thangal's spiritual status was such that there was hardly any Muslim religious institution that did not have him either at its helm or at least as its patron.