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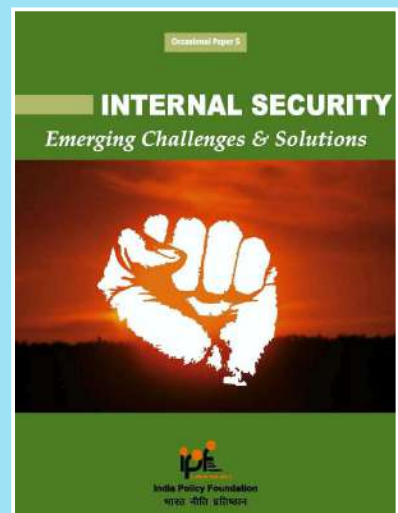
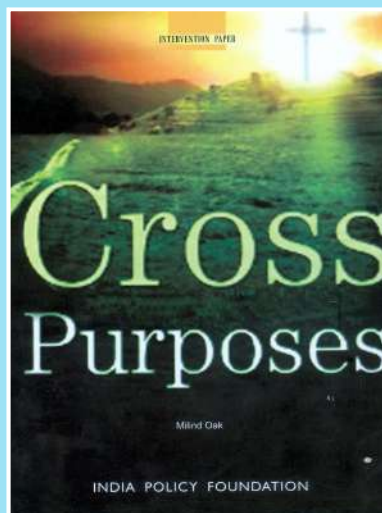
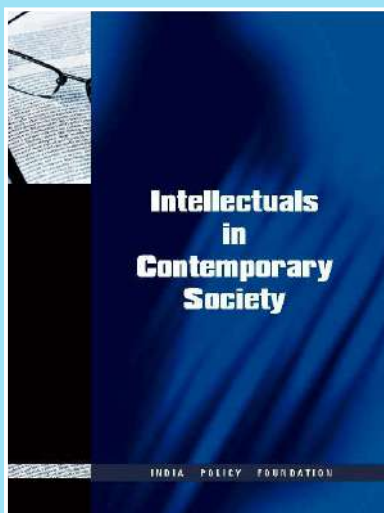
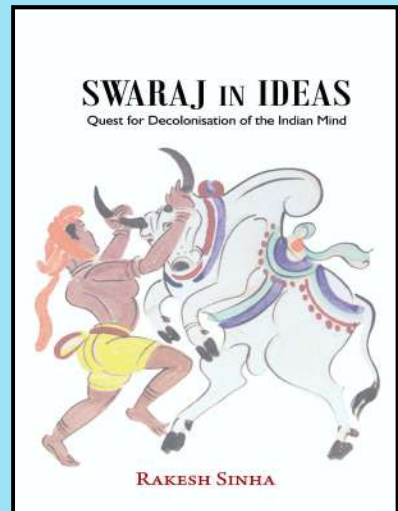
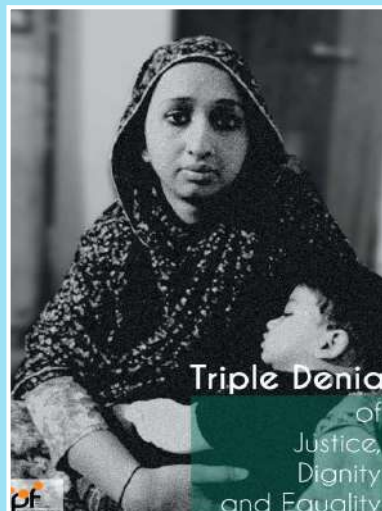
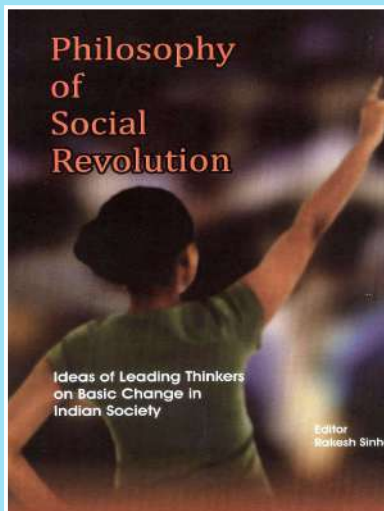
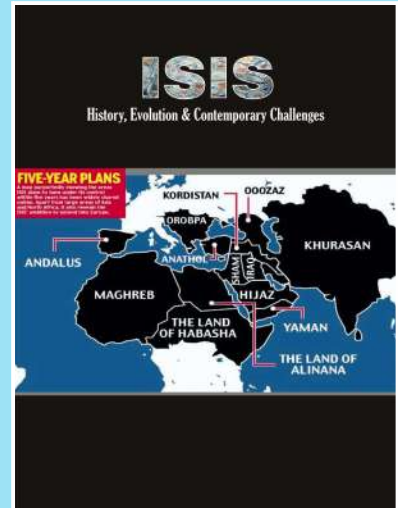
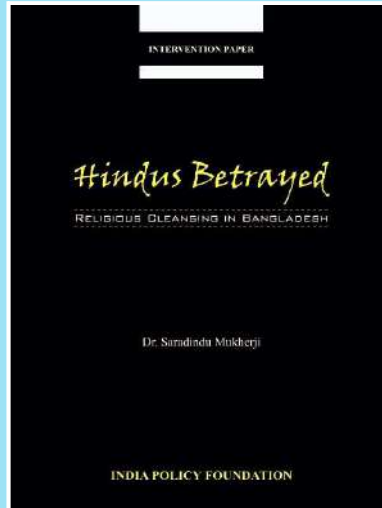
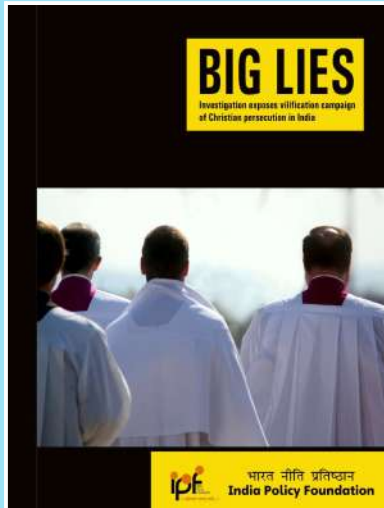
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## Shaheen Bagh a Smokescreen for Targeting Government?



- Controversy over Maulanas in TV Debates
- Death Penalty of General Musharraf Cancelled
- Anti-Government Protests in Iran
- Special Calendar of Urdu University

# Some Important Publications of IPF



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## Contents

Summary	2
<b>NATIONAL</b>	
Controversy over Maulanas in TV Debates	3
Muslim Rashtriya Manch to Explain CAA	4
Osmania University Professor Arrested	6
Students Unrest in Jamia and AMU	7
Shaheen Bagh a Smokescreen for Targeting Government?	8
Punjab Assembly Passes Resolution against CAA	10
Controversy over Citizenship Amendment Act	11
One Billion Investment for AMU	12
<b>World</b>	
Death Penalty of General Musharraf Cancelled	13
Mahatir Adamant on Anti-India Stand	15
Another Setback to Pakistan in the UN	15
Imran Khan Faces Embarrassment on Kashmir	16
Taliban Ready for Truce	17
<b>West Asia</b>	
National Mourning on the Death of Oman Sultan	18
Anti-Government Protests in Iran	18
Germany Bans Hezbollah	19
The OIC Stands Divided	20
<b>Others</b>	
Special Calendar of Urdu University	23
Manto Blamed Nehru for Bloodshed of Muslims	23
Mosque Opens Doors for Non-Muslims	24
Protests in 430 Indian Cities against Killing of Suleimani	24
Thousands of Telangana Labourers Stranded in Iraq	24

## Summary

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The Urdu newspapers are carrying on their campaign against the Citizenship Amendment Act. The protests at Shaheen Bagh are being presented with a lot of spice to readers. Similar protests and dharnas are being staged in at least 120 places in the country. Urdu newspapers are mostly full of the news of these protests. Now the Muslim Rashtriya Manch has taken it upon itself to remove the misgivings about the Citizenship Amendment Act by organising a conference of the Ulemas. A spokesperson of the Manch alleged that the opponents of the CAA deliberately sent some people to the conference to disrupt the program. Slogans against the CAA were raised and the police had to arrest them after which the program went on for three hours. The Manch has decided to organise such awareness programs across the country and the National Ulema Conference is also pitching in to support these efforts.

The Maulana Azad National University has brought out a new calendar which carries a hand written letter written by Mahatma Gandhi to express his grief at the demise of Allama Iqbal. The letter has been signed in Urdu. The calendar carries many letters written in Urdu by eminent personalities which have been brought before the public for the first time.

The controversy over the participation of Muslim scholars on National TV channels shows no sign of abating. Muslims allege that the Maulanas appearing on TV have very superficial knowledge of Islam and Muslims. Such scholars are bringing a bad name for Islam. The Darul Uloom Deoband had also urged Maulanas not to participate in such programs but for many of these scholars these have become a highly lucrative source of earning and the Darul Uloom is finding it very hard to control them. A weekly has recently exposed these Maulanas.

Former Pakistan President General Parvez Musharraf has managed to escape being hanged just by a whisker. He had been awarded death by hanging for sedition by a special court but when this judgment was challenged in the High Court it not only cancelled the sentence but even questioned the constitutional legality of this court. Giving a new spin to this debate the Pakistani newspaper Jasarat has commented that the special court was constituted on the orders of the Supreme Court. Does this mean that a lower court could cancel the judgment of the higher court?

Indian Muslims appear more interested in the developments of the Islamic world than what was happening in India. Recently one of the generals of Iran Qasim Suleimani was killed by USA and there were protests in 460 cities against this. Similarly a few years ago when the Indian government took a tough stand against the illegal entry of Rohingyas there were country wide protests. ■

## Controversy over Maulanas in TV Debates



There is no end to the controversy over the participation of Maulanas in TV debates. Muslim organisations complained that the scholars representing them in these debates are ignorant of Islam and Quran and hence they cannot put their point of view across in these nationally televised programs. Earlier the Darul Uloom Deoband had asked Muslim leaders to boycott TV shows. But this did not make any impact on those who are regularly seen on the national TV.

Now, **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 19) has come out with a special article titled 'Thugs of Musalman.' This cover story has pictures of three Maulanas with a sub-heading 'These so called Maulanas have sold their souls for money'. The feature goes on to say that there is no shortage of Islamic

scholars, especially the TV news debates show plenty of such scholars who show themselves as representing Muslims. Who has authorised these Maulanas to represent the Muslims? If you look carefully these persons are present on all the TV channel shows and are responsible for making Muslims a laughing stock. But they are paid heavily for this, some on yearly basis and some on daily basis. They are told in advance by these channels that they have to take part in the debates. They are told that they would be insulted and some could even be man-handled but they would be heavily compensated for this.

Sometimes, they pretend to be representing highly qualified educationists and sometimes they become political experts, which means they are intellectuals and they could be part of any discussions although the fact remains that they have no answers to most questions.

These TV debates have one representative of the ruling party, one from the RSS, one from the opposition party and then there is a black cap clad Maulana whom they are all mocking. Interestingly, there are a few Maulanas who are regular features of these debates and no TV debate is complete without them. Watch these debates and you will find that the media manages to find out some Maulana who is ready to sell out his soul for money.

Let's now tell you about some of these frauds. There is one who is called Ansar Raza. He is present on almost all channels on regular basis. Nowadays there is a huge debate on the CAA everywhere. But this person is not to be seen anywhere because they are available only for news channels. Some are calling them Islamic scholars while on others they are promoting themselves as intellectuals.

On number two is Maulana Athar Hussain Dehlavi. Recently, a video had surfaced where he is telling people about the CAA but he is also explaining that this law is not against the Muslims. He probably thinks that the nationwide opposition to the

CAA is stupid. The channels are making fun of his cap, his hair, his beard but he puts up a brave front because he is getting paid for getting abused.

Now let's talk about the third Maulana Sajid Rashidi. He is a big Bhakt of the BJP and proof of this is evident in several pictures where he is in the company of BJP leaders. In some, he is with Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and in some others, he is standing close to Narendra Modi. It is clear that he is obviously with the saffron party. If they are repeatedly coming on TV it does not mean that they have got the right to represent the Muslims but it means that they work only for money and are cheating Muslims." ■

## Muslim Rashtriya Manch to Explain CAA



According to **Inquilab** (January 15), "The Muslim Rashtriya Manch has stepped in to project a positive viewpoint on the Citizenship Amendment Act. It has

decided to launch a nation-wide campaign to promote the legal points in favour of the CAA. It has also been decided to contact important Muslim leaders and

organisations and discourage people from participating in the various agitations and demonstrations against the CAA. It will be clarified and explained that no one will be asked for proof of their citizenship. Another organisation, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has also decided to step in to clarify these misgivings. This conference will also be attended by representatives of Deoband, AhleHadees, Barelvi, Ajmer Sharif, Nizamuddin and Muslim Ulema.

A program was organised at the Constitution Club in Delhi about this initiative. **The Inquilab** (January 17) has alleged that "This program organised by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch was disrupted by some element who shouted slogans that the program was being organised to make the government happy. This disturbance started on the arrival of Indresh Kumar, the patron of the Manch. In the beginning, the speakers told the audience that they had nothing to fear from the CAA. But suddenly about a dozen persons with placards in their hands got up which were against the CAA and the NRC. This disruption went on for several minutes and later the police arrested nine persons who were released later. According to the Muslim Rashtriya Manch around 200 Muslim scholars participated in the program."

**The Dainik Sahafat** (January 17) states that "A program was organised at the Constitution Club of Delhi, titled 'Is the CAA harmful for the country?' and 'What is CAA?' by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch and the National Ulema Conference. The Vishva Hindu Parishad Executive President Alok Kumar has said that some people believe that the freedom of expression is meant only for them and they were not prepared to listen to anyone else. Shia scholar Kaukab Mujtaba said that

Muslims would not be harmed in any way by this new law and neither will anyone's citizenship be taken away. People were being deliberately misled. Maulana Suhaib Qasmi said that those who were opposing this had not read the Act properly. The opposition parties were misleading the Muslims for votes even though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had repeatedly clarified that this was not going to affect Muslims."

Many Maulanas taking part in the conference supported the CAA and said that it was not against Muslims. "We are going to offer citizenship to those who have been harassed in our neighbouring countries and want to take shelter in India." The patron of the Muslim National Manch Indresh Kumar said that India was a country that wanted to give asylum to refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Why should this affect the Muslims in India? Khurshid Raza who presided over the program explained the purpose of calling this conference. The program was anchored by Dr. Imran Chowdhary. A larger number of people from other religions also took part in the conference."

It must be noted that most Urdu newspapers boycotted the news and carried only the news of the disturbance created by a few.

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 19), "Muslims of Deoband burnt the effigies of the Chairman of the Islamia Degree College Ajimul Haq Siddiqui and Syed Sajid Hussain for participating in the program in Delhi organised by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch. These people are believed to be supporters of the Samajwadi Party."

## Osmania University Professor Arrested



According to **Etemaad** (January 19), "The police has arrested Professor Dr. Qasim of Osmania University, Hyderabad on charges of being connected to Naxals. The police searched his residence for five hours and seized his computer, hard disk and other documents. Police claimed that it had arrested him in a case of 2016 when it had recovered Naxal literature from his vehicle. Students tried to protest against the police action. The police foiled their attempts. His wife said that her husband had been framed in a false case. She alleged that there was no permission from the University authorities for the searches. She said that a posse of about 50 policemen barged into their residence at midnight without any authorisation from the university. She said that their car was involved in an accident in 2016 after which the police recovered some Naxal literature from their car which were actually books written by Prof. Qasim and were available in the market. The Communist party leaders have condemned this action."

According to **Etemaad** (January 20), "A case has been filed in the Telangana High Court against this action and the court has ordered the police to file an affidavit in this regard. Prof. Qasim was presented at the residence of the Chief Justice of the High Court R S Chauhan who ordered the police to present the case diary of the cases filed against him from 2006 to 2019. He also wanted the police to come up with evidence of these charges. The police have alleged that Prof. Qasim was extorting money from traders and sending it to Naxals. Retired Prof G Lakshmi and Chairman of the State Citizen Rights Committee filed a petition in the High Court alleging that he had been arrested illegally. The court also wondered if this was an attempt to muzzle the opposition and asserted that protecting the rights of the citizens was also the duty of the judiciary. Raghunath, an advocate has alleged that the government was deliberately harassing the supporters of Naxals and anti-government forces." ■



## Student Unrest in Jamia and AMU

The anti- CAA agitation, which was started by students of two prominent universities, shows no signs of abating. Students of Aligarh Muslim University have not been attending their classes for the last one month and same is the case at Jamia.

According to **Siasat** (January 8), "The Allahabad High Court has handed over the case of police harassment of the students of AMU to the Human Rights Commission. A student of the university Mohammad Amanullah has filed a petition in the High Court demanding the withdrawal of police from the campus. He has asked for the inquiry of lathi-charge on more than 100 students to be conducted by a retired justice under the supervision of the High Court."

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 12), "Prof Tariq Mansoor, the Vice-Chancellor of the AMU has in a letter to the Chief Minister and the Police Chief demanded protection for himself and his family as they were in danger."

According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (January 14), "The Jamia Millia Islamia University Vice- Chancellor Dr. Najma Akhtar has decided to go to court to demand an inquiry against the lathi-charge on its students by the police. All examinations have been postponed because of opposition from the students. Earlier, on the opening of the University, the students had put pressure on the University authorities to demand an inquiry into the lathi-charge and demanded postponement of the exams till the FIRs against the students had been withdrawn. She said that the police had entered the campus without their permission and beaten up the students



mercilessly. She said that she had been opposed to the police action since day one and she was ready to go to court to demand justice. She said that the university had suffered a loss of Rs 70 lakh in the police action on December 15."

The same newspaper has published two more news. These news items state that "A team of the National Human Rights Commission has visited the AMU campus and talked to the various stakeholders involved in the agitation. It has also talked to the injured students. According to another news story, dharna of the students continues and they have said that they would not end the protest till the Vice-Chancellor Professor Tariq Mansoor and the Registrar Abdul Hamid resign from their posts. The students have been protesting outside the campus for the last one month and they have also been protesting against the CAA in the city."

According to **Siasat** (January 18), "The spokesperson of Jamia Millia Islamia Ahmad Azeem has said that the university has decided to file a case in the court under IPC Section 156. The police had entered the campus forcefully on December 15 and had mercilessly beaten up students studying peacefully in the university library." ■

## Shaheen Bagh a Smokescreen for Targeting Government?



The **Saptahik Nai Dunya** in its January 27 issue carried various news items about the Shaheen Bagh protests and made it an excuse to attack the government.

Its special editorial reads, "Today, every Indian is talking of Shaheen Bagh and eyes of the entire world are on this agitation. This has become the biggest centre of Satyagrah in independent India where Muslim women have become a tough nut to crack for the government. The movement against the CAA and the NRC has spread all across the country and every village and city has got its own version of Shaheen Bagh. It started with only one Shaheen Bagh in Delhi but now every part of the country boasts of a Shaheen Bagh. The government is nervous about how to tackle this problem. When it used force in Jamia Millia, it became counter-productive with the vice-chancellor filing a case against the police lathi-charge against its students. When it tried its gundagardi in the JNU, the protests spread all over the country. Now, no one is ready to bow down to its dictates."

"The biggest worry for the government is that instead of going down the agitation is spreading to more parts of the country. The more the government tried to give it a Muslim identity, the more its unifying factors surfaced. This has become

an example of Hindu- Muslim-Sikh-Christian unity. The government has decided to impose the National Security Act for three months in desperation under which the government could arrest anyone for one year without any charges. It has also brought its propaganda army into play and the dirty game of maligning the women of Shaheen Bagh has begun. Under this, a young man has been shown claiming that these women are being paid Rs 500 each and served biryani."

"On Twitter, the BJP supporters had launched a campaign under the title "The purchasable women of Shaheen Bagh" and they are being abused every day. Hindu leaders are threatening these women and the movement is being given a communal colour. The supporters of Hinduism are flaunting their muscles openly. One such viral post has been put up by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri who has said in a post that tomorrow the protesters at Shaheen Bagh would celebrate the Anniversary of the killings of Kashmiris and all Kashmir and other Hindu leaders are requested to reach the place to foil this program. It has also got a picture of the meeting on January 19 which had nothing to do with Kashmir. Why are the police not arresting these mischief mongers on social media? Are they roaming free because they are with the government? There is another video by a person called Ved Nagar who claims that he is a gorakshak. This man with a 'Tilak' on his forehead claims that if the Shaheen Bagh spot is not vacated, his supporters would do this along with the users of this road. Spewing venom, this man says that traitors and dogs have created so many Shaheen

Baghs in the country. The media is requested not to give coverage to their protests and they would get the spot vacated in three days. He said that those raising slogans of Azadi must be told that they would be given the kind of Azadi they are looking for. The white shawl clad man is telling the police to remove the people sitting on dharna, or else they would go and do this job."

"Talking of media, besides the members of the BJP IT cell, there are a number of TV anchors who are thronging the place for their so-called sting operations. It is believed that if these operations continue for some time the protests would be over and the police would be able to remove the protesters. A news channel which is known as 'Godi' media has started showing videos, where children are showering abuses on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. An impression is being created that a hate factory is being run at Shaheen Bagh. News channels are running media trials, judgments are being announced and only the punishment remains to be announced."

"But all this seems to have no effect on the protests at Shaheen Bagh. Stories have been planted alleging that women are being given Rs 500 each but all this had had no effect on the women of Shaheen Bagh. That's the reason that the crowds at the protest site have only gone up after these planted stories. Muslim women are asking where was their brother Modi, who was so concerned about them when they brought out the Triple Talaq Act. They are saying that every day would be a new testing point for them because the government was against them, the police was acting on their orders and the saffron party was active against them."

Another article in the same magazine written by Suhail Tanvir reads, "Earlier, even the people of Delhi hardly knew about Shaheen Bagh and only people of Okhla knew about it. Now, people not only in India but all over the world know Shaheen Bagh. This has become a centre that has prompted torch marches, candle light marches and lighting of diyas in every village against the CAA. Patna's Sabzi Bagh has turned into a Shaheen Bagh. The large presence of women at these protests has been drawing the attention of passers-by. Kanpur's Mohammad Ali Park has become a centre of protesters while Allahabad's Roshan Bagh has also turned into a Shaheen Bagh."

The **Dainik Etemaad** (January 20) claimed that "There are at least 90 Shaheen Baghs in the country."

According to **Siasat** (January 16), "The protests against the CAA that started at Shaheen Bagh have now spread all across the country. Patna's Sabzi Bagh, Allahabad's Roshan Bagh and Kolkata's Park Circus are such examples. The protest against the CAA that started at Shaheen Bagh near the Jamia Millia had now been going on for one month now. The women at Roshan Bagh in Allahabad said that if women at Shaheen Bagh could sit in protest, then why could they not do it? Similarly, women in Kanpur's Mohammad Ali Park and Chaman Bagh also continue their dharna like the women in Kolkata's Park Circus. A leader at the site Nausheen Baba Khan said that they were protesting on their own. Besides the Sabzi Bagh, protests are being held at Gaya's Shanti Bagh, Kishanganj's Bahadurganj and Bhopal's Ganj town. Apart from this, Delhi's Khureji and Turkman Gate have also become protest sites by women." ■

## Punjab Assembly Passes Resolution against CAA



According to **Inquilab** (January 18), "After Kerala, now the Punjab Assembly had also passed a resolution against the CAA calling it unconstitutional and aimed at dividing the country. The question is will a situation like in Kerala arise in Punjab where the Governor Arif Mohammad Khan refused to sign the resolution passed by the government? The Congress state governments have already declared that they would not implement this law and there are chances that other state governments would also pass similar resolutions. The Centre, meanwhile, has been asserting that it has the sole right to implement this law and the states have no option but to accept it. This would be a violation of the Constitution. The Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amrinder Singh has sent a draft to the Centre suggesting some amendments to the law. If the Centre accepted these changes, they would accept the law. He said that the census was going on and it would be carried out the way it was done earlier."

The **Siasat** (January 15) writes in its editorial that "The resolution against the CAA passed by the Kerala Assembly was welcome. Protests against this law have been going on in the entire country but the centre was not willing to listen to anyone. The world has realised that if Modi's power was not checked now, some human tragedies could not be prevented. Although, there were protests against this all over the country, but it is not becoming as potent on national level as it should be. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao used to be secular in the beginning, but after coming to power, he has turned saffron. He has ignored the feelings of the people of Telangana and not spoken a word against the CAA. He should have also passed a resolution against the law like Kerala. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has opposed the law, but she has not taken any legal step to oppose it. It is time that all state governments should come together on this issue." ■

## Controversy over Citizenship Amendment Act

The Urdu newspapers seem to have started a campaign against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for the past several days. This is despite the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already given a clarification on this.

The **Inquilab** (December 16) writes in its editorial, "This law is against the spirit of the Indian Constitution and things can get worse by this law. The Constitution does not differentiate against anyone on the basis of religion."

The **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** writes in its editorial, "This law, which goes against the Constitution of India, has made us a laughing stock all over the world. In the country, the law and order situation is worsening every day because of the agitations. Police is using force to suppress the agitation, which has people from all sections of the society. The way police is opening fire on the agitators, is worsening this situation. There is no visible leader of this agitation, but people are coming out on the streets on their own. It has taken the shape of a mass agitation. If the government does not solve this issue now, it will lead to very dangerous consequences. The entire country cannot be thrust into fire for fulfilling one's own political agenda."

**Saptahik Nai Duniya** (December 16) says in its editorial, "The CAB and NRC are double-edged sword of the Modi government hanging on the heads of Muslims. These have not only endangered the lives of Muslims but the entire country. The Constitution is in danger and secularism is injured. Under this law, the Indian Constitution made by Dr. Ambedkar will lose its soul. The country which had rejected

the two-nation theory of Savarkar and Mohammad Ali Jinnah is being pushed to accept the same now. The Modi government is planning to first impose the CAA and bring the NRC after that. The government has not given any indication as to what it plans to do with crores of Muslims who would be declared foreigners. Pakistan and Bangladesh are not ready to accept them. What then? Will they be thrown into the sea? Or will they be put in gas chambers as had been done with the Jews in Germany?"

**Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 10) writes in its editorial, "The biggest drawback of this Act is that it has provision to provide citizenship only to non-Muslims, whereas Muslims have been kept out of it. This is totally against the principle of secularism in our Constitution. It will not be able to stand scrutiny in Court."

The **Siasat** (December 10) condemns the Citizenship Amendment Act in its editorial saying that the government was throwing the Constitution out of the window, that's why there was so much unrest in the North East and the rest of the country. The students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University are demonstrating against this law. But the Modi government does not seem to be bothered about it. The Opposition has also been unable to stop this. Citizenship cannot be granted on the basis of religion in a secular country like India. Despite this, the Modi government is out to force this law on the people. Attempts are being made to turn Hindustan into a Hindu Rashtra. This attempt will severely damage the unity, integrity and stability of the country. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is constantly attempting to wipe off the presence of Muslims in the country. Although he is not speaking on this issue, but his supporters are openly declaring their agenda of finishing off the Muslims from the country.”

According to **Dainik Etemaad**

(December 16), writes in its editorial that “the BJP had brought about this Act to implement its agenda of a Hindu Rashtra. Every secular citizen of the country must stand up to oppose this law, which goes against the tenets of the Indian Constitution.”

## One Billion Investment for AMU

According to **Siasat** (December 5), “The Ministry for Minorities had agreed to grant a sum of around Rs 1.1 billion to the campuses of Aligarh Muslim University in Malappuram (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) for constructing hostels. This amount has been given under the Prime Minister's Jan Vikas Program. The first instalment of this in the form of Rs 30.5 crore has already been released. The Vice-Chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor stressed on the fact that he would concentrate on improving the residential facilities for students. Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi took special interest in the matter to get this amount sanctioned. He said that they were also thinking of Kishanganj campus in Bihar because the Centre lacked proper facilities. He said that they wanted Muslims to excel in education.”

**Comment:** The UPA government had taken a decision that campuses of AMU should be set up outside Aligarh in Muslim majority areas of the country. As far as the AMU Act is concerned, it was a residential complex and its working areas should be confined to Aligarh. That is the reason that none of the colleges in Aligarh were affiliated to AMU and are affiliated to Agra University. The Congress had taken a decision to set up AMU campuses in four states of Kerala, Bihar, West Bengal and

Maharashtra. The Government had decided that centres would be set up in Malappuram (Kerala), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Kishanganj (Bihar) and Aurangabad (Maharashtra). Of these, the position of Aurangabad campus was not clear, because the Maharashtra government had not allotted land for this so far. While work is on in full swing in the other three centres. The Malappuram and Murshidabad centres were set up in 2010, while the Kishanganj centre was set up in 2013. The Kerala Government had allotted 336 acres for the Malappuram Centre. The Murshidabad centre had been allotted 288 acres. For the set up of third centre, Bihar government had allotted 224 acres in Govindpura. It is interesting that these centres have been in controversy since the very beginning. Muslim leaders used to say that setting up centres outside Aligarh was against the basic concept of the AMU. Last year, the Ministry for Human Resource Development had allotted Rs 30 lakh from its budget for setting up the centre in Kishanganj. Interestingly, then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had also announced the opening of four centres in his Budget of 2012/13. There was a proposal for opening a centre in Bhopal as well. But due to the non-cooperation of the state government, this plan was shelved.”

## Death Penalty of General Musharraf Cancelled



According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (January 14), "The Lahore High Court has termed as unconstitutional the special court which sentenced former President of Pakistan General Parvez Musharraf to death by hanging and cancelled the punishment given by the special court. The case was taken up by a full bench headed by Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Two other justices Judges Justice Masood Jehangir and Justice Amir are also part of the bench. According to media reports the Bench declared the Constitution of the special court illegal and unconstitutional under the 1976 law of the Court Amendment Act.

Earlier the lawyer of Musharraf, Azahar Sadiq said that the steps the former president had taken on November 3, 2007 could be called unconstitutional but he could not be called a traitor because of that.

Additional Solicitor General Ishtiyaz Ahmed Khan appeared in the hearing on behalf of the government. He said that the decision to start the case against the former President was not taken by the cabinet. Hence the constitution of the special court was without the order of the cabinet. He however said that the cabinet did think of announcing a special magistrate for the special court on May 8, 2018. On this, Justice

Mazhar Ali intervened and asked how many people had checked the FIR? If the decision to impose emergency was in writing what were they investigating. On this, the Attorney General replied that there were 20 to 25 persons in the committee but only the Home Secretary had appeared in the case. On this the judge asked as to what was the legal position of the investigation in that case. If those who investigated the case were not presented before the court what was the status of the investigation?

Another judge asked that if today someone imposes an emergency would he be guilty of treason? On this the AG replied that the fundamental rights could be suspended during an emergency. On this the magistrate commented that if this was permitted anyone would go and do whatever he liked. Where was the place for law and the constitution in such a position? The AG stated that the amendments that were supposed to be carried out were not done. The Section 6 was amended after the emergency imposed by Musharraf and hence he could not be punished. Later the judge told the media that the constitution of the special court was illegal and hence its judgment was being cancelled. After the decision of the High Court, General Musharaff said he was happy that the decision of the court was according to the tenets of the Constitution.

The **Jasarat** (January 15) says in its editorial, "The Lahore High Court has declared the special court which announced a punishment for former President as unconstitutional. This means in other terms that his punishment had been cancelled. The reactions that came out after the judgment were enough indicators that this judgment would be thrown out. But the judgment of the High Court has shocked the entire world.

The special court which declared the judgment against General Musharaff had been constituted under a Supreme Court order. If the decision of the High Court is accepted a case has to be filed against the Supreme Court of Pakistan which constituted the special court.

The Supreme Court had accepted the petition of Nawaz Sharif on November 18, 2013 asking for a special court to be set up for trying Musharaff for sedition. Before this on July 31, 2009 a bench of the Supreme Court had declared the November 2007 decision of General Musharaff to impose emergency as unconstitutional and illegal. Now the High Court and the Supreme Court will have to decide which court was higher. Although General Musharaff had escaped death penalty but now the Supreme Court will have to decide whether a lower court could declare a decision of the highest court as illegal.

The Supreme Court decision will have a long term bearing on the future of Pakistan. Now it is becoming clear to everyone that there are two power centres in Pakistan which was most undesirable. The judiciary had just started taking baby steps to restore its credibility. The due process of law was being followed in transfers, postings and retirement. But now the decisions of the courts have started revealing the crevices of the judiciary. If the Supreme Court and the High Court differ in their perceptions of the Constitution and the law what will the common man think of the cases that are decided by them. But since the issue relates to the prestige of the Supreme Court, they would not like to comment on it but it is a question of the reputation of the Supreme Court. The common man feels that even though the court case had ended, Parvez Musharaff could still be punished." ■



## Mahatir Adamant on Anti-India Stand

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 15) Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad has said that he was concerned about India's ban in purchasing oil from them but it would not affect their policies. He would continue to raise its voice against wrong policies. According to Reuters, India had imposed a ban on buying palm oil from Malaysia because of its anti-India policies.

Malaysia is the world's biggest

supplier of palm oil after Indonesia. The 94-year-old Mahatir had recently criticised India's CAA law and earlier it had also condemned India for removing Article 370 from Kashmir. He said that they would suffer economic losses for their stand but would not compromise. According to traders, India had purchased 44 lakh tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia in 2019 but this figure would go drastically down." ■

## Another Setback to Pakistan at the UN



According to an article in **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** titled (January 17) 'Pakistan fails in the UN Again' it had failed to raise the issue of Kashmir as it could not muster enough support. Only China came out in its support on the issue. This was the second time that Pakistan tried to raise the issue of abrogation of Article 370 from Kashmir in the United Nations. But countries like France and USA argued that this was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. A UN session had been convened to discuss the situation in the African

country Male but China wanted the situation of Kashmir to be discussed after the abrogation of Article 370. The spokesperson of Chinese foreign ministry said that India should not take such decisions as it creates unrest in the region.

China had tried to raise this issue in the UN twice earlier. It had demanded that the UN Security Council should discuss this issue in a special session but France and the United States have been opposing it saying this was not the forum to raise these issues. After 1965 Pakistan has repeatedly tried to raise such issues in the UN and demanded convening of a special session but after being snubbed it had given up. Indian representative in the United Nations Akbaruddin said that he was happy that Pakistan's allegations had been rejected. He said that when some countries tried to raise this issue in a closed-door meeting, most of the countries said that it was a bilateral issue between two countries." ■

## Imran Khan Faces Embarrassment on Kashmir



According to **Saptahik Nai Dunya** (January 13) editorial, "Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's decision to call a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) on the issue of Kashmir has backfired. Now, the meeting is scheduled to be held in April. It is strange that Pakistan is trying to hide its failure by presenting it as its victory, while the fact is that the OIC has once again played a joke with Pakistan. Pakistan has lost its face in the world on the issue of Kashmir, and Saudi Arabia has supported India on this issue, which means that Pakistan now has the support of only two countries - Turkey and Malaysia on this issue. Both the countries had called a meeting of OIC countries in Malaysia, but at the last minute, Pakistan refused to participate in it under pressure from Saudi Arabia. The Islamic world has been waiting to know what transpired between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia regarding this conference. Pakistan has now convened a new meeting of the OIC to put up a brave face even though everyone knows that nothing would come out of it because Saudi Arabia does not want to get involved in this issue."

"Pakistani newspapers claimed that the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, has confirmed that

a conference of OIC has been called to discuss the Kashmir issue. Among the countries likely to participate in this, are - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Indonesia and some other countries. Issues such as Kashmir and CAA are to be discussed in this conference. Saudi Arabia has decided to hold this conference after the fiasco of the Malaysia meeting to maintain its supremacy in the OIC. It is believed that Saudi's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al- Saud had taken Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in confidence on this issue during his visit to Pakistan recently. Turkish President had commented that Pakistan did not participate in the Malaysian meet due to economic pressure. Saudi Arabia had threatened Pakistan that if it attended the meeting, it would send back 40 lakh Pakistanis working there and replace them with Bangladeshis."

"Pakistan was maintaining that it had not participated in the conference to maintain the unity of Muslims, but its claim was exposed by a Pakistani journalist. He said that Pakistan had refused to participate in it because of the pressure of billions of foreign currency deposited in the banks by Pakistanis working abroad. It is surprising that a part of the Pakistani media is presenting this as a victory of Pakistan. It is being said that Saudi foreign minister came to Pakistan, which showed how Pakistan was topmost in its reckoning. The question is if the OIC conference is being held in April, will Saudi Arabia raise its voice in favour of Pakistan? What has the OIC been doing so far? Everyone knows that India and Saudi Arabia have such strong economic ties that Pakistan just does not fit into its scheme of things."

## Taliban Ready for Truce



According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 17), the Taliban in Afghanistan were once again ready for a temporary truce for talks with USA. A spokesperson of the Pakistan foreign ministry said that the Taliban had given such a document to the USA mediator Khaliljada. This truce would last from a week to ten days. This has given hope that the war that has been going on for the last 18 years would finally come to an end. Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that his country wanted a truce between the two sides so that Afghanistan could come out of the war. Taliban spokesperson Jabiullah Mujahid stated that in September they were about to come to a peace treaty with

USA but the US president suddenly abandoned the talks."

According to **Inquilab** (January 22), former US troops have demanded that USA should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan because the trillions of dollars being spent on war had adversely affected the economy of the country. There are more than 14000 USA soldiers in Afghanistan currently and more than 2500 troops have lost their lives there. So far more than 10 trillion dollars have been spent on this war which comes from the tax payers of USA. They reminded the people that Donald Trump had promised to withdraw all USA troops from Afghanistan in 2016 but later he forgot all about it." ■

## National Mourning on the Death of Oman Sultan

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 12), "The Indian government has declared a national mourning on the death of Oman's ruler Sultan Kabus bin Sayeed al Sayeed. It has been decided to fly flags at half-mast at all government buildings and no government function would be held during this period. Sultan has had the longest tenure among all rulers of Oman. He had become the ruler of Oman in 1970 after

overthrowing his father. Sultan Kaboos had no heir because he remained unmarried and he does not have any brother either. According to the tradition in Oman, only a person whose both parents were citizens of Oman and who had royal blood in their veins could become the Sultan. The cousin of the deceased Sultan, 65-year old Haitham bin Tariq has been appointed the new Sultan." ■

## Anti-Government Protests in Iran

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 15), "Iran has been plagued with anti-government protests demanding the resignation of the government ever since a Ukraine plane was shot down. Police and the security forces were using force to control the situation injuring several persons. According to [AlArabia.com](http://AlArabia.com) pictures of these protests were being posted on the social media where people are being seen raising slogans against the government. At several places the police have used lathi charge and opened fire to quell the situation. Many people have been injured in these demonstrations but the government claims that even though people have been protesting for one week the government had not used force against them.



According to another news, a court in Iran had announced that some persons had been arrested in connection with this shooting. Before this the Iran President

Hasan Roohani had set up a special court to conduct an inquiry into this matter. On January 8, a Ukraine plane was shot down at the Teheran airport killing 176 persons. In the initial stages the government tried to deny any role in this accident but later it admitted that the plane was shot down by mistake when missiles were fired on it. The dead included 82 Iranian citizens." According to Etemaad (January 13) Iran police had arrested the British diplomat for taking part in the demonstrations against the government in Iran. According to sources the diplomat was arrested for making a statement against the government. Later the government released him after the intervention of the Iran foreign ministry. Britain has condemned Iran for this action while the British diplomat has denied taking part in the demonstrations. USA has asked Iran to apologise to Britain." ■

## Germany Bans Hezbollah

According to **Siasat** (December 21), "The German Parliament has passed a resolution with a huge majority, banning terror organisation Hezbollah. Both the political parties of Germany have appealed to the European countries to declare Hezbollah a terrorist organisation and ban it. A spokesperson of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the decision to ban this Islamic terror organisation had been taken with the support of the opposition Social Democratic Party. Funds to finance the activities of terrorists were collected worldwide and given for the operations of this organisation."

**Comment:** Hezbollah was established in 1980 as a terrorist organisation at the instructions of Iran for uniting the Shia Muslims in Lebanon. Its leaders and fighters were sent for training to Iran on special instructions of Syrian government. This organisation had a great role in scaring away the USAs and the French from Lebanon in 1985. The Hezbollah launched a Guerrilla War in Lebanon in 2000. In the Bosnia war, this organisation fought the Russians. The strength of this group is estimated to be more than that of Lebanon's Army. It has its own radio and satellite TV station. It gets support from the Shias in Lebanon, although the Sunnis are against it. Iran provides arms and ammunition to them and financial support and trains its cadres. In the war of Lebanon in 2006, there were huge clashes between the Israeli Army and Hezbollah. In 2008, the Hezbollah and its partners had 11 out of 30 Ministerial berths in the Lebanon cabinet. The Lebanon



government recognizes its significance and believes that it would help liberate the areas that have been occupied forcefully by the Israelis. It also played an active role in the civil war in Syria. The main mission of Hezbollah is to finish off Israel. The Hezbollah also runs a TV channel, called 'Al-Minar,' for its propaganda against Israel and brings out a weekly called 'Al Ahad.' Its intelligence branch is regarded the most powerful in the Arab world. It is believed that many times it has beaten Israel's world-famous intelligence agency Mossad to its game. There is a veil of secrecy over the actual number of its members. According to the Director of Dubai based Gulf Research Foundation Mustafa Alani, its armed cadres are above 1,000 and the number of its part-time members go above 10,000. It claims that Hezbollah is one of the most powerful armed guerrilla groups in the world. It has an armoury of more than one lakh rockets and missiles. This jihadi organisation has targeted the USA embassies and army bases a number of times. It also participated in the war against USA in the Iraq war." ■

## The OIC Stands Divided



There were huge differences among the countries who were invited for the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. A large number of Muslim countries refused to attend the meeting including Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and several African countries. The Saudi Arabian representatives were worried that Mahathir was trying to put them down by creating a new block of Islamic countries. The head office of OIC is

in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, and so far it has been dominated by Saudi Arabia. Allegations and counter-allegations between Saudi Arabia and Malaysia are on."

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 21), "The Organisation of Islamic Countries has been divided into two. The total membership of this group is 57, out of which only 20 countries took part in this meeting. The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad has expressed concern on the growing differences among the Islamic countries."

According to another news story published in the same paper, "Two jihadi groups banned by Saudi Arabia have welcomed the meeting of the OIC in Kuala Lumpur. The Ikhwanul Muslimeen has called this meeting historic. This is significant because the countries which are participating in this meeting have given shelter to the members of this group. Similarly, the Houthi rebels who have been revolting against Saudi Arabia have also welcomed this meeting."

According to **Etemaad** (December 19) editorial, "Malaysia has expressed concern over the growing differences among the Islamic countries. According to the editorial, a conference of heads of 20 Islamic countries was organised in Malaysia in which countries like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia did not participate. Those who took keen interest in the organisation of the program were Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Imran Khan. The conference had been called to discuss the problems Muslims were facing globally, but at the last minute Pakistan backed out under pressure from Saudi Arabia. It is strange that Muslim countries are not united even in discussing their own problems. Muslims were being exploited in the West in the name of Islamophobia. Similarly, wars between Muslim countries, mutual differences, civil wars and mass agitations against Muslim rulers were increasing the problems of Muslims. Saudi Arabia does not like the participation of Turkish President Erdogan, Iranian President Rouhani and the Emir of Qatar in this conference, called by Malaysia. This is why Saudi Arabia has refused to participate in the conference. Mahathir has clarified that there was no intention of creating a new

block, but it was only called to discuss the problems faced by Muslims."

"According to the newspapers, out of 70 Muslim countries, heads of 20 of 57 OIC countries and their 250 representatives were taking part in the meeting. The OIC had lost its respect in the world because of their internal conflict. Interestingly, the issue of Kashmir is also on the agenda, but despite this, Pakistan has refused to participate in the conference. Iran and Malaysia have now become friends and that is why Iranian President Rouhani was the first to reach Kuala Lumpur. The president of Turkey is also against the sanctions of America against Iran. Qatar has already been removed from its block by Saudi Arabia because it supports Iran. Even though the Muslim countries spread from North-African country of Algeria to mid-Asia's Uzbekistan and Brunei, but more than 60 Muslim countries have no influence on world politics. The countries which are well off are ruined by terrorism. The Muslim countries contribute only 5 percent to the GDP of the world, while most of these countries are victims of poverty and hunger. However, the truth is that there is no country in the world where Muslims are not being discriminated against. 10 million Muslims had to flee from Myanmar, Syria and North Africa alone. Gambia has raised the issue of genocide of Rohingya Muslims at International Court. According to the United Nations, there were one million Muslims in prisoner camps in China. Everyone knows how Uighur Muslims were being treated in China. Interestingly, the United Nations and USA are raising these issues, but Islamic countries are totally silent. History witnesses that mutual differences have been the base of the problems of Muslims. According to another

news story, Indonesia has also refused to participate in the meeting. The UAE has also refused to participate."

"The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi raised his concern over Saudi Arabia's fear of Malaysia creating a new block of Islamic countries. The headquarters of OIC is in Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. Mahathir Mohammad said that he had discussed this issue with the Shah of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdul Aziz, but it didn't work. The Malaysian government has claimed that 52 Islamic countries were participating in this program."

According to Mumbai Urdu News (December 20), "The OIC has condemned this conference, organised in Malaysia, saying that it would weaken the Millat. Creating a parallel organisation like this would hit the interests of the Muslims. According to [alarabia.com](http://alarabia.com), the General Secretary of OIC, Yusuf Al-Othaimen, has said that creating a forum in Malaysia was like going out of Alam-e-Islam and creating a hue and cry. He said that OIC was a representative of all Muslims and creating any other parallel organisation would harm their interests."

According to **Dainik Inquilab** (December 22), "Addressing the heads of Muslim countries, the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad attacked India, saying that it claimed to be a secular country, but it was taking away the rights of Muslims. He said that if Malaysia started doing that, it would make things very difficult for everyone. There would be chaos all around because there were a lot of Hindus living in Malaysia. Commenting on this, the spokesperson of Indian Foreign Ministry said that Mahathir wasn't aware of the facts. This law would not impact any

citizen of the country. In this conference of Muslim countries, it was once again stressed that Muslim countries should deal with each other in gold or Dirham for trading instead of dollar, pound or Euro."

According to Hamara Samaj (December 22), "Turkish President Erdogan has alleged that Saudi Arabia had exerted pressure on Pakistan not to participate in the Kuala Lumpur conference. According to Dainik Sabah, Erdogan has disclosed that Saudi Arabia rulers had threatened that if Pakistan participated in the program, it would send 4 million Pakistanis living there back to Pakistan and employ the Bangladeshis in their place. The same pressure was employed on Indonesia, Iraq, Syria and Somalia. This allegation has been countered by the Saudi embassy in Pakistan, which said that some people were trying to create misunderstanding among Islamic countries. The spokesperson of Pakistan Foreign Ministry clarified that it did not participate in the Kuala Lumpur summit because long-term efforts were needed to put the issues of Muslim countries in proper perspective. A few days ago, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had claimed that there was a need for an Islamic TV channel to counter the campaign against Islam in the world, but by boycotting the summit, this thought has also gone in vain. Interestingly, even though the Kuala Lumpur summit was over, yet there has been no joint-declaration after the conference so far."

According to **Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 22), "The Pakistan High Commission has clarified that there was no pressure on it and the news being spread about it is absolutely false and misleading."



## Special Calendar of Urdu University

According to **Siasat** (January 15), "The Maulana Azad National Urdu University has been taking various steps for the promotion of the Urdu language. In recent years it has also started publishing annual Calendars in Urdu. The calendar of 2020 also been published in a newspaper Danish Majid. The six-page calendar has been called Naqkoos Urdu. The January and February issues have letters written by Mahatma Gandhi in Urdu with English translations so that they could be understood by everyone. The letter written from Wardha reads "Dear Mohammad Husain, received your letter. What should I say about Dr. Iqbal marhoom? But I must say that my heart was touched when I read his poem Hindustan Humara. The letter bears the signature of Gandhi ji in the end. A letter written by Gandhi ji to Maulana Salman Sadvi has also been published in Urdu."

The calendar has also published the invitation sent by Motilal Nehru on the occasion of the marriage of Jawaharlal Nehru in Urdu. It also has a copy of the

invitation sent by Jawaharlal Nehru on the occasion of Indira Gandhi's marriage. It also contains a letter written by Nehru in Urdu to the manager of the Darul ul musfin of Azamgarh maulvi Masoor Ali Nadvi. The calendar also contains letter written by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Maulana Azad in Urdu. Besides, it also contains the diary written by Shahid Ashfaq Ahmed in jail and the letter written by Shahid Bhagat Singh to his brother twenty days before his hanging. The calendar also contains letters written by Dr. Zakir Hussain, Maulana Hazrat Mohani, Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali and Hakim Ajmal Khan in Urdu. Abid Abdul al Vasey the Public relations officer of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University says that the purpose of publishing the calendar was to show that Urdu was the language of the people. The university had started publishing the calendar since 2015 which contains exhibits of good write ups in Urdu. This calendar was available at the university for Rs. 30 each.

## Manto Blamed Nehru for Bloodshed of Muslims

According to **Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 13), famous Urdu writer Sadat Hasan Manto had blamed the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for not removing poverty in Kashmir and shedding the blood of thousands of Muslims in Hyderabad. He had made these allegations in an open letter written to Nehru in 1954. He had published this letter in his novel 'Bina Sheershak'. The letter has now been published 65 years after

his death. In this letter Manto has written to Nehru that he was also a Kashmiri like him but he had never bothered to inquire about his well-being and neither was he invited to visit India after partition. After partition, Manto had fled Bombay to Lahore.

In 2018 Nandita Das made a film on Manto after which he had again come into limelight. Manto had accused Nehru of forcibly occupying Junagarh and shedding

the blood of thousands of Muslims of Hyderabad. He had also accused Nehru of trying to finish off Urdu from the country. He had also alleged that publishers in India were publishing his novels illegally and the

government of India was not taking any action against them. Manto died in 1955 at the young age of 43 in Lahore. He is regarded as one of the most controversial Urdu writers." ■

## Mosque Opens Doors for Non-Muslims

According to **Siasat** (January 20), "The doors of the 170 year old mosque in Bengaluru have been opened to people of all religions. This step had been taken to remove the misgivings among the people about Islam. The managers of this mosque are organising a program called 'Visit my mosque day'. Even though the organisers had arranged for only 170 non-Muslims but by now more than 400 non-Muslims have

visited the mosque including people from all strata of society. The organisers have clearly stated that there would be no political discussion during the visit nor would they discuss the CAA. This program has been organised by the Rehmat groups which claims that it did not want mosques to become a battle ground for politicians. Their aim was only to inform the non-Muslims about Islam. ■

## Protests in 430 Indian Cities against Killing of Suleimani

According to **Siasat** (January 16), Iran's foreign minister Jawad Sharif has said that people all over the world were protesting against the killing of General Qasim Suleimani. In India there were protests in at least 430 cities and districts against this. He

said that Iran did not want to indulge in any deal with USA and it was USA that had broken the talks. The reaction against this killing has been observed all over the world because of the rigid attitude of USA and it will harm the world. ■

## Thousands of Telangana Labourers Stranded in Iraq

According to **Siasat** (January 11), the safety of 25000 labourers from Telangana is in danger in Iraq because of the tension between Iran and USA. These labourers are working in the Arbil city of Iraq. They want to return to India but there are no arrangements for this. The Telangana Gulf Employees Welfare Association has asked them to take shelter in the Indian embassy in Arbil so that

arrangements for getting them back could be made. The vice president of the association Ramchandra has said that the situation there is very precarious. The city has a number of USA troops and their presence could endanger the lives of Indian labour. The place where they work is very near to the USA embassy. Most of these workers are involved in the construction projects." ■

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2. Daily Inquilab, Delhi
3. Akhbar-e-Mashriq, Delhi
4. Daily Sahafat, Delhi
5. Roznama Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi
6. Hindustan Express, Delhi
7. Hind Samachar, Jalandhar
8. Daily Pratap, Delhi
9. Daily Munsif, Hyderabad
10. Daily Siasat, Hyderabad
11. Daily Hamara Samaj, Delhi
12. Almi Sahara, Delhi
13. Aurangabad Times, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)
14. Jadid Markaz, Lucknow
15. Weekly Nai Dunia, Delhi
16. Daily Etemaad, Hyderabad
17. Jadid Mail, Delhi
18. Siyasi Taqdir, Delhi
19. Urdu Action, Delhi
20. Weekly Chauthi Duniya, Delhi
21. Weekly Akhbar Nav, Delhi
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