

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

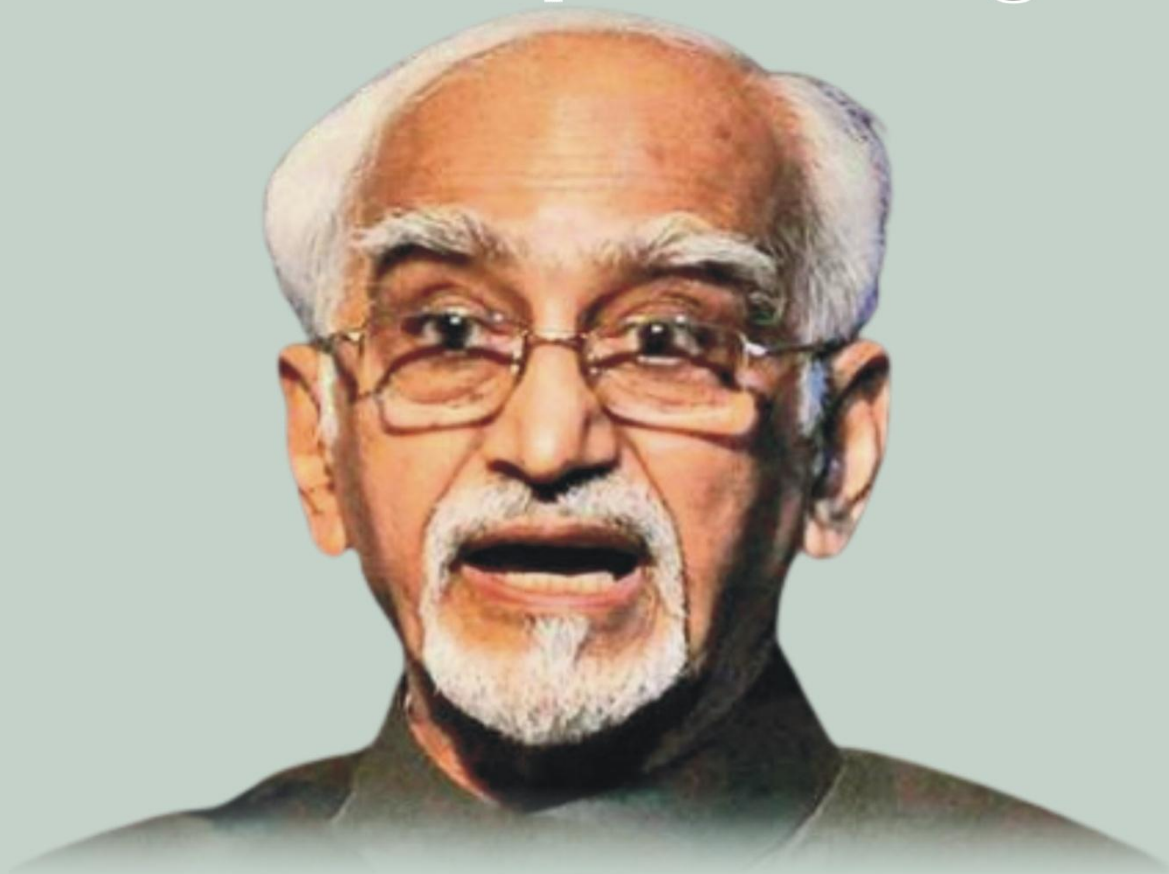
Vol.: 5

Issue : 2

January 16-31, 2022

₹ 20/-

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari Sparks Row Again



- Maulana involved in the murder of Hindu youth arrested
- Tension in Ukraine over possible Russian attack

- Houthi rebels launch attacks in UAE
- Controversial fatwa by Darul Uloom Deoband

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

Printed and Published by Manmohan Sharma on behalf of India Policy Foundation published at D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016. Printed at Sai Printo Pack Pvt. Ltd., A-102/4, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020

Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Former Vice President Hamid Ansari sparks row again	04
Maulana involved in the murder of Hindu youth arrested	07
Shortage of space to bury the dead in Kabristans in Delhi	09
Muslims most safe in BJP-ruled states	09
Dargah's committee accused of scam worth crores of rupees	11
<u>World</u>	
Tension in Ukraine over possible Russian attack	13
Increasing terror cases in Pakistan	14
Taliban bans organising of press conferences	15
Philippines to purchase missile system from India	16
Ban on cartoon of Prophet in Singapore	16
<u>West Asia</u>	
Houthi rebels launch attacks in UAE	17
Israel wants ties with Saudi Arabia and Indonesia	19
Plan to convert palaces into hotels in Saudi Arabia	20
New cabinet of General Burhan in Sudan	20
Five Israelis held on charges of spying for Iran	21
<u>Others</u>	
Row over renaming Hindustani Dawakhana	22
Controversial fatwa by Darul Uloom Deoband	22
Inauguration of Shariah court	23
Munawwar Rana lands in trouble	24
Spread of Islam among non-Muslims	24
Muslim member nominated to National Assembly in Nepal	24
Pakistan President apologises to elderly person	24

Summary

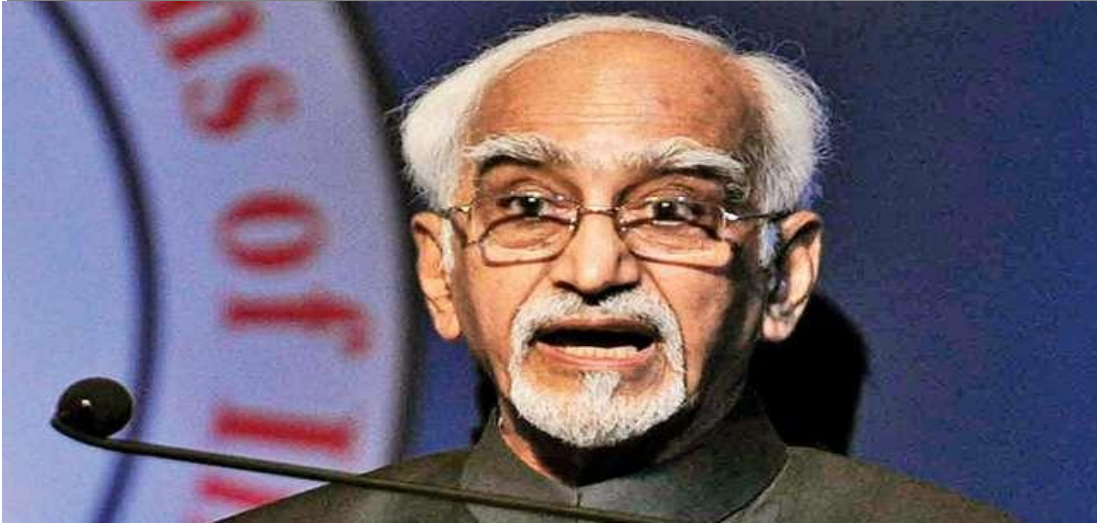
A concerted effort is on to provoke a section of Muslims in the name of Islam and the Prophet. The atmosphere of hate and violence being created among them has taken the life of a 27-year-old youth, Kishan Bharwad, in Gujarat. It is being said that his post on social media contained some comments on Islam and Muslims. A complaint was filed with the police against him and they arrested him. Later the court ordered his release on bail. Even before this, he had deleted his post and had apologised for the same. The matter should have ended there. But regrettably, it did not happen like that. According to police, one Maulana Ayub Jawrawala provoked Muslims against Kishan. He instructed them that the enemies of Islam and Prophet should not be spared under any circumstance. Two persons staying in Rajkot managed to get a pistol and some cartridges and handed them over to Maulana Ayub. The Maulana handed over the pistol to two sharpshooters and asked them to finish off the enemies of Islam under any cost. Unaware of all this conspiracy, when Kishan came out on the streets for some work, the two motorcycle-borne assailants shot him dead. A huge public anger erupted in the state over the crime. Bandh was observed in several places and massive protests took place demanding to trace the assailants and seeking their arrest. The Gujarat government handed over the probe into the incident to ATS. The police arrested eight persons in this connection. The police claimed that the conspiracy to kill Kishan Bharwad was held at a masjid located in Jamalpur in Ahmedabad. During interrogation, the accused admitted that they were instigated by a maulana residing in Delhi, Qamar Gani Usmani, to kill the enemies of Islam. Later the Gujarat police raided the place in Delhi and arrested Usmani.

As far as Usmani is concerned, he has been spreading venom in the name of Islam, Prophet and the Muslims for the past several months. This so-called maulana belongs to the Bareilvi sect and claims to be the sajjadnashin of a dargah in Amethi. However, he is staying in Okhla in Delhi for the past few years and formed a fundamentalist organisation named 'Tahreek Farogh-e-Islam.' In the riots that took place in Tripura he and his three colleagues tried to flare up communal passion, for which the Tripura police arrested him under UAPA and other charges. A court in Tripura refused to grant him bail but a fundamentalist Muslim lawyer Mehmood Pracha secured him bail from the high court exploiting the legal loopholes.

Former Vice President of India and Congress leader Mohammad Hamid Ansari has once again landed in a controversy. While participating in a virtual conference organised by US-based Indian American Muslim Council, he alleged that Muslims are not safe in India and an atmosphere of intolerance has been created against them. He also complained that the Modi government is violating the fundamental rights that the Indian Constitution has granted to Muslims. It is being said that the organisers of this conference were linked to Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and that the conference was organised on its behalf with the purpose of maligning India's name in the world. All the speakers who participated in the conference criticised Modi government.



National

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari sparks row again

Former Vice President of the country Mohammad Hamid Ansari has once again landed in a controversy. Recently, while participating in a virtual conference organised by a US-based organisation, Indian American Muslim Council, he accused the Modi government of violating the Constitutional rights of minorities. It is reported that the organisation behind this event has close relationship with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. According to newspapers, incessant spitting of venom against the Indian government took place at this conference.

Inquilab (January 28) reports that former Vice President Hamid Ansari, while participating in a virtual conference organised by Indian American Muslim Council on the occasion of Republic Day, expressed concern over the deteriorating state of democracy in the country and alleged that the nation is moving away from its Constitution. He said that in the past few years, we have seen a trend in the country to ignore the well-established civic nationalism and replace it with the imaginary concept of cultural nationalism. Mentioning about the 20% religious minorities in the country, he said that since the majority community got a huge

mandate in the elections, they want to monopolise political power under the guise of it. These people want to divide people on the basis of their religion and instil a sense of insecurity among them. This trend should be questioned both at legal and political sphere.

The newspaper said that apart from Indian American Muslim Council, the organisers of this virtual meeting included organisations like Amnesty International, Genocide Watch, Hindusfor Human Rights and New York State Council of Churches. In the meeting, discussions were held on issues like hate campaign against minorities in India, Anti-terrorist law and UAPA. The newspaper also alleged that Indian American Muslim Council has close relationship with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. However, the Council has refuted this allegation. It claims that it is an organisation seeking to protect civil rights in America. Archbishop of Bengaluru, Peter Machado also took part in the discussion. He generally targeted the anti-conversion law that was brought in Karnataka. The head of the US commission for religious freedom, while participating in the discussion, expressed regrets that the religious freedom in India is deteriorating

day by day. He said that after 2014, the BJP-led government at the Centre is imposing their concept of Hindu Rashtra on national and state level organisations through different laws. This is against the religious minorities in the country like Muslims, Christians, Sikh, Dalits and Adivasis.

Democratic Party Senator Ed Markey said he is very much concerned about the manner in which the Modi government is making efforts to infringe the rights of religious minorities in India. He said that the ban on conversion and the recently brought law on citizenship are against the basic values of India's secular Constitution and democracy. It is the duty of Americans to raise its voice when the basic civil rights are infringed and this becomes all the more important especially when such incidents take place in India. Muslim woman Amina Kausar, who was a target of Bulli Bai app, also participated in the meeting and said that Muslim women are being humiliated in India and that she has been harassed online. She alleged that the campaign against Muslim women has the patronage of Indian government. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, former President of Mauritius, said that it is regrettable that despite many sections in the Indian Constitution for the protection of civil rights, the Constitutional rights of minorities are infringed as per the reports published in newspapers.

The BJP has condemned this anti-national statement of former Vice President Hamid Ansari and described it as unacceptable.

Qaumi Tanzeem (January 28) reports that the national spokesperson of BJP Shah Nawaz Hussain had said that the stand of Ansari was controversial even when he was in office and the country has never pardoned him for that. Hence the statement he made while addressing the programme of Indian American Muslim Council cannot be pardoned and his stand while abroad is quite shameful. This statement of Ansari that intolerance has increased in the country and that people

themselves are feeling insecure is very regrettable. The statement that he had given in a foreign platform cannot be tolerated under any circumstance. The country rejects his stand. The BJP spokesperson said that the entire country had to face embarrassment in the past due to the statements of Ansari. The nation had made him the Vice-President but he finds danger even in saying Vande Mataram.

Salar (January 28) states that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has alleged that Ansari has joined the conspiracy to malign the country. Vishwa Hindu Parishad spokesperson Vinod Bansal in a tweet asked why do people like Hamid Ansari stoop down as soon as they step down from constitutional posts? Why does the Jihadi Islam within them dominate as soon as they come in touch with organisations like PFI and Indian American Muslim Council?." The convenor of BJP's IT cell Amit Malviya too in his tweet said that Sonia Gandhi's loyalist and former Vice President Hamid Ansari has deliberately shared the stage with anti-India elements in order to malign the country. The organisation that has convened this meeting is linked to fundamentalist organisation Jamat-e-Islami.

Inquilab (January 29), while indirectly supporting Hamid Ansari, said that the real problem is that the government is least bothered about the excesses committed against Muslims or the mischievous propaganda unleashed against them. However, in order to distract people from the problems of the country and to create an image for the country in the world they are using it as a trump card. Muslim intellectuals should raise issues of national concern along with their own problems. If we talk about national issues, then it would not be easy for the government to save themselves.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 26) in its editorial criticised those who condemned the statement of Hamid Ansari and said that people belonging to a particular ideology and Godi media are creating a ruckus against Hamid Ansari

because he speaks about the rights and opens his mouth regarding the condition of minorities. The newspaper, while criticising the ruckus being created against him over his statement, said that the BJP and VHP could not digest the truth spoken boldly by the former Vice President.

Comment: Former Vice President Hamid Ansari has been in some controversy or the other right from the beginning. He is being accused of being a fundamentalist Muslim. He was born in Kolkata in 1937 and he got his education from Aligarh Muslim University. In 1961 he joined Indian Foreign Service and served as Indian Ambassador in more than a dozen countries. In 1984, he was given a Padma award. In the 2000-2004 period, he served as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. In 2007, the Congress fielded him as Vice Presidential candidate and he won the election. In 2012, he was re-elected for another 5 years. At his farewell function as Vice President, he created a flutter by claiming that Muslims are not safe in India. It was reported that on the last day of the winter session of Parliament on December 30, 2011, there was a heated debate over the Lokpal Bill due to Anna Hazare's agitation. After midnight, instead of putting the Bill to vote, he suddenly announced the adjournment of the House for an indefinite period. That time it was alleged that he took this step in order to save the Congress government from being voted out.

A former official of India's intelligence agency RAW, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleged that when Hamid Ansari was the Indian Ambassador to Iran, he leaked a top secret information to the Iranian government and its intelligence agency and sabotaged an important operation of RAW. A RAW official, Sandeep Kapoor, was arrested in Iran by that country's intelligence agency. That time, the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi directed its Ambassador Hamid Ansari to personally intervene and make efforts to get Sandeep Kapoor released. However, ignoring this directive of New

Delhi, Ansari sent a fake report to Indian government stating that Sandeep Kapoor was missing and he was not in the custody of Iranian government. These officials also alleged that RAW had got the information that some Kashmiri terrorists were given secret weapons training in a city area in Iran. However, Ansari leaked this information to Iranian government.

On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations had declared June 21 as International Yoga Day. But when the Indian government organised the first yoga day in 2015, the Vice President was missing from the function. That year, there was also a discussion about the Vice President not saluting the national flag on the occasion of Republic Day. In Greater Noida, when some miscreants murdered a man called Akhlaq, Ansari accused the Indian government of discriminating against Muslims. Three years before, when the Supreme Court made it mandatory to play National Anthem before the start of film shows in cinema halls, the Madras High Court had delivered a verdict on Vande Mataram. Commenting on this also, Ansari said had said that he would not welcome the decision. In 2018, when a controversy erupted over displaying the photo of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Aligarh Muslim University, Ansari supported the decision to display the photo of Jinnah. In 2018, he also supported the decision of Muslim Personal Law Board to set up Shariah courts in every district of the country. He has been openly supporting the Muslim Personal Law.

Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, he complained that the Muslims in the country are not getting justice from Modi government and they have been deliberately kept away in development projects due to which their situation has been turning worse day by day. What is interesting is that the Urdu Press had extended wholesome support to the former Vice President even then. ■

Maulana involved in the murder of Hindu youth arrested



Mumbai Urdu News (January 31) states that for the murder of a youth named Kishan Bharwad in Ahmedabad, who allegedly created a controversial post on the Prophet on social media, the Gujarat ATS has arrested a controversial Maulana of Bareilly sect, Qamar Gani Usmani. The Maulana has been accused of delivering provocative speech, creating an atmosphere of hate and provoking the accused Basheer who murdered Kishan Bharwad. According to police, Qamar Gani Usmani has also formed a fundamentalist organisation called Tahreek Farogh-e-Islam. Last year, this Maulana was arrested for spreading hate between two religions during the Tripura riots and later he was released on bail. Kishan was murdered on January 25. It is being said that he made some controversial comments about the Prophet and Muslims on social media. Ever since he became a target of fundamentalists. The accused who killed Kishan had told police that their meeting with Qamar Usmani took place in Mumbai. Usmani had told them that whoever talks against Islam, Prophet and the Muslims should be killed. Later he entered into a conspiracy to murder Kishan and killed him.

Following the murder of Kishan, massive protests took place in several cities of Gujarat after which the Gujarat

government handed over the investigation into his murder to the ATS. It is being said that Kishan was killed when two motorcycle-borne youths opened fire at him. Following the murder, tension arose in Gujarat and massive protests took place in several places where thousands of people took part. Even film actor Kangana Ranaut too jumped into the controversy. She wrote on social media that the murder was a planned one and the conspiracy was hatched on behalf of Maulana Qamar Gani Usmani. Kangana also wrote that the “deceased Kishan was only 27 years old and he had a daughter. Kishan had made a post on social media after which he was told to apologise and he apologised as well. Despite this, he was brutally murdered. People like Kishan have been trying to stop India from becoming Afghanistan. Hence Kishan’s widow should be given pension.”

According to police, Kishan Bharwad had posted a controversial post on social media on January 6. However, since a controversy erupted, he had removed the video and apologised as well. On January 20, Shabir came to Ahmedabad and met Maulana Mohammad Ayub Jawrawala who gave him a pistol and five bullets. After this, he spent five days tracing Kishan. On January 25, he opened fire at Kishan and killed him in broad daylight. When public

anger erupted over this brutal murder, the police arrested Imtiaz and Shabir apart from Maulana Ayub from Jamalpur. On the seeing the public anger, the state government handed over the investigation into the murder to ATS. The ATS has taken eight persons into custody in this connection.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 1) published news on its front page stating that massive protests were taking place in several cities like Rajkot, Vadodara and Surat and many cities observed a total Bandh. The police resorted to lathi charge in order to disperse the protesters in Gujarat. The protesters were carrying placards on which were written, “Kishan, we are ashamed that your killers are still alive.”

The newspaper also alleged that after the incident communal tension arose in several places in Gujarat due to which minorities were feeling insecure. As per a report of Indian Express, the police took 133 protesters into custody including 64 women.

Inquilab (January 31) reports that the police arrested the chief of Tahreek Farogh-e-Islam, Maulana Qamar Gani Usmani from Delhi and took him to Gujarat for interrogation. Muslim lawyer Mehmood Pracha said we are against any kind of violence. But without any reason no innocent person should be arrested like this. We are making efforts to get all legal information on this issue and later would approach the court. We have full faith in the law of the country, he said.

Navbharat Times (January 31) states that following the murder of Kishan Bharwad, the Gujarat government has sounded an alert across the state due to the seriousness of the issue. Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghvi said that they had transferred the murder investigation of Kishan Bharwad from Ahmedabad crime branch to Gujarat ATS. According to police, initially the police had arrested Shabir, Imtiaz and Maulavi Yakoob and got his nine-day police custody from the

court for interrogation. Till now, the police have arrested eight persons in this connection including two persons from Rajkot. These two men had provided the pistol and bullets to maulana to commit the murder.

Comment: The chief of Tahreek Farogh-e-Islam, Maulana Qamar Gani Usmani has been involved in communal provocation right from the beginning. A few months ago, he called a press conference in Delhi and made an attempt to provoke Muslims in the name of Prophet and Islam and had announced that insult to Prophet and Quran would not be tolerated at any cost and in this connection Muslims are preparing to launch a massive agitation across the country. According to YouTube channel, ‘Hindustan Live,’ he alleged that in the recent past there is an increase in incidents of the Prophet and Quran being insulted. The Prophet and Quran are dear to us. We are ready to sacrifice our lives for it. The media has ignored this press conference of maulana. Later the maulana announced a rally at Jantar Mantar but the Delhi Police refused to give permission. Despite this, he held a rally at Jantar Mantar with some of his colleagues for which the police took him into custody. The Maulana claims that he is the sajjadanashin of Dargah Hazrat Bandagi in Amethi. However, nowadays he stays in Delhi.

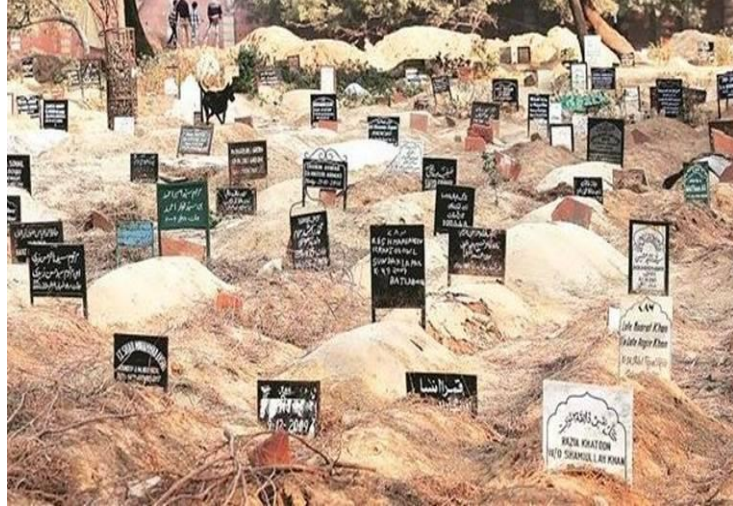
During the riots that took place in Tripura, this controversial maulana reached Tripura along with his three colleagues. After watching their activities, the police arrested them under UAPA on charges of allegedly conspiring to organise riots, spreading hate between two religions etc.

When he approached the court seeking bail, the court refused to grant him bail. Questioning this decision of the court in a higher court, lawyer Mehmood Pracha said that UAPA cannot be imposed on them in such cases. Accepting this argument, the court released the maulana and his three colleagues on bail.

Shortage of space to bury the dead in Kabristans in Delhi

Due to the increasing population of Muslims in the national capital, there is difficulty in finding space to bury the dead in the Kabristans in Delhi.

Inquilab (January 13) reports that the burial of dead bodies has been stopped at the Kabristan in Delhi Gate. Hence the Delhi Waqf Board has appealed to Muslims not to construct permanent Qabr in Kabristans because if such a situation continues then there would not be any space left for the burial of bodies and Delhiites have to look for places in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to bury the dead. The newspaper claimed that as per the Gazette notification of 1970, there are 448 Kabristans in Delhi. But currently there are only 25 Kabristans where burials could take place. All the remaining Kabristans are either totally destroyed or illegally occupied and colonies were built over them. For example, at Khwaja Baqi Billah Kabristan, Mehndiyan Kabristan and Panch peer Kabristan, no space is left to bury bodies. The managers of these Kabristans illegally accept huge money from the families of the deceased. However, the Delhi Waqf Board has issued a directive that the managers of Kabristan should not accept an amount of more than Rs 2,000 per burial. The Delhi Waqf Board has also directed that permission should not be given to construct any permanent Qabr in these Kabristans.



Roznama Sahara (January 16) states that prominent Muslim religious leaders of Delhi have said that it is against Islamic Shariah to construct permanent Qabr and doing so is a crime. In this connection, five muftis in Delhi have also issued a joint statement and stated that construction of permanent Qabrs should be stopped. This is because it is against Islam and it would lead to major problems for Muslims in future. The Delhi Waqf Board has directed that those who died due to Corona shall be buried only at Millennium Park Kabristan. A few Hindu organisations had opposed this move after which the task of burying those who died due to Corona began at Delhi Gate Kabristan. However, since there is no space left there, Muslims are facing this question of where to bury those who have died of Corona. Member of Delhi Waqf Board Jamal Akhtar said that they would approach the high court after studying the requirements.

Muslims most safe in BJP-ruled states

Inquilab (January 16) states that Muslim Rashtriya Manch has said that Muslims are most secure in BJP-ruled states. It was also said that the BJP has implemented a number of programmes

for the welfare of Muslims. The Muslim Rashtriya Manch has appealed to Muslims that they make BJP victorious in the forthcoming Assembly elections in the five states. This is because the other



parties, in an effort to come to power, have been exploiting Muslim voters by creating an atmosphere of fear in their minds. The Manch has prepared an appeal which has been released by its patron Indresh Kumar and national convenor Shahid Sayeed. This will be distributed among the minority community voters in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab. It will describe several programs started by the Modi government for the welfare of minority community members. The Manch has claimed that after the BJP came to power at the Centre, no communal riots took place in the country and the incidents of harassment of Muslims have also ended. Under BJP, Muslims in the country are most secure and happy and would remain so in future. Hence they should exercise their franchise judiciously. Even a minor mistake would become a cause of trouble in future.

Inquilab (January 25) states that a 10-member delegation of Muslim Rashtriya Manch is on a visit to Muslim-majority areas in Uttar Pradesh and after contacting Muslim intellectuals and social workers, they are requesting them to exercise their franchise in favour of

BJP in the forthcoming elections. The delegation comprises national convenor Dr Shahid Akhtar, chairman of the Madrasa Board of Uttarakhand Bilal ur Rahman, co-convenor of the Manch, Mohammad Mazahir Khan and member of Hindustan First Badruddin Khan. This delegation of Muslim Rashtriya Manch reached Moradabad and held a meeting with Muslims at the Madrasa of Jamia Qasmia Al Zakariya and listened to their problems. They refuted the propaganda of opposition parties that the BJP government's intention is to ban any Islamic madrasa or close them down. The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated Rs 2,400 crore for modernisation and for accommodation of the teachers of these madrasas. The effort of the BJP government is to ensure the development of Muslims like other citizens of the country. He said that some vested interests are giving false information about the Dharma Sansad to be held in different parts of the country. However, neither the BJP nor any organisations affiliated to the Sangh has anything to do with it. Hence Muslims should keep themselves away from such fake campaigns.

Roznama Sahara (January 22) states that Indresh Kumar had said that the Central government has launched several projects for the welfare of minorities in the country which includes Nayi Roshni, Naya Savera, Nayi Udaan, Seekho aur Kamao, Nayi Manzil and

Hunar Haat. In the last year's budget, Rs 4,700 crore was allocated for the welfare of Muslims. He said that the BJP government is pro-actively working for the welfare of minorities. The BJP, unlike other political parties in the country, do not see Muslims as mere vote banks.

Dargah's committee accused of scam worth crores of rupees



The Delhi Waqf Board has declared all the former management committees of Delhi-located renowned Shia dargah, Dargah Shah Mardan, as illegal and dissolved them and announced the formation of a new committee.

Inquilab (January 31) stated that the general secretary of the new management committee, Sarfaraz Hussain, while accusing the former management committee of scam worth crores of rupees, claimed that no scamster would be spared and they would be sent behind bars. He said that an investigation would be conducted into the decisions of the former management committee. He claimed that a fake management committee has been doing arbitrary things for years and the money they took away from the funds of the dargah would be traced and each and

every penny would be retrieved from the scamsters.

Roznama Sahara (January 30) states that the management committee of Dargah Shah Mardan has nominated 11 people to the Waqf Board. The new management committee will look after all the matters related to the properties of Karbala and the dargah. The board has claimed that the aim of the new management committee is to run the Shia Waqf in a proper manner. The Delhi Waqf Board has appointed Syed Intezar Raza Zaidi as president, Zafaryab Hussain as vice-president and Sarfaraz Hussain as general secretary. The new management committee, while thanking the chairman of Delhi Waqf Board Amanatullah Khan, said that his steps are in tune with the interests of the Shia sect. The president of the new

management committee is a retired IAS officer.

Roznama Sahara (January 25) states that this decision was taken by the Waqf Board at its meeting on January 5, 2022. According to the Waqf Board, the self-appointed general secretary of Anjuman Haidari, Bahadur Abbas Naqvi and vice-president Rais Abbas Qazmi had seized the dargah illegally and the Waqf Board received complaints regarding scam worth crores of rupees. The Waqf Board alleged that those who occupied the Waqf property had refused to cooperate with Waqf board in the investigation into the scam. Hence the Waqf Board had to take legal action.

It is to be noted that the management of different Waqf properties of Shia sect in Delhi is undertaken by four Shia organisations including Anjuman Haideri. The election of the office-bearers of all these organisations is done under the supervision and direction of Waqf Board and it has to be later confirmed by the Waqf Board. However, Anjuman Haideri, which has been illegally occupying Dargah Shah Mardan, had never taken the approval and they seized the property worth millions of rupees.

In 2019, Anjuman Haideri had claimed that they had conducted the election of office-bearers and also claimed that 20 among them were elected unopposed. But the disgruntled section claimed that the election was rigged in order to seize the property worth millions of rupees and 700 members of Anjuman Haideri were stopped from voting in the elections. However, convenor of election committee, Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, said that Nayyar Ali Naqvi has been elected president, Bahadur Abbas has been elected general secretary and Zaharyar Rizvi has been elected joint secretary. This apart, a 12-member executive committee has also been announced. However, the Delhi Waqf Board has refused to give recognition to the election. They said that

the Waqf board has imposed a ban on the elections and hence no election was held. Instead, the names of all office-bearers were directly announced. Anjuman Haideri has claimed that it is not a part of Waqf Board and they are a separate trust. Hence they do not have to take prior permission from Waqf Board.

Comment: Dargah Shah-e-Mardan is the country's wealthiest Shia dargah and it is located in New Delhi's posh and costliest locality of Jor Bagh. The Waqf land of this dargah was said to be of 165 acres. The market value of one acre of this land is said to be nearly Rs 100 crore. Hence in order to grab the land, different groups of Shia sect are fighting with each other for decades. Dargah Shah-e-Mardan was built by a Shia Muslim, Asif Shah, at Delhi's old colony Aliganj in the 15th century. The dargah keeps a footprint of Hazrat Ali. The dargah is also used as a Karbala where the tazias are buried.

It is being said that the old name of the dargah was Kadam Sharif and it had 165 acres of Waqf land. After the partition of the country, the resettlement ministry has acquired majority of the land and a colony named Aliganj was built there to settle the refugees. According to historical sources, in 1719, one wife of the then Mughal Emperor Mohammad Shah Rangila, Qudsia Begum, has got several buildings constructed in the dargah in Bangla pattern. In one building is also kept a Bibi-ki-Chakki which, it is claimed, was used by the daughter of Prophet Mohammad, Fatima Begum. It is being said that the land of this dargah once extended up to Safdarjung tomb. In 1911, when the British built New Delhi, a lot of land of this dargah was acquired. However, the original dargah and 40 acres of land was spared. Since the costliest colonies of Delhi were built in the area, the value of the dargah land has also become priceless. This is the reason why different groups of Shias are fighting for control of the property.

Tension in Ukraine over possible Russian attack



The situation on Ukraine-Russia border is getting explosive day by day. In order to discuss the situation, the United Nations has decided to call a special session of Security Council so that a third World War could be avoided.

Roznama Sahara (January 30) states that the US had said that Russia is all set to attack Ukraine and hence it is withdrawing all its employees from its embassy in Ukraine. Britain has also announced a similar step.

Roznama Sahara (January 29) states that Russia has deployed nearly a lakh soldiers equipped with tanks, artillery and most-modern arms and ammunition near the Ukraine border. However, Russia claimed that it is not preparing for an attack. On the other hand, US President Joe Biden said that Russia is making full preparations to launch an attack on Ukraine next month. The US President made this statement after a telephonic conversation with the President of Ukraine. The Foreign Minister of Russia said that Moscow doesn't want war but it would not compromise with its interests. We would not ignore our own interests. According to sources in White House, if Russia

interferes in the affairs of Ukraine, then the US and its allies would have to take retaliatory action in order to protect their interests. Nearly 35,000 Russian soldiers are deployed on the Russia-Ukraine border. Now their number has been increased to 1.6 lakh. This apart, nearly 15,000 supporters are active in different parts of Ukraine who want the country to be merged with Russia once again.

Roznama Sahara (January 30) has published several articles on this controversy in which it has been said that Ukraine was a part of Soviet Union till 1991. However, later Ukraine got separated from Soviet Union and declared its independence. Nowadays Russia has become stronger again and it doesn't want the US to set up their station anywhere near its border. Till the beginning of 2014, Crimea was a part of Ukraine but now Russia has seized the territory. Now Russia is making efforts to seized Ukraine as well which is not acceptable to the US and its NATO allies under any circumstance. The European nations are worried that if this controversy over Ukraine takes a serious turn, then it may lead to a third world war. The effort of Russia is to ensure that

Ukraine remains separate from NATO alliance at any cost. This is because if Ukraine joins the NATO alliance then it would be very dangerous for Russia. A major portion of Ukraine's northern and western border touches Russia. The Russian effort is to ensure that a pro-Russian government remains in power in Ukraine. In the elections held in 2010, Viktor Yanukovich was elected as Ukraine President who was considered as a supporter of Russia. He had cancelled the agreement signed for making Ukraine join European Union. A huge public anger erupted against this in Ukraine and he was forced to resign from his post in 2014. In order to keep Ukraine under its sphere of influence, Russia had captured parts of Ukraine. Germany and France have tried to find a solution to this controversy but failed to do so.

Etemaad (January 21) in its editorial has warned that the Ukraine standoff can lead to the starting of a third World War. The newspaper said that the talks between the US and Russia that began in Geneva in order to find a solution to the dispute has failed. It is

now an explosive situation there. The US and its NATO allies want the nearly one lakh Russian soldiers deployed on Ukraine border to be withdrawn from there.

Secondly, Russia is keen to stop the expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe at any cost. Both the sides are sticking to their own stand. It is assumed that the situation there is explosive as a war can break out any time. This is the reason why many Western nations including the US and Britain had withdrawn their employees from their respective embassies in Ukraine. Till now, Ukraine has not legally become a member of the NATO alliance. Russia wants an assurance from Western nations that they would not include Ukraine as a member of NATO alliance in future. However, the US and its allies are not ready to give such an assurance. Recently, the US has supplied arms and ammunition in large quantities to Ukraine. Britain had also given Ukraine different types of missiles. However, Germany had refused to supply arms and ammunition to Ukraine.

Increasing terror cases in Pakistan

Roznama Sahara (January 28) reports that the terrorists attacked a Pakistani army outpost in Balochistan and killed 10 Pakistani soldiers. According to 'Dawn' newspaper, as per a press release issued by the army, the terrorists attacked a military outpost in southern Balochistan on the night of January 25-26 and opened indiscriminate fire, killing 10 Pakistani soldiers. One terrorist was killed in the retaliatory action by the army. The army also arrested three alleged terrorists after an intensive search in the region.

The jihadis of Balochistan Liberation Army are active for a long time in the Baloch province located on the border region between Pakistan and Iran. It has been fighting for the creation of an



independent Balochistan by freeing Balochis from the exploitation of Pakistan. The army has declared that the unity and integrity of Pakistan would be maintained at any cost and the rebels would be crushed using all tactics.

Inquilab (January 16) states that many people were killed and dozens of

others were killed in an explosion that took place in Lahore. This explosion took place in Lahore's biggest market Anarkali. Spokesperson of Lahore police, Rana Arif said that the hands of foreign-aided terrorists are behind the blast and said that the bomb was planted on a motorcycle and it was set-off using remote control. The explosion created a two-feet deep crater on the ground. Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar said that foreign hands were behind the blast and added that every possible step would be taken to identify the accused

behind the incident. Vice-president of Muslim League (Nawaz) Maryam Nawaz, while condemning the incident, said that ever since Imran Khan came to power, there is a huge increase in terrorist attacks.

Roznama Sahara (January 22) reports that after registering a case on the blast that took place in Anarkali Bazar, the police spotted the movement of three suspected persons on CCTV and have taken two persons into custody. Five motorcycles were destroyed in the blast. The blast took place near a stationery shop.

Taliban bans organising of press conferences



that after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, more than 100 employees of the former government were shot dead. The intelligence wing of Taliban is on a search to find each and every US informer in the country in order to eliminate them. This

Siasat (January 28) reports that Taliban has imposed a ban on organising press conferences in Kabul. According to media reports, an announcement was made to hold a press conference on behalf of Afghan Journalist Centre on January 26 in which 11 representatives of foreign media organisations were also invited. However, Taliban has got the press conference cancelled and said that no press conference should be conducted in Afghanistan till the government gives permission for the same. The chief of Afghanistan Journalist Union Ali Ashar Akbarzada has alleged that after Taliban came to power, majority of media activities have stopped and 90% of media persons have withdrawn from their profession.

Roznama Sahara (February 1) states that the United Nations has claimed

apart, at least 100 people linked to the security forces of former government were publicly executed.

Hamara Samaj (January 18) reports that Taliban has announced that the schools for all students will be opened across the country after March. It is to be noted that ever since Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, it has imposed restrictions on students and girls from going to schools and universities. When the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan two years ago, then also they had imposed restrictions on women's education, employment and their movement outside the house and had also directed that they strictly follow the purdah system. Recently, Taliban had publicly shot dead dozens of women who had refused to follow the purdah system. But today due to pressure from international organisations,

Taliban have been forced to rethink about its decision to impose restrictions on the education of girls. Taliban's deputy minister for information Jabiullah Mujahid said they would not implement co-education under any circumstance. This is because it is against Islam and Shariah. There should be separate schools for girls and boys. He accepted that so far permission has not been given in any province among the 34 provinces in Afghanistan to open schools for the students. The United Nations has urged

different organisations in the world to extend a help of five billion dollars to nearly 30 lakh Afghanis to save them from hunger and deaths due to winter season.

Siasat (January 20) reports that the Prime Minister of Afghanistan has appealed to Muslim nations across the world that they give recognition to the Taliban government because then only we would be able to undertake development activities. It is to be noted that till now no Western nation has given recognition to Taliban government.

Philippines to purchase missile system from India

Inquilab (January 17) reports that Philippines has decided to purchase Brahmos missile system from India at a cost of 375 million dollars. The Philippines government claimed that it would greatly improve the defence system of its Navy and also increase its fire power. In this connection, a mutual agreement has been signed between the two countries. The defence minister of Philippines said that the India-made missile system would be deployed in the coastal regions of Philippines so that enemy ships could be targeted even when they were in the sea. According to sources in Philippines defence ministry, talks were on with India for the past five years to purchase this missile system but due to the Corona pandemic the process got delayed. The India-made missile system would be deployed in the 200-mile coastal region of



Philippines. This decision is a part of Philippine government's five-year plan to strengthen its forces and increase their fire power. The defence ministry has admitted that the arms and ammunition currently available with the Philippines Navy are very old. Earlier, Philippines had purchased arms and ammunition from Israel also in large quantity which could be used against the enemy.

Ban on cartoon of Prophet in Singapore

Inquilab (January 15) reports that the Singapore government has imposed a ban on the publication and distribution of a book. This is because the book contains some controversial and derogatory cartoons of Prophet of Islam. Minister for Islamic affairs, Masagos Zulkifli said that the book is titled 'Red Lines: Political Cartoons and the Struggle against Censorship.' The publishers claimed that the book has been published in order to provide information

on Islam and its aim is not to hurt the religious sentiments of any community. But the government of Singapore feels that any controversy related to the Prophet of Islam is very sensitive for Muslims. If this book is allowed entry in Singapore and permission is given for its distribution, then riots could break out. Hence the government has imposed a ban on its entry and distribution in the country.

Houthi rebels launch attacks in UAE



Inquilab (February 1) states that the hotel where President of Israel Isaac Herzog has been staying in UAE during a visit to that country was targeted by Houthi rebels. However, the defence system of UAE foiled the attack and there was no damage to life and property. According to sources in the defence ministry, the missiles fired by Houthis were destroyed mid-way before they hit the target and the debris fell at a distance from populated areas.

It is to be noted that the Iran-supported Houthi rebels, angry over the increasing friendship between UAE and Israel, are targeting UAE for the past two weeks. This is the third major attack. Earlier, two attacks had taken place. This attack was carried out a day after Israel President Isaac Herzog arrived in UAE on a state visit. He is the first President of Israel to visit UAE and despite the attack, the office of the Israeli President announced that he would go ahead with the scheduled programmes as part of the visit.

It is to be noted that the Iran-supported Houthi rebels, in retaliation for the attacks carried out by Saudi Arabia against them in Yemen, are targeting the United Arab Emirates. In the beginning of

January, the Houthis had captured a ship of UAE. The Houthis claimed that the Saudi Arabia was supplying arms and ammunition to UAE using the ship. However, the UAE had denied this statement. The United Nations had appealed to the Houthis to return the ship to UAE. However, they refused to abide by it. The spokesperson of Houthis, Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that they would continue to attack Saudi Arabia and its allies. He said that they warn foreign companies and citizens in UAE that they would increase their attacks and would target different positions. The US also condemned the missile attack on Abu Dhabi and said the US would continue to extend help to Saudi Arabia and its allies. We would continue to help UAE and would take all necessary steps to save the country from any kind of attack. The officials of UAE said the attacks did not affect plane services and all flights are on schedule. UAE is a part of the Saudi alliance that is fighting against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. In the past few weeks, the Houthis carried out several missile attacks on UAE capital Abu Dhabi. The Israel President had announced that the initiatives

that we had launched to improve ties with Saudi Arabia and its allies would continue and we would extend all kinds of help to UAE to deal with the attacks of Houthis and to defeat them.

Inquilab (January 18) states that the Houthi rebels in Yemen attacked different locations in UAE capital Abu Dhabi, resulting in a fire-breakout in two places. According to police, two Indians and a Pakistani were killed in two explosions while six persons were injured. The Houthi spokesperson has claimed that they had conducted a military operation inside United Arab Emirates. It is to be noted that though UAE is a part of Saudi alliance, in 2019 they drastically reduced their number of soldiers in Yemen. But the UAE has been continuously providing arms and ammunition to the government forces in Yemen and is also giving them training. In 2014, the Iran-supported Houthi rebels captured Yemen capital Sana'a and forced the government to retreat from that country. Since then, a civil war is on in that country. So far, thousands of people have died in the war that is taking place in Yemen and lakhs of people have died of hunger.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 21) states that US President Joe Biden has announced that the US is planning to put the Houthi rebels once again in the list of terrorists. The UAE, meanwhile, has welcomed this announcement. The US foreign department has announced that the US would take every step to wipe out the Houthis. The US also held high-level talks with the authorities of UAE in order to strengthen the air defence system of UAE to face the attacks of Houthis.

In a news report published in the same newspaper on January 23, the US Secretary of State had assured the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faizal bin



Farhan that the US is firm on its commitment to strengthen the security system of Saudi Arabia and every possible step would be taken in this connection. The Saudi Alliance has announced its decision to step up their attacks against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. They also claimed that they had targeted several military camps and ammunition depots of Houthis.

Etemaad (January 22) reports that the Red Crescent Society in Yemen has claimed that more than 100 prisoners in a jail in northern Yemen were killed in a bomb attack by Saudi Arabia. This attack took place on the night of Juma. Later an attack was carried out at the Hudaydah port as well resulting in cutting off internet services in the entire Yemen. As per information, Saudi Arabia carried out series of bombings in different places in Yemen in which at least 200 people have died.

Hamara Samaj (January 17) states that the foreign minister of Jordan, Ayman al Safadi visited the US and warned Iran against interfering in the affairs of Arabs. Otherwise there would be serious consequences.

Avadhnama in its edition on January 23 published a report in which it has been stated that the Houthis in Yemen had warned Saudi Arabia that they immediately stop the attacks on innocent citizens. Otherwise they have to pay a heavy price for the same.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 30) reports that Israeli Prime Minister Naftali

Bennett has announced that his country is in a state of constant war with Iran. We are making every effort to weaken Iran. This is the reason why we have stepped up our attacks on Houthis. We will take every possible step to ensure the destruction of Iran.

Siasat (January 22) states that ever since the Saudi-supported government of Mansur Hadi was forced to flee Sana'a due to the attacks of Iran-supported Houthis, the war that started soon after is continuing for the past seven years. Mansur Hadi and

his cabinet have taken refuge in Saudi Arabia and are running their government-in-exile from there. Recently, the war has escalated and the possibility of it spreading to the entire Arab world also increased. India has condemned the attack on Abu Dhabi by Houthis. Till now, India has been maintaining its distance from this war. This is because India has friendly relationship with both Saudi Arabia and Iran. But now the situation has changed and India's foreign minister S Jaishankar has condemned the attack on Abu Dhabi.

Israel wants ties with Saudi Arabia and Indonesia



Siasat (January 27) states that Israel's foreign affairs minister Yair Lapid has said that Israel is keen to establish diplomatic relationship with Saudi Arabia and Indonesia on the basis of the US-mediated peace agreement that it had reached with four Muslim nations. However, it will take some time to reach any kind of agreement with these two countries. Saudi Arabia, the holiest place for Islam, and Indonesia, the country with largest Muslim population in the world, are still keen on the establishment of an independent Palestine state on the land seized by Israel in 1967. They want to establish

any kind of relationship with Israel only after that. However, Israel wants to extend the agreement they have signed with UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco with the cooperation of the US, to other Muslim nations as well. They said that some small Muslim nations wanted to

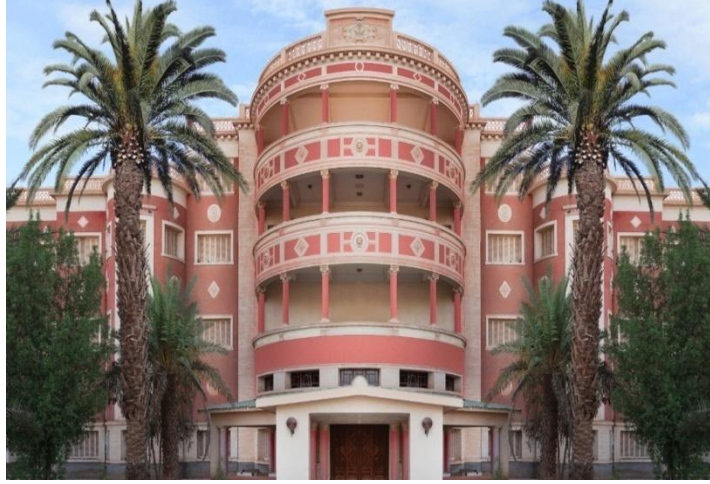
improve their relationship with Israel.

Etemaad (January 28) states that Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed happiness that the President of Israel has accepted the invitation to for a state visit to Turkey. The visit will pave the way for a new chapter in the friendly relationship between the two countries. Turkey is ready to cooperate with Israel in different fields. Turkey is the first Muslim nation that had recognised Israel in March 1949 itself. Later, there were several ups and downs in the relationship between the two countries.

Plan to convert palaces into hotels in Saudi Arabia

Roznama Sahara (January 23) states that Saudi Arabia has decided to give a new dimension to its economic development. Now they do not want to limit their economy to the sale of oil. Hence the Saudi government has decided to convert several of its royal palaces into luxury hotels. The decision was taken by the Public Investment Fund. Its aim is to promote hotel industry and tourism. Under this project, Al Hamra Hotel in Jeddah, Tuwaiq Palace in national capital Riyadh and the palace named Red Palace are likely to be converted as grand hotels. These palaces have more than 500 rooms for accommodation.

The Saudi government hopes that arrival of foreign tourists would give a new impetus to its economy and it would not be based on the supply of oil. Tourism development may lead to 10% increase in



the country's national income. Saudi Arabia's King Salman and his 36-year-old son Mohammad have decided to change the country's image of being a fundamentalist nation. This is the reason why 48 cinema halls were opened in Saudi Arabia for the first time. This apart, several health resorts and luxury restaurants were also opened. The Saudi government has decided to spend 480 billion dollars to develop tourism in the country.

New cabinet of General Burhan in Sudan

Mumbai Urdu News (January 22) states that the chief of the Autonomous Council of Sudan, Abdul Fatah Al-Burhan has announced the formation of an interim government in which 15 ministers have been included. A few days ago, the US had announced that it would not extend any kind of monetary help to Sudan if a non-military government is not formed and peace is not established. However, despite all this, protests continued to take place in Sudan capital Khartoum against the military.

Inqilab (January 22) states that at least 80 people were killed so far in the clashes between protesters and the military. The protesters are demanding that the administration of Sudan should be permanently handed over to the citizens.

Etemaad (January 16) states that the 30-year-old rule of Omar al-Bashir government in Sudan was overthrown in 2019 and an autonomous council was established which includes the representatives of the military as well as the public. However, last year, the military removed Abdalla Hamdok from his post and seized power. From October till now, the public have been staging massive protests across the country against the military rule. The protesters are supported by Sudani Professional Association, Resistance Committee and Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change. As per an agreement reached between these organisations and the military, general elections will be held in the country in July 2023 and the power will be handed over to



the party that emerges victorious in the election. However, in October 2021, violating this agreement, the military overthrew the civilian government and took power into its own hands. General Burhan of the Army announced that the military would remain in power till the elections in July 2023 and general elections would be held in the country afterwards. Whichever political party emerges victorious in the election, power would be handed over to it, he said.

Almost every nation in the world rejected this declaration of General Burhan and pressure has been mounted on him to

hand over the power to a civilian government immediately. In order to put pressure on the military, the US has announced that it would not release an aid of 700 crore dollar till it hands back power to a civilian government. Democratic organisations have demanded that the military should immediately hand over power to a civilian government. Whereas General Burhan said he would hand over power to the party elected in the 2023 elections. Till then, he will keep the power with himself. Due to his adamant attitude, Sudan is spiralling down on the path of an economic crisis.

Five Israelis held on charges of spying for Iran

Inqilab (January 16) reports that the intelligence wing of Israel has claimed to have busted a gang involved in spying for Iran. It is alleged that these Israelis were sending photos of Israeli military stations and providing information on factories that manufacture military equipment to Iran. According to Times of Israel, the spy network comprised four women and a man. Their links were with a Jewish family who came from Iran or with their children. The five accused have been arrested.

The newspaper also alleged that these accused were providing information to Iran regarding the military preparations



of Israel. The Israel Prime Minister has praised the internal intelligence organisation of the country for busting this spy network and said that Iranian organisation Pasdaran-e-Inqilab has been continuously trying to penetrate the Israeli government. Israel considers Iran as a single biggest threat to its existence. The two countries have also been threatening each other.

It is to be noted that last year, Iran had stated that in order to sabotage their nuclear development programme, Israel's intelligence agency Mossad had got murdered many of their prominent nuclear scientists. This included the head of Iran's Nuclear Energy Development Programme.

Others

Row over renaming Hindustani Dawakhana



Roznama Sahara (January 30) reports that some newspapers in Delhi reported that the Delhi government has changed the name of Hindustani Dawakhana located in Ballimaran in Delhi to Aam Aadmi Polyclinic. This has created a huge controversy in Muslim majority areas. This is because Hindustani Dawakhana was established by a former president of Congress, Hakim Ajmal Khan and it is considered as an important part of the legacy of Delhi. When this controversy erupted, the food supplies minister of Delhi, Imran Hussain, had to

clarify that the Delhi government did not change the name of Hindustani Dawakhana and instead the heritage building where the Hindustani Dawakhana was established in 1900, is being renovated.

Chairman of Delhi Waqf Board, Amanatullah Khan also had to clarify on the issue. In fact, the controversy was kicked up by the former MLA of Ballimaran, Haroon Yusuf, and he claimed that the Delhi government has changed the name of Hindustani Dawakhana as Aam Aadmi Polyclinic.

Controversial fatwa by Darul Uloom Deoband

Inquilab (January 18) reports that government has described some fatwas issued by the biggest religious organisation of Sunni Muslims, Darul Uloom Deoband, as against the laws of the country and in this connection a notice has also been issued to Darul Uloom Deoband. It is being said that a person has complained to National Child Protection Commission that the Darul Uloom Deoband has recently issued a

fatwa in which it has been stated that adoption of a baby is not illegal, but according to Islamic Shariah, an adopted child cannot be given inheritance. The commission has given a notice on the complaint that recently the Darul Uloom Deoband has issued several fatwas on things like school curriculum, college uniform, education of children in non-Islamic atmosphere and co-education which are against the Constitution. In this



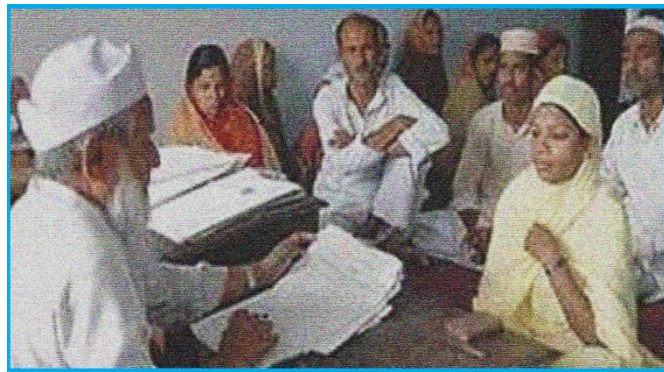
connection, the commission has issued a notice to the district magistrate of Saharanpur and directed that necessary action should be taken on the issue. The commission has also directed the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh that till the time Darul Uloom Deoband remove these fatwas from its website, it should be blocked.

After news appeared in newspapers in this connection, the manager of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Mufti Abul

Qasim Nomani said that till now they haven't got any notice either from the commission or the district administration. Hence they cannot comment on this matter. The issue could be discussed after getting the notice. He said that as per Indian Constitution, the minorities have full freedom to practice their religion and personal law. Hence the fatwas issued by it are in tune with Islamic Shariah. Hence no organisation has any right to interfere in our personal laws.

Inauguration of Shariah court

Hamara Samaj (January 18) reports that a Shariah court has been established in Navi Mumbai on behalf of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and it was inaugurated by the teacher of Darul Uloom Nadva, Maulana Atiq Ahmad Qasmi. Mufti Mohammad Faiyaz Alam Qasmi has been appointed as the head of the Shariah court who would settle different disputes among Muslims as per Shariah and Sunnat. Maulana Qasmi has appealed to Muslims that instead of taking their



disputes to the court, they should be brought to the Shariah court. This is because more than 3 crore cases are pending in government courts for long.

Munawwar Rana lands in trouble

Salar (January 30) reports that controversial Urdu poet Munawwar Rana has once again landed in a controversy. This time he has targeted Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He said that in case Yogi comes to power again, he would not live in UP. One has to die in any case but



don't want to die in sadness. In case Yogi comes back to power again, then I will pack my bag and go to some other state. It is to be noted that Munawwar Rana had created a flutter by returning awards. Later he compared Maharshi Valmiki to Taliban. In this connection, a case was also registered in a court.

Spread of Islam among non-Muslims

Hamara Samaj (January 19) reports that renowned Muslim thinker and head of Darul Uloom Nadwa Syed Rabey Hasani Nadwi has urged Muslims that they establish close relationship with non-Muslims so that the misconceptions among

them about Islam and the Prophet could be removed. He said that it is the duty of every Muslim to bring more and more Muslims to Islam. If any Muslim is not making any such effort then he would have to be answerable to Allah on the judgment day.

Muslim member nominated to National Assembly in Nepal

Inquilab (January 29) states that for the first time in the history of Nepal, a Muslim was appointed as a member of the National Assembly. Mufti

Mohammad Khalid Siddiqui was a candidate of Janata Samajwadi Party. He defeated the candidate of Marxist Party candidate Usman Ansari in the elections.

Pakistan President apologises to elderly person

Roznama Sahara (January 31) reports that the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi has apologised to an 82-year-old taxpayer after returning the money collected from him as tax 15 months ago. According to 'Dawn' newspaper, Alvi said that one's head should hang in shame due to this redtapism and all employees and officials responsible for the incident should immediately be suspended. According to President's secretariat, a man named Mohammad Khan has filed an



application for tax refund on October 19, 2020. However, no action was taken on his application for 15 months and he brought the red-tapism to the notice of Pakistan President. On the intervention of the

President, the tax department returned the money that was collected from him as tax. The President expressed personal regrets in this incident and also sent a letter to him apologising for the same.

