

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Spectacular Show by BJP in Hyderabad Municipal Election



- Saudi Arabia Expels Supporters of Anti-India Protest
- Israel Launches Effort to Improve Relationships with Islamic Countries
- France Ready with New Law against Islamic Terrorism
- Effort to Spread Communalism in the Name of Masjid

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## Summary

The results of the recently concluded Hyderabad municipal corporation elections indicate that the BJP will be able to easily spread its roots in south Indian states in the coming years. The BJP's central leadership had taken the municipal election as a prestigious issue and devoted itself to it. That's the reason why the BJP has emerged as the second biggest party. The biggest loser in the polls is the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), whose strength came down to 55 members from 99 in the council. This is the first time the BJP managed a spectacular show and increased its strength from just 4 to 48 members. Interestingly, the strength of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen remained the same.

Following Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh has now brought amendments in the law to stop the menace of 'Love Jihad.' Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan said his government would not spare people who adopt fraudulent means or use force to marry. The law has been amended to stop such incidents. Under the new law, the accused would get a jail term extending from 5 years to 10 years apart from a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

Meanwhile, a few selfish elements have started a dangerous effort to incite a particular community and spark violence over the status of some masjids. Recently, few Urdu newspapers started a campaign claiming that there was a conspiracy to raze the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi and construct a temple on its place. Following this, some other Urdu newspapers launched an intensive effort to turn the Muslim community against the government and the BJP. The government has to take strong steps to stop such vicious campaigns and ensure that peace and communal harmony prevail in the country.

Israel has been making consistent efforts to improve diplomatic relationship with Arab countries with the active support of United States. But it is alleged that the US policy is to divide the Muslim countries and create a group led by Saudi Arabia which would be pitched against Iran and Turkey. In the past few days, Israel has managed to establish diplomatic relationship with three Arab countries. It already has relationship with four nations in the region. Israeli sources indicate that they have been making efforts to establish diplomatic relationship with more than a dozen Muslim countries. Recently, Morocco has also recognized Israel. The most interesting thing is that though Morocco never had a diplomatic tie-up with Israel, the latter's intelligence agency Mossad had been exchanging intelligence information with the King of Morocco all these years. Now it has also come to light that the main reason for the stunning victory of Israel in the 1967 war with Arab countries was the secret inputs that Israel received from Morocco about Arab countries. On receiving the inputs, the Israeli Air Force destroyed the fighter planes of Egypt, Jordan and other Arab countries in a pre-emptive strike on their airports, even before they could think of launching an attack against Israel.



## Spectacular show by BJP in Hyderabad municipal elections



The massive effort made by BJP to enter Telangana politics has borne fruits. It has emerged as the second biggest party in the Hyderabad municipal corporation elections.

**Etemaad** (December 5) reports that no single party has managed to get a majority of its own in the Hyderabad corporation polls. The ruling TRS received a major jolt as it got only 55 seats. The BJP managed to win 48 seats and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) got 44 seats while Congress had to satisfy itself with only two seats. In the 2016 elections, TRS had got 99 seats. The results have forced the TRS to enter into a tie-up with Majlis, which had won 44 seats in the 2016 elections and this time too they got the same number of seats. This is the first time that the BJP has got such a huge number of seats. The BJP had made the polls a prestigious issue and roped in leaders right from Amit Shah to its many chief ministers to campaign in the polls. TRS had fielded candidates in all the 150 wards. BJP fielded candidates in 149 wards, Congress in 146, Telugu Desam Party in 102, CPI in 17, CPM in 12 and

AIMIM fielded candidates in 51 wards. There were 487 Independents also in the fray. The TDP, CPI and CPM failed to get even a single seat.

Commenting on the Hyderabad municipal elections, Congress party alleged that the campaigns of both Majlis and BJP were based on communal agenda, even as the Congress contested on secular principles. It also alleged that TRS misused the government machinery and spent money to win the elections. In order to boost the morale of its desperate workers, the Congress leaders urged them not to get disappointed with the results. This is a temporary phase. In the next Assembly elections, the Congress would get a major victory and it would not enter into any tie-up with Majlis, the Congress leaders said.

Analysing the election results, **Siasat** (December 6), reports that a meeting of TRS leaders was held in which it was accepted that the party did not get the expected results and that the BJP for the first time won a large number of seats in Greater Hyderabad. TRS has also accepted that it was a political mistake to weaken



Congress and Telugu Desam Party in Telangana and the BJP reaped the benefits of it. After the creation of Telangana in 2014, the TDP and Congress got weakened in the state. One more reason for this is that a major chunk of MLAs who won on a Congress ticket in 2018 joined TRS. The TRS has now decided to intensify its mass contact programme with the people of the state. **Siasat** also writes that one important reason for the defeat of TRS in the elections is the resentment of government employees with the government.

**Etemaad** (December 5) states that Majlis leader Asaduddin Owaisi has claimed that the victory of BJP in the Hyderabad municipal elections is a temporary one. He also claimed that wherever Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath campaigned in the elections, the BJP got defeated there. He said Majlis would take on BJP politically and would make maximum efforts to stop its increasing influence.

**Etemaad** (December 3) in its editorial accepted that the people of Hyderabad have been losing interest in taking part in election process.

**Etemaad** (December 5), analysing the municipal corporation election results

in its editorial, said that the BJP, which has been playing the Hindu communal card, achieved success in it and that the development slogan of TRS has failed in front of the communalism of BJP. Surprisingly, despite being the largest opposition party in the country, the Congress fielded candidates in large numbers and totally ignored the election campaign. A Muslim man was made in-charge of the election campaign, resulting in largescalecommunal polarisation. The same way, Telugu Desam Party too remained disinterested in the elections. **Etemaad** has alleged that if the BJP had emerged stronger in this election, then the credit for it goes to Congress.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 2) in its editorial alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has made deliberate attempts to wipe out Congress from the state. Rao also targeted TDP and succeeded in it. His aim to weaken other secular organisations is a huge political mistake on his part. The result is that wherever a political vacuum occurred, the RSS used it to its advantage. The BJP has roped in all its tall leaders in an effort to set foot in south India and they succeeded in it. The

question now is whether the same thing will be repeated in Bengal too?

**Inquilab** (December 8) has published an article by Jeelani Khan which claimed that the media played a major role in BJP's huge success in the Hyderabad municipal corporation elections. Media acted as the loudspeaker of BJP. The truth is that the ruling TRS has lost the elections and had to satisfy itself with 55 seats. Though Majlis is in third position, it is still the kingmaker. The writer has expressed regret that though the existence of Muslims under the present government at the Centre is in danger, still Muslim voters are not aware of it. The truth is that the BJP has not performed any magic, but due to the Hindutva campaign, the voters of TDP and Congress shifted their votes to BJP and changed the direction of the wind.

**Inquilab** has titled its editorial on December 5 as "Amit Shahi Nizam did not take off." The editor of the newspaper, Shakeel Shamsi, said the way the BJP has

taken interest in the municipal elections in Hyderabad has no parallel. The BJP's loyal TV channels converted it into a Lok Sabha election. They were confident that the BJP would win the elections. Some channels had also claimed that the Muslim population in Hyderabad was around 32% while the Hindu population was 60%, hence BJP's victory was almost certain.

We believe that the BJP gave the Hyderabad corporation elections a national importance to position itself as the biggest enemy of Majlis in the eyes of common man. This way they take double benefit out of the situation. The first is to ensure polarisation of Hindu votes and the next is to prove that there is no bigger enemy for BJP than Owaisi. As of now, Owaisi's role is limited to denting the vote bank of secular parties and ensuring BJP's capture of power. This much is sure—if Owaisi contests West Bengal elections, then BJP will get the maximum benefit out of it.

## Law against Love Jihad gets ready in Madhya Pradesh

**Roznama Sahara** (December 7) says that different states in the country are preparing stringent laws to stop Love Jihad. In this respect, the Shivraj Singh government in Madhya Pradesh has decided to amend the law on freedom of religion and mandated that if two or more people are converted, then a jail term of 5-10 years with a minimum penalty of Rs 1 lakh will be applicable. The chief minister said that henceforth nobody in Madhya Pradesh would be able to marry through



intimidation or by forcefully changing somebody's religion. Those who involve in such activities would face stringent action.

He said that the draft of the freedom of religion bill has already been prepared. There will be a clause in the bill to stop Love Jihad. If a child is born in cases involving Love Jihad, the responsibility of the child and the mother rests with the father of the child. The child will have a stake in the property of the father. In the FIRs filed in such cases, the investigation will be conducted by an

officer not below the rank of an inspector and hearings in such cases will be conducted in a sessions court. The bill also has a provision which states that if anybody wants to change the bride's religion, the victim woman's parents or a relative could file a complaint with police. If anybody is arrested in such a case, he will not be released on bail. It is incumbent on the accused to prove in the court that he is innocent.

The accused in a Love Jihad case could get a jail term extending from one

year to five years and a fine of Rs 25,000. Those who make a minor girl, Dalit or Adivasi woman as their target for Love Jihad will get an imprisonment from 2 years to 10 years apart from a penalty of Rs 50,000. Similarly, if anybody conceals his religious identity to marry, such a person will get a jail term extending from 3 years to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000. Shivraj Singh said that the effort is to ensure that nobody can force someone to marry through intimidation or allurements and by forcibly converting his or her religion.

## Saudi Arabia expels supporters of anti-India protest



**Inquilab** (December 14) states that when there was a protest movement against the Citizenship Amendment Act in India, many countries and institutions extended their support to the agitation including the United Nations, European Union and the Indian Muslims working in Gulf countries. They supported the Shaheen Bagh agitation through social media and other means. Now, Saudi Arabia has gone ahead with its decision to expel the Indian Muslims who extended their support to the Shaheen Bagh agitation. Recently, Saudi Arabia has

expelled dozens of Indian Muslims who staged a protest march in Riyadh in support of those who had launched the agitation in Shaheen Bagh.

It is being stated that the intelligence agencies of Saudi Arabia have prepared a list of Indian origin residents who had supported the agitation and provided financial aid to the protesters in Shaheen Bagh. Now they will be arrested one by one and kept in the jails in Saudi. From there they will be sent to India. It has also come to light that many Muslim countries

in the Gulf including Qatar, UAE and Kuwait will be taking strong action against those who supported the Shaheen Bagh agitation. This is mainly because there are

restrictions on holding such protests in Gulf nations. The Indian Muslims who staged rallies with placards in their hands will have to pay a heavy price for their actions.

## Effort to spread communalism in the name of masjid



**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 10) has published a report on its front page with a headline – “Communalists eye Quwwatul Islam masjid at Qutub Minar. Petition in court seeking construction of temple.”

A petition has been filed in a court in Saket in Delhi staking a claim on the Quwwatul Islam masjid situated on the premises of Qutub Minar. The petition claims that the masjid was built after demolishing 27 Hindu and Jain temples and states that petitioners have the documents to prove the claim. Hence permission shall be given to reconstruct the demolished temples and hold pujas for the 27 Devi-Devatas at the site. The petition was filed by a lawyer named Harishankar Jain. The civil judge said that the petition is quite lengthy and it needs a close examination. The court has fixed December 24 as the next date of hearing on the case.

The petitioner claimed that the slave of Muhammad Ghorī, Qutubuddin Aibak, soon after his arrival in Delhi, ordered the destruction of these 27 temples. His army

destroyed the temples in a hurry and used its debris to construct the masjid. The masjid was then named as Quwwatul Islam. The reason for the construction of the masjid apart from as a place of worship was to display the strength of Islam and to subjugate the religious feelings of Hindus and Jains. The petitioner has claimed that the masjid was built in 1192. However, the Muslims have never offered namaz in this masjid. This is because the masjid has many idols of Hindu Devi-Devatas. Though the government has full details of the structure, it has never given an opportunity to Hindus and Jains to raise their demand. Apart from this, it is not a Waqf property. It is under the control of the government.

**Siasat** in its December 10 edition has given a headline on its front page – “Conspiracy to topple historic Quwwatul Islam masjid in Delhi.” According to the newspaper, there is a conspiracy to destroy the historic masjid located at Qutub Minar in Delhi. A petition has been filed in a court



against the Quwwatul Islam mosque in which it was claimed that the mosque was built after destroying temples. Hence, in place of the masjid, the temple should be restored. The petition claims that Muslim ruler Qutbuddin Aibak constructed the mosque after destroying 27 temples. The court has been urged to restore it as a temple so that Hindus and Jains can do puja there. Last year, on November 9, the Supreme Court had handed over the land of Babri Masjid to Hindus and asked the Central government to construct a temple there.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 12) reports that a senior lawyer in Delhi, Masroor Siddhiqi, had said on ETV that the claims of the petitioner are very weak. He is spreading hate among Hindus and Muslims to gain cheap popularity. The same person had filed a petition in a local court in Mathura seeking construction of a temple in place of the Idgah there, which was dismissed by the court. The issue is now pending in the high court. Masroor Siddhiqi said that the masjid is under the control of Archaeology department and there is a law that whatever be the status of a place of worship on August 15, 1947, that status shall not be changed or altered.

The same newspaper has published an inflammatory article written by a writer called Wariz. The writer claims that the day the Babri Masjid case was dishonestly decided in favour of Ram Mandir, it raised several questions on the judiciary for the first time in the history of the country. The Muslims in India still observe it as a black day and will continue to observe so. Due to this decision, the masjid at Mathura has started flaring up in the eyes of Hindus. Now they are demanding that the masjid at Mathura should be demolished and a temple be built there. The demand is a clear signal that during BJP rule everything is possible. The decision on Babri Masjid is an evidence for this “Modi hai to mumkin

hai” policy. Now they are eyeing even Quwwat-ul-Islam masjid and are demanding its demolition.

The article published in the newspaper says the truth is that after the dishonest victory in the Babri Masjid case, the Hindus have mustered courage to stake claim on each and every masjid. This can also be described as their secret agenda. This situation is not free of danger for us. Now it has come to light that the secret agenda is not limited to demolishing Babri Masjid but other masjids as well. Sometimes it is in the name of cow, sometimes it is in the name of Jai Sriram, Muslims are being either killed or attacked. Till now, nobody knows whether somebody has been punished or not in the case. In such a situation what should the Muslims do?

Recently, following the elections, masjids have become the targets in Bihar as well. Now every non-Muslim knows that the verdict in Babri Masjid is a murder of justice and the government is totally responsible for this. Mandirs have been built in government offices and idols are kept there. Everywhere some tree or a stone is being kept and its puja is being organised and then a temple is being constructed. Today the situation has become so worse that neither the Muslim is secure nor his place of worship. Now it has become necessary that CCTV cameras are installed in masjids so that every mischievous action is caught on camera. Before the verdict in the Babri masjid case, nobody had the courage to say that some masjid is built after destroying the temple there and it should be demolished and handed over to the mandir trust. The way the verdict in Babri masjid case went in favour of Ram temple, the other masjids are also glaring in the eyes of mischievous elements. The regrettable thing is that a dishonest party is in power for the past six years. ■

## Law against cow slaughter in Karnataka



**Etemaad** (December 6) reports that Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has stated that a bill seeking a ban on cow slaughter could not be passed as the session of Legislative Council was adjourned. Hence, the government has decided to bring an ordinance for the same. He told reporters that the ordinance is being issued to protect the cow and stop its slaughter. He said that the Chairman of the legislative council did not cooperate to pass the bill in the council. The government has asked the Chairman of the council, Pratapchandra Shetty, to summon the session and also brought it to the notice of the Governor that the chairman of the Legislative Council had no such power to adjourn the house all of a sudden. The entire world knows that the cow is worshipped in Hindu religion. In an agricultural country like Bharat, rearing of cows is a source of income and bulls are used for agricultural activities. The legislative assembly had already passed this bill and 90% of people are happy with the bill. He said that his party in its election manifesto had promised that those involved in cow slaughter would be given a jail term of seven years and a fine of Rs 10,000. It was also promised to establish special courts for the protection of cows.

Criticising the ordinance, **Siasat** in its editorial on December 13 states that the people of the country are being harassed in the name of what they should eat or not eat.

The law that has been brought in Karnataka is more stringent and dangerous than the one in Maharashtra. The ban imposed by the BJP government in Karnataka on slaughtering of animals include cow, calf of a cow and bull, bullock. However, buffaloes can be slaughtered but their age should be above 13 years. If anybody breaks this law, then the accused will be punished for a term of 3 years to 10 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from Rs 50,000 to 1 lakh. The police have been given full authority to enquire about the animals being slaughtered. The existing law permits slaughtering of bullock, buffalo and the bull. Now the BJP government has imposed a ban on the slaughter of bull. By deciding to bring this law, the BJP government is harassing one more section of farmers. The rights of other citizens to eat whatever they like have been hampered through this decision. In order to strengthen its vote bank, the BJP is destroying the rights of the citizens. This is totally condemnable. India is currently the biggest exporter of beef in the world and a number of people associated with BJP are involved in the meat business. But BJP is determined to subvert the Constitution and the people have become silent accomplices in this. Despite the freedom given to the people under Article 19 of the constitution being usurped, people still remain mute witness to this.

## Afghan government, Taliban sign preliminary peace agreement



**Inquilab** (December 4) reports that a peace deal signed between Afghan government and Taliban, following talks between the two sides, has been welcomed by the United Nations, US and Pakistan. Further, the two sides will hold detailed talks on ending the civil war. Nader Naderi, a member of the negotiation team of Afghanistan government, said that draft documents have been prepared and further talks will be held based on these. The spokesperson of Taliban has confirmed the peace deal on Twitter.

It is understood that the latest peace treaty is the result of the talks held after the negotiations in Qatar between Afghan government and Taliban and the agreement signed between US and Taliban. However, this

time Taliban has continued with its war against Afghan government. The Taliban had made it clear that the war would continue until it reaches on a final agreement. As per the agreement signed between Taliban and US, the foreign troops in Afghanistan shall fully withdraw by May 2021. The Taliban, on the other hand, has given a guarantee that it would no longer launch any attacks. However, though the administration has changed in US, it is still committed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and Iraq. The spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry has welcomed the announcement and said that it would go a long way in restoring peace in Afghanistan.

## Heavy fighting near Kandahar

**Etemaad** (December 13) reports that at least 50 Taliban fighters were killed in a pitched battle with Afghanistan government forces near Kandahar. The Taliban had attacked several positions near Kandahar in a coordinated manner and in an effort to repulse the attacks, the Afghanistan government deployed its Air Force along with the Army. The Afghanistan defence ministry did not give any account of the number of casualties on the government side. However, it claimed that 63 Taliban fighters including its suicide attackers were killed and over 23

injured. The government forces had bombarded Talibani positions during the attack. For the past one week, there was heavy fighting between government forces and Taliban in Kandahar region. According to Afghanistan defence ministry sources, more than 150 Talibani fighters died in the battle since December 9. The US is extending help to the government forces for air attacks. In another attack, 51 Islamic jihadis were killed and nine others were injured. Local sources said that seven members of a single family were killed during bombardment of a Talibani position.

## France ready with new law against Islamic terrorism

**Siasat** (December 13) reports that the French government has prepared a draft of a new stringent law that would enable it to contain rising Islamic terrorism in the country. President of France Emmanuel Macron has taken special interest in preparing the draft law so that the forces that are antithetical to the country could be dealt with firmly. Recently, there has been a rise in Islamic terrorism in the country. Islamic terrorists had carried out attacks in several places in France recently. In October 2020, a Muslim youth had cut off the head of a school teacher for displaying the cartoons of the Prophet to his students in the classroom. Following this, a church was also attacked in which three persons were killed.

Some experts have claimed that the draft of the new law is a lenient one. They said that the President is determined to crush Islamic terrorism and thereby ensure the support of anti-Muslim voters before the next presidential elections in 2022. When the draft law is placed in the Parliament, it is likely to result in a hot



debate. This is because the population of Muslims is very high in France. Their strength is more than 50 lakh. The law doesn't directly mention Muslims or Islam, but promises to crush anti-Christian, anti-Jew and anti-Islam elements in the country.

Prime Minister Jean Castex has clarified that the draft does not target Muslims. The law is aimed at saving France from terrorism and liberate Islam from fundamentalism. He said that those who refuse to accept the cultural values of France and its civilizational moorings do

not have any right to stay in the country. Those who want to destroy the unity of the country and spread hate and violence, such people will be eliminated at all cost.

**Inquilab** (December 4) reports that the French government has decided to closely examine the activities in 76 mosques in the country which are suspected to promote Islamic terrorism. The French home minister has said that the government agencies have started nationwide clampdown against separatist violent elements and as part of this, nearly 56 mosques across the country are under scanner. The mosques found involved in either separatist or terrorist activities will be closed at any cost.

The newspaper has claimed that 16 mosques out of the total 76 which are currently being examined by intelligence agencies are situated in central France. The other masjids are in other parts of the country. A French spokesperson said that those Muslims who arrived here as refugees have become a daily headache for the country. We have given refuge to them on humanitarian considerations. However, they are now involved in destroying the culture and social fabric of France. Hence Islamic terrorism cannot be tolerated at any cost. It has to be eliminated at any cost, the spokesperson said. ■

## Bill introduced in US Congress to impose economic sanctions on Turkey

**Siasat** (December 13) reports that the US Congress has approved its defence department's budget in which it has been decided to impose sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of S-400 surface-to-air missiles from Russia. The bill introduced in the Congress recommends sanctions on Russia and Turkey for the deal. The Senate has passed the US \$ 740 billion budget with a two-thirds majority. Earlier, Trump had threatened to veto the defence policy bill. Ever since Turkey brought the S-400 air defence missile system from Russia, the US was preparing to impose sanctions on Turkey.

With regard to Turkey, the stand of the newly elected President is more stringent. The President aims to target the defence industry and the government through sanctions. A senior Turkish official said that the kind of sanctions imposed by US would badly affect relationship between the two countries. Both US and Turkey are members of NATO. Hence how come one country impose sanctions on the other if both of them belong to one



alliance. President of Turkey, RecepTayyipErdogan has decided to hold talks as he anticipates sanctions from the US and European Union. He said that economic sanctions would hurt everyone.

**Etemaad** (December 13) reports that president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan had said that sanctions being imposed on Turkey by member-countries of European Union and the US would be detrimental to everyone. Hence, Turkey would try to resolve all disputes with others through talks. The statement of the president of Turkey has come at a time the European Union has threatened Turkey

with more sanctions unless it stops the exploration of gas reserves in Eastern Mediterranean sea.

Wherever Turkey has been conducting survey to find gas reserves, both Greece and Cyprus have been staking a claim over it. Secondly, president of France, Emmanuel Macron stated after a conference of European Union in Brussels that Europe is always ready to hold talks

but we do not accept any such policy where a member of the Union takes a stand that would adversely affect other countries or that would affect the atmosphere in the region. Following the economic sanctions imposed by US, the value of Turkish currency Lira plummeted considerably. One Turkish official said the country is willing to face the economic sanctions.

## Islamic terrorists kill over 110 farmers in Nigeria



**Avadhnama** (December 1) reports that the jihadis of Islamic terrorist organisation Boko Haram has attacked farmers in Nigeria in which at least 110 people were killed. A spokesperson of United Nations has stated that these farm labourers were killed by Boko Haram. This was one of the biggest attacks on local residents by the Islamic terrorists this year. The attack took place in Zabarmari village in northeast Borno state. The Islamic terrorists attacked people working in rice fields and cut their throats. The terrorists came on motorcycles. The governor of Borno state visited the village where the massacre took place and gave directions for the burial of the bodies. A spokesman of the governor said that those who were killed in the village came to work there from 1,000

kilometres away. The Islamic jihadis have also kidnapped several women. Boko Haram is closely related to Islamic terror organization ISIS. It is being said that these terrorists have attacked another place and killed more than 200 innocent people. The murdered people were accused of spying for government. According to government sources, the Islamic terrorists in the country have so far killed more than 36,000 people and over 20 lakh people have fled their houses as they were fed up with the violence unleashed on them. The jihadis of Boko Haram have started targeting people in nearby countries like Chad and Cameroon. The governments of the three countries have started an effort to establish a common defence mechanism to take on the challenges posed by these jihadis.

## Inquiry report over the attacks on mosques in New Zealand



**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 9) reports that the government of New Zealand has released the inquiry report on the attacks that took place in two masjids in Christchurch city in 2019 in which 51 Muslims were killed. As per the report, the Australian man who opened indiscriminate firing and killed the innocent people, had visited several parts of the world and also stayed in India for three months.

The attacks took place on March 15, 2019 and five Indian citizens were also killed in this incident. The incident had shaken New Zealand which is considered as one of the most peaceful countries in the world. The New Zealand government had constituted a Royal Commission of Inquiry to probe into the incident. The commission has stated in its report that the 30-year-old accused was dependent on his father and he travelled throughout the world on his father's money. He travelled across New Zealand, Australia, India and North Korea.

As per the report, he spent the maximum number of days in India. Later he visited China, Japan and South Korea. However, the report gives no details on who all he contacted during his stay in India. However, a newspaper called New

Zealand Herald has claimed that it could not be confirmed whether the accused had any relationship with any terrorist organisation or whether he underwent training in any foreign countries. The report, however, clearly states that the accused hated Muslims very much and wanted to take revenge on them. The inquiry report runs into 800 pages. He keenly watched the rising Islamic terrorism and was interested in closely studying about it.

The report has admitted that the entire focus of intelligence agencies was on Islamic terrorism. Hence they failed to see the terrorism brewing at the other end. The Prime Minister of the country has publicly apologized over this failure on the part of intelligence agencies. The report has suggested that a new intelligence department shall be created which could keep an eye on those who spread hate in the name of religion, language, community and colour. This apart, it has also been suggested in the report that the law that permits purchase of weapons shall be amended to the extent that nobody can easily purchase weapons for illegal activities.

## Iran bans international inspection of nuclear installations



**Roznama Sahara** (December 3) reports that the Iranian Parliament has passed a bill that would end United Nations inspections of its nuclear facilities. This apart, the Parliament has also decided to go ahead with Uranium enrichment programme and for this purpose more Uranium would be sourced from different places. The bill makes it clear that no inspectors from any international organisations would be allowed to step into the country to inspect nuclear installations. The bill also states that if the country that has stopped Iran's nuclear enrichment programme fails to soften its restrictions imposed on its oil, gas and banking sectors, then Iran would also

go ahead with its nuclear enrichment programme.

The law also makes it clear that the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is free to take any decision regarding country's nuclear programme. As per the Iran government's official news agency, 251 members out of the total 290 members of Iran's parliament have voted in favour of the law. Observers say that Iran is keen to end the sanctions imposed on it by the United States. Though many countries have joined the US in imposing the United Nations sanctions on Iran, many others like China, Russia, Britain and Germany continue to maintain friendly ties with Iran.

## Israel launches effort to improve relationships with Islamic countries

**Inquilab** (December 14) reports that Israel has launched a special effort to improve bilateral relations with Islamic countries. The US is extending its help to Israel in this effort. It is believed that at least a

dozen Islamic states are in touch with Israel. The newspaper claims that Oman and Saudi Arabia would soon enter into a peace agreement with Israel. According to sources in Israel, the next country that is



likely to recognize Israel after Morocco would be Oman. Saudi Arabia is also exploring the possibilities of entering into a peace deal with Israel. Recently, Israel and US got perturbed after the secret visit of Israel Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia got leaked. Sources said that the Islamic countries with which Israel is trying for a deal include Pakistan, Indonesia, Niger, Male, Djibouti, Mauritania, Brunei, Bangladesh and Maldives.

**Siasat** (December 14) reports that after the recognition of Israel by Morocco, it has come to light that the two countries had been maintaining a relationship all these years and they were also sharing intelligence information and exchanging information on military matters. Morocco had given secret information against Osama bin Laden to Israel and US. This apart, secret information regarding other Arab nations also reached Israel through Morocco. There are many Jews settled in Morocco. Morocco has helped 10 lakh Jews to migrate from the country and

securely go to Israel. When Morocco got Independence from France in 1956, restrictions were imposed on Jews from visiting foreign countries. But Mossad manipulated the system and helped lakhs of Jews settled in Morocco to securely migrate to Israel.

When Mehdi Ben Barka, the opponent of the then monarch of Morocco, King Hassan II, conspired to stage a coup d'etat against his rule, Israel provided advance information regarding the same to the king. Following this, the King allowed the Jews settled in Morocco to go to Israel and set up a secret office of Mossad in Morocco. Later during the 1967 war, Israel bombed several places in Egypt, Syria and Jordan before their warships could target Israel and thereby ensured their defeat and this was done on the basis of information they sourced from Morocco. It also came to light that Morocco played a role in the logistics provided by Israel to kill Osama bin Laden.

## Iranian scientist murdered by Israel to unleash war

**Avadhnama** (December 1) quotes the President of Iran Hassan Rouhani as saying that Israel killed Iran's top nuclear scientist because it wanted to start a war with Iran. Addressing a press conference in Tehran, Rouhani said that Israel's hand is visible in the murder of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who had played the lead role in the country's nuclear programme since 2000. They wanted to unleash a war in the Middle East and destabilize the region. He said that Iran would take revenge for the murder of the nuclear scientist but would not allow them to destabilize Iran.

Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated last week when he went to a mosque in Tehran along with his bodyguards to offer namaz. Fakhrizadeh has been described as the



founder of Iran's nuclear weapons programme by Western countries and Israel. However, Iran has continuously denied for a long time that it has nuclear weapons.

**Siasat** (December 2) reports that Iran has claimed that Israel has been trying for the past 20 years to assassinate Fakhrizadeh and finally they used remote control technology to kill him. The operation was quite complicated and they

used electronic equipment to carry out the murder. Nobody was present at the spot of assassination. Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, has admitted that the enemy has used most modern weapons to target the country's top scientist. He also expressed doubt that Iran's rebel organization MujahideenKhalq had a hand in the assassination. It has been claimed in media that when Fakhrizadeh was going for the namaz, an explosives-laden truck on the road exploded resulting in serious damage to his car and death of over a dozen of his bodyguards.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 1) quotes the government agency of Iran as saying that the scientist was assassinated using a remote-controlled machine gun. As per this report, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was travelling in a bullet-proof car along with his family and was escorted by security men in three vehicles. Suddenly he heard some gunshots. The moment he stepped out of his car, a remotely-controlled gun kept inside a vehicle some 150 metres away started opening fire and he got seriously injured while his two dozen bodyguards were killed. The attack continued for almost three minutes. Soon a remote-controlled bomb exploded, destroying Fakhrizadeh's car. The weapon recovered from the spot was manufactured in Israel. It has an Israeli logo and the writings on it were in Hebrew. Two days earlier, another Iranian scientist, MajidSahariyariwas also assassinated in the same manner.

**Avadhnama** (December 1) reports that Iran has threatened to eliminate the killers of its nuclear scientist. They said they would attack the cities of Israel as a retaliatory measure. We have every right to take any step to avenge the murder of our martyr. This apart, the office of the Prime Minister of Israel has flatly refused to make any comment on the murder. Iranian government sources have confirmed that Israel had eliminated at least a dozen scientists of the country since 2010.

**Siasat** (December 3) states that a minister of Saudi Arabia has condemned the statement of Iran's foreign affairs minister JavadZarif that the hands of Saudi Arabia were visible in the murder of scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. The Iranian foreign minister had claimed that the origin of this murder conspiracy could be traced to the recent secret meeting held in Riyadh between the Israel Prime Minister and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. The conspiracy for the murder was hatched at the meeting held between the two in Saudi Arabia, he said. Iran and Saudi Arabia are at loggerheads for several decades now.

**Etemaad** (December 6) has alleged that both Israel and USwere behind the assassination and its trail extends up to Saudi Arabia. A columnist named Pervez Hafiz has written that after a secret meeting between the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammad bin Salman and Israel Prime Minister and the US Secretary of State at Neom in Saudi Arabia on November 22, political experts had warned that difficult days are ahead for Iran. Washington Post had written that the backbone of Iran's nuclear programme would be destroyed. In 2018, the Israel Prime Minister, during a press conference, had described the same Mohsen Fakhrizadeh as enemy number 1. From 2010 to 2020 the Mossad agents had killed more than six Iranian scientists in the same manner to sabotage its nuclear weapons programme. The entire world knows that Fakhrizadeh has been a target of Mossad for his knowledge in the field of nuclear science. Europe and America know that who is behind the assassination. This murder of a top scientist of an independent nation is not something that could be buried under the carpet. British newspaper Observer in its editorial has described the murder as a provocative action that would force Iran to launch counter attack on US soldiers stationed in Middle East countries. Saudi Arabia too is against Iran becoming a nuclear power in the region.

## Saudi Arabia, Qatar likely to enter into peace deal

**Siasat** (December 7) reports that Saudi Arabia has expressed hope that its strained relationship with Qatar for a long time would finally end and the two countries would be able to sign



a peace agreement. Qatar is considered as the only obstruction in the path of different Arab countries getting united under the leadership of Saudi Arabia against Iran. Since 2016, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have imposed several restrictions on Qatar. Now the US has increased its effort to remove the tension between Qatar and other countries so that all Arab Muslim countries shall get united under the leadership of Saudi Arabia against Iran. Saudi Arabia had alleged that Qatar had been supporting the Kurd rebels. The foreign affairs minister of Saudi

Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan al Saud has stated that the two countries are getting close to each other due to the efforts of United States and it is possible that the two countries would sign a

peace and friendship deal within the next fortnight. The Emir of Kuwait has also confirmed that both Saudi Arabia and Qatar would soon start a new age of friendship. For the time being, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt would not be a part of the peace deal that is likely to be signed between the two countries. These countries had imposed a blanket ban on Qatar against entering their borders through air, sea or land. These countries had alleged that Qatar had been extending help to Iran to launch terrorist operations against Saudi Arabia.

## Lebanese Prime Minister accused of being negligent over Beirut blast

**Inqilab** (December 12) reports that the judicial commission inquiring into the huge blast that took place in Lebanese capital Beirut has accused the then Prime Minister and three ministers of negligence. Over 200 people were killed and hundreds of others were injured when nearly 2,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate lying in a godown in the port of Beirut for over six years exploded. Initially it was believed that the explosion was carried out by some terrorist organization but later inquiries revealed that the incident took place as the ammonium nitrate was lying in the godown for more than six years. Following the explosion, the citizens of Lebanon held a huge protest rally against the government,

resulting in the resignation of the then Prime Minister Hasan Diab and his entire cabinet. Later a judicial commission was set up to inquire into the explosion and the commission submitted a report indicting the then prime minister, finance minister and two others for laxity. As per the commission report, the prime minister was aware of the pile of ammonium nitrate at the godown and he had also been intimated about a possible danger from the stockpile. However, the PM never took any security measures. According to Arab media organisations, the former PM and his colleagues are likely to be charged in a judicial court.

## Row over demolition of tomb in Rampur



The local administration in Rampur has demolished an old tomb in the fort following which a huge protest took place, forcing the administration to restore it.

**Inquilab** (December 1) states that an old tomb of Syed Zanjeer Shah Mian, situated in Rampur fort, was demolished in the guise of removing encroachment. The newspaper alleged that the debris of the tomb disappeared and the spot where the tomb once stood has been filled with water. The newspaper published three photographs of the demolished tomb along with the news report. The police were deployed in huge strength at the three gates of the fort so that nobody could enter the fort nor leave the spot. A huge controversy had been going on over the status of the tomb—whether it was a fake one or an ancient tomb. According to advocate Shaukat Ali Khan, it was a fake tomb, but the state vice-president of AamAdmi Party Faizal Khan Lala claimed that it was an ancient one. The author of Tehrik Rohilkhand, Nafis Siddiqui said that the tomb was built during the regime of Nawab Mohammad Syed Khan.

**Inquilab** (December 4) claims that the controversy got aggravated as some

people alleged that during the razing of the tomb, desecration of Quran also took place. The district magistrate has stated that the construction was not there in 2005. The DM said that if anybody could provide evidence that the construction was there for long time, then he would spend money from his own salary to reconstruct the tomb. The Muslim scholars from the district produced a December 1991 gazette of the Uttar Pradesh government which mentions about the tomb and also about the fact that it has been registered with the Waqf board. In protest against the demolition of the tomb, the chief of the Bareilly dargah, Maulana Taslim Raza Khan reached Rampur with a delegation and visited the spot along with Qazi Syed Faizan Raza Hasani Noori of Rampur. He alleged that the government is trying to play with the emotions of Muslims and if it doesn't reconstruct the tomb, then they would not only launch a mass struggle but would also take legal recourse. When the controversy increased further, the district administration decided to reconstruct the tomb.

## New members nominated to Maulana Azad Education Foundation

**Roznama Sahara** (December 2) reports that the Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has nominated four members to the governing body of Maulana Azad Education Foundation. They belong to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. The new members will hold office for three years. They are Ali Raza Zaidi from Delhi, Nawabzada Salim Khan from Uttar Pradesh, Dr Jafrin Mehjabin from Assam and Dr Ali Mohammad from Jammu and Kashmir. They have been nominated in place of Shaheen Akhtar, Syed Shahid Ali Rizvi, Nafiz Ahmad and

Salim Hussain. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation has 15 members, out of which 6 are government officials and the rest 9 are nominated members. The government authorities include Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia Najma Akhtar and Munawari Begum. The nominated members are Ashfaq Safi, Shakir Hussain Ansari, Surendra Pal Singh, Sheikh Abdul Karim and Ashraf Ali Sheikh. ■

## Seven sentenced to death for murder in Bangladesh

**Roznama Sahara** (December 3) reports that a court in Dhaka has awarded death sentence to seven persons for murder of an Awami League leader, Atiqullah Choudhry, in Kiraniganj district. Atiqullah Choudhry went missing on December 10, 2013. Next day his body was found near a hospital.

Later his son Syed-ur-Rahman Choudhry identified his body. As per the prosecution, seven persons belonging to Jamiat-e-Islami namely Gulzar Hussain, Shampa Akhtar, Mohammad Asif, Ahsanul Kabir, Tajal Islam, Jahangir Khan and Rafiqul Islam executed his murder. ■

## No tie-up with Israel before the establishment of Palestine

**Roznama Sahara** (December 6) reports that the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan has said that his country would not establish a relationship with Israel until an independent Palestine nation is established. He said that his country's

stand is that Palestine shall be restored to its pre-1967 status. He also said that reports appearing in media about Saudi Arabia planning to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel are not true. ■

## China gives 1.5 billion dollar loan to Pakistan

**Etemaad** (December 15) reports that China has announced an immediate help of 1.5 billion dollar to Pakistan so that Pakistan could give back the money it had taken as loan from Saudi Arabia. This is the second time that China has come forward to help Pakistan. Earlier also China had given Pakistan a loan of 1 billion dollar. This

time Pakistan will return 2.5 billion dollar out of the 3.5 billion dollar it had taken as loan from Saudi Arabia. According to Pakistan government, it would return the rest 1 billion to Saudi Arabia next month. Saudi Arabia had extended a loan of 3.5 billion dollar to Pakistan on December 15, 2018 to help it overcome financial crisis. ■