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**Tuesday, August 17,
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2 Punjabi varsity employees caught with women Placed under suspension

**Jangveer Singh
Tribune News Service**

Patiala, August 16

Two employees of Punjabi University were caught red-handed while indulging in an immoral act during "overtime" in its Examination Branch two days back.

The university authorities made them sign a confession and handed them over along with two women, whom they had brought from outside of the campus, to the Bahadurgarh police chowki with a request that an FIR be registered against them.

The police has registered a case under Section 109 (trying to hide presence to commit cognizable offence) against the two employees.

According to sources, the two employees — Manjit Singh, who works in the office of Dean, Academic Affairs, and Jasbir Singh, who works in the Conduct Branch, were on overtime duty when the incident occurred on August 14.

The sources said according to the confession made by the two employees to the university, Jasbir Singh enquired from his head and other officials about their presence at work on Saturday. On being told that none of the staff were on duty, Jasbir asked Manjit to get the two women, residents of Mathura Colony and Bishen Nagar, to the Examination Branch.

Following this, according to University Chief Security Officer Col Alamjit Singh (retd), Jasbir locked Manjit and one of the women in the room of a steno in the office. After some time Manjit did the same for Jasbir and the other woman.

The Security Officer said suspicion arose when another employee saw Manjit knock at a locked room. The employee told this to a security guard on duty and they went to the rear of the room to check on it.

The two became suspicious and on seeing them Jasbir jumped from the first floor and tried to escape to the nearby Gol Market, where he was apprehended by the security staff. Though Jasbir first denied his presence in the room, he relented when one of the women was "recovered" from the locked room after it was forced open.

The university authorities handed over all the four to the Bahadurgarh police chowki with a request that an FIR be registered.

University spokesperson, Dr B.S. Sandhu, when contacted said though the employees had been suspended, further action was expected against them.

Meanwhile, SSP A.S. Rai said both employees had been arrested and charged under Section 109, IPC. He said they had been presented before a Magistrate and granted bail.

Mr Rai said the police had written to the university authorities asking them to take strict disciplinary action against the employees.



Top militant led a life of comfort, anonymity

**Jangveer Singh
Tribune News Service**

Patiala, August 16

Dreaded militant Harnek Singh, alias Bhap, of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), who was arrested by the Fatehgarh Sahib police two days back, had been leading a life of comfort in anonymity in the Urban Estate here for the past two years. Bhap was living alone in a 150 square yard house, 2564 in Phase II of the Urban Estate. He owned a Bullet motor cycle and a silver Santro car. His hobbies included frequenting a nearby gym and visiting the Punjabi University campus nearby.

Bhap's neighbours, while talking to The Tribune, said the militant used to generally keep to himself. He was courteous with his neighbours, who had a good opinion of him, with many of them thinking that he had come to the city to establish some business. None of the neighbours suspected any of his activities or took him for a criminal.

They said he seemed to be fun-loving but respectful towards elders and nearby residents. Harnek was a regular at the New Power House Gym in the same phase, which he sometimes used to frequent in the morning and the evening.

The people said though he had befriended a few persons at the gym, it was only on a casual basis and he did not enjoy any close companionship with anyone.

Sources said Harnek used to frequent the Punjabi University campus. It was not clear as to why he used to go there. His acquaintances at the gym said they did not know whether he used to go there to meet anyone or just for a casual drive.

Harnek lived all by himself at the house, which the neighbours said might be owned by him as they did not hear or see any landlord coming to the house. He was apparently getting money from somewhere because he did not have any source to earn his livelihood. The house, neighbours said, was reasonably well maintained, for a bachelor. The house is presently locked, with no one coming forward to claim it after the arrest of Harnek.

The sources said the militant was questioned for more than an-hour-and-a-half hours by SP (Detective) Pritpal Singh Sidhu at Fatehgarh Sahib today. They said though no case had been registered against Harnek in Patiala district, the police had started investigating untraced militancy related cases in the district to recheck whether Harnek could be involved in any of them. Harnek might be brought to Patiala for investigations at a later stage.



3 Babbar Khalsa men charged with murder

Our Correspondent

Tarn Taran, August 16

The police has nabbed three Babbar Khalsa activists. They have also been accused of killing local Akal dera head Baba Jagtar Singh, who was shot along with his follower Manjit Singh on April 15, here by two unidentified persons.

The murder accused have been identified as Jagtar Singh of Bharowal village and Baljinder Singh, alias Nihang, of Preet Nagar village under the Lopoke police station. Connected to the Sikh militant outfit Babbar Khalsa, they were working under the guidance of Harjant Singh, alias DC, the police claimed. The accused were in jail and were brought here on production warrants.



Ropar cop shielding travel agent?

Pradeep Sharma
Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, August 16

Is a senior police officer of the Ropar police shielding a travel agent, who is alleged to have defrauded a Morinda resident of Rs 1 lakh? The answer seems to be yes if a rejoinder of the SSP, Ropar, to a notice issued by the Punjab State Human Right Commission (PSHRC) is any indicator.

The rejoinder, sent to the PSHRC through the Punjab IG (Litigation), takes cognizance of a complaint of Ms Kulwant Kaur, a resident of Morinda, regarding corruption charges against the official and his Reader in not registering a case against the travel agent, Paramjit Singh, alias Pammi.

Narrating the sequence of events to Chandigarh Tribune here today, Mr Bant Singh, husband of Ms Kulwant Kaur, said he emigrated to Lebanon in 1997 to earn his livelihood. While he worked there, his wife suffered a heart attack in 2002 and he decided to return to India.

In Lebanon, he met Pammi, who promised to send him to India on the payment of \$1,200. He deposited \$200 and his passport with Pammi after taking a loan from his brother-in-law. The rest of the amount — \$1,000 — was to be paid to Pammi after Bant Singh landed at the Delhi Airport.

However, Bant Singh was handed over to certain unidentified persons on the Lebanon-Syria border by Pammi, which was to be the beginning of his nightmarish experience. "For days together, I was brutally beaten up in Syria and forced to telephone my brother-in-law in Lebanon saying that I have reached Delhi and he should pay \$1,000 to Pammi," alleged Bant Singh.

Also, \$900 on his person were taken away by the men and he was handed over to the Syrian police, he alleged adding that he ultimately landed in a Syrian jail. After completing his one-month term in the jail there, he was again pushed back to Lebanon.

As Pammi came to know that he had returned to Lebanon, he fled to India. After spending a few months in a Lebanese jail, Mr Bant Singh returned to India on June 4, 2003.

Mr Bant Singh said after he approached the Punjab Chief Minister, a compromise was effected by the Ropar police and Pammi was asked to pay him Rs 1 lakh. In fact, Rs 15,000 was paid to Mr Bant Singh by the agent.

After that, Pammi started dilly-dallying on the payment of the rest of money claiming that the official and his Reader were on his side, as he had greased

their palm. However, in the rejoinder, the Ropar police claimed that corruption charges had not been proven.

Meanwhile, the PSHRC has asked the police officer to appear in person before it on September 6.



Tug-of-war continues over Virk

Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, August 16

The tug-of-war between the Centre and the Punjab Government — over the issue of allowing IPS officer S.S. Virk to stay in the state — continues. Though the Punjab Government has written to the Centre asking them to allow Mr Virk to continue till March 31 next year, the Union Home Ministry has reportedly sought an explanation from the officer.

The officer has reportedly been asked to explain why disciplinary proceedings against him should not be initiated for "wilfully disobeying the orders" directing him to return to his parent cadre by April 30 this year.

Just over four months ago, the Union Home Ministry had terminated the inter-cadre deputation of the 1970-batch officer. The battle between the Centre and the state over the issue of his deputation had taken a "curious turn" after the ministry had written directly to Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Virk.

In their order sent through speed post to Mr Virk, the authorities had asked him to report back for duty to the Government of Maharashtra without delay. The sources had claimed that a Joint Secretary had asked ADGP Virk to join the duty in his parent cadre of Maharashtra not later than April 30 failing which the ministry would initiate action against him under All India Service (D&A) Rules of 1969. It was added that the officer would be deemed to have been released by the Punjab Government.

The order had further added that the state government in November, 2001, had assured the ministry about ADGP Virk's release immediately after the completion of election process in the state, but nothing was done in this regard.

The Punjab Government, on the other hand, had shot a letter to the ministry for extending the deputation. Even the state Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had written a letter in this regard.

The move was considered significant as the officer — posted as Intelligence Chief in state police — was likely to succeed Mr A.A. Siddiqui as Punjab's Director-General of Police (DGP).

Meanwhile, going into the background of the matter, the sources reveal that ADGP Virk's inter-cadre transfer to state of Punjab for a year was approved of by the Union Government on February 27, 1996.

He reported for duty in Punjab on April 2, 1996. His deputation was extended till April 1, 1998, on Punjab Government's request. Subsequently, the Punjab Government continued to request the Union Government for extending the deputation till the Home Ministry refused to agree.

