Hizb militant killed, associate injured

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Troops at the site of encounter at Babagund in Pulwama district on Saturday. —Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

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Srinagar, Oct 13: A militant of Hizbul Mujahideen was killed while as another sustained injuries in a gunfight that raged between security forces and militants in Kangan Babagund village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district even as another militant fled from the cordon under the cover of darkness.

Army's 55 RR had laid an ambush at Sarnoo crossing, Babagund crossing and Kangan on Pulwama Rohmoo Road in Pulwama town last night. At Babagund, a group of militants fired on the troops leading to a gun battle.

Two militants after fleeing from the ambush took shelter in a nearby house while third one Shoukat Ahmad who had received bullet in abdomen fled towards Sangam. People immediately took him to Srinagar's SMHS hospital where he is being treated.

The two other militants were engaged by Army, Pulwama Police and 182 and 183 battalions of CRPF. One militant Zahoor Ahmad Thokar who was injured in leg and shoulder fled under the cover of darkness while another one Shabir Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohammad of Sangri, Samboora, Pampore was killed.

Police said Dar was involved in attacks on security establishments and many other civilian atrocities in the area. "Many cases prominent among them include 162/2016 under Section 13 (I)-B, 16, 18 UL(A)P Act at P/S Pampore and 277/2018 under Section 307 RPC, 7/27 Arms Act at P/S Pulwama where registered against him," police spokesman said in a statement.

Police also said that in this operation, no collateral damage took place while incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter.

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"Moreover, one suspect who was part of a same group that was engaged in encounter at Pulwama has been admitted to a hospital in Srinagar with a bullet injury. Police is ascertaining his identity and other related facts of the incident," police said, adding that a case has been registered and investigation initiated in the instant matter.

Curfew like restrictions were imposed in the Pulwama town to prevent law and order problems. There were protests and stone pelting on security forces. However, protesters were chased away by security forces.

The body of the militant was taken to Samboora, Pampore for burial where large numbers of people took part in his last rites.

And in the meantime, floral tributes were paid to a policeman killed in an attack by militants in Sopore last night while hundreds of people participated in his last rites at his native Warpora village.

A police spokesman said that a wreath laying ceremony was held for the slain cop Javeed Ahmad Lone at DPL Sopore this morning. “Senior police officers led by DIG NKR laid floral wreaths on the mortal remains and paid rich tributes to the martyred soul,” he said.

Lone who was shot dead at his home in Warpora, Sopore late last night is survived by ailing mother, wife, 5-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son.

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