Modi's party pulls out of governing coalition in Kashmir

NEW DELHI: India's ruling party withdrew from the governing coalition in Kashmir on Saturday. “Everyone is tired of war and if our leaders order a ceasefire, then the government will have to go back its involvement in the troubled state,” said Dr. Mohammad Taghi, a senior party leader. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had been in the coalition with the National Conference (NC) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) since 2014. But the sight of its fighters openly mingling with security forces in the streets of Srinagar, the state capital, sparked a backlash among the party's supporters. The BJP accused the NC and the PDP of advocating more autonomy for Kashmir. “It has become untenable for us to remain in the coalition with such outfits which have advocated more autonomy for Kashmir,” said Dr. Mohammad Taghi, a senior party leader. The PDP, which draws its support from the Kashmiri Pandits, tendered her resignation after the BJP announced its decision. The future of the coalition is now uncertain, with the state's governor, a figurehead who is appointed by the president, likely to play a key role in determining its fate. The move comes as a blow to the government's efforts to stabilize the region, which has been rocked by violence and terrorism.

US, South Korea agree to suspend military exercise

WASHINGTON: The United States and South Korea agreed on Thursday to suspend joint military drills planned for August, South Korea and US officials said on Monday. Following President Donald Trump's pledge to end “war games” last month, South Korea stopped its joint drills with US forces in March, following the historic summit between South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un.

KABUL: Extraordinary scenes of Afghan Taleban and security forces mingling in the streets of Kandahar city, Afghanistan, the Taleban leadership may have changed its mind about going back to the negotiating table with the United States. The Taleban fighters, who were previously seen as a threat to the peace process, were seen alongside Afghan security forces in Kandahar city, a day after the US and Taleban agreed to an eight-day ceasefire. The ceasefire was meant to provide a “major building block” for the government's reconciliation efforts. The Taleban fighters were seen carrying their weapons and speaking to the security forces.

Afghanistan's surprise ceasefire celebrations raise hopes for peace

KAVAYI: Extraordinary scenes of Afghan Taleban and security forces spontaneously celebrating a historic ceasefire showed many fighters on both sides led by angry outbursts of fighters' anger, saying: “Peace inScope of the ceasefire is not good news. In Afghanistan, the government has said that violence in the country will not end if there is a ceasefire. "The situation we are facing today is much worse than the conflicts of the past," said President Ghani. "The Afghan people deserve peace, not chaos." 

Modi's party pulls out of governing coalition in Kashmir

NEW DELHI: India's ruling party withdrew from the governing coalition in Kashmir on Saturday. “Everyone is tired of war and if our leaders order a ceasefire, then the government will have to go back its involvement in the troubled state,” said Dr. Mohammad Taghi, a senior party leader. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had been in the coalition with the National Conference (NC) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) since 2014. But the sight of its fighters openly mingling with security forces in the streets of Srinagar, the state capital, sparked a backlash among the party's supporters. The BJP accused the NC and the PDP of advocating more autonomy for Kashmir. “It has become untenable for us to remain in the coalition with such outfits which have advocated more autonomy for Kashmir,” said Dr. Mohammad Taghi, a senior party leader. The PDP, which draws its support from the Kashmiri Pandits, tendered her resignation after the BJP announced its decision. The future of the coalition is now uncertain, with the state's governor, a figurehead who is appointed by the president, likely to play a key role in determining its fate. The move comes as a blow to the government's efforts to stabilize the region, which has been rocked by violence and terrorism.

US, South Korea agree to suspend military exercise

WASHINGTON: The United States and South Korea agreed on Thursday to suspend joint military drills planned for August, South Korea and US officials said on Monday. Following President Donald Trump's pledge to end “war games” last month, South Korea stopped its joint drills with US forces in March, following the historic summit between South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un.

KABUL: Extraordinary scenes of Afghan Taleban and security forces mingling in the streets of Kandahar city, Afghanistan, the Taleban leadership may have changed its mind about going back to the negotiating table with the United States. The Taleban fighters, who were previously seen as a threat to the peace process, were seen alongside Afghan security forces in Kandahar city, a day after the US and Taleban agreed to an eight-day ceasefire. The ceasefire was meant to provide a “major building block” for the government's reconciliation efforts. The Taleban fighters were seen carrying their weapons and speaking to the security forces.

Afghanistan's surprise ceasefire celebrations raise hopes for peace

KAVAYI: Extraordinary scenes of Afghan Taleban and security forces spontaneously celebrating a historic ceasefire showed many fighters on both sides led by angry outbursts of fighters' anger, saying: “Peace in Scope of the ceasefire is not good news. In Afghanistan, the government has said that violence in the country will not end if there is a ceasefire. "The situation we are facing today is much worse than the conflicts of the past," said President Ghani. "The Afghan people deserve peace, not chaos."