

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Maharashtra Minister Arrested in Money Laundering Case



- Tension over murder of Bajrang Dal activist in Karnataka
- Decision to strengthen army in Afghanistan
- Muslim judge in Israel's Supreme Court
- Imams told to speak against hijab

*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

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## Summary

Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik has been arrested in a money laundering case. He has been accused of having links with notorious terrorist Dawood Ibrahim. Nawab Malik had purchased benami property of Dawood from his sister. Various agencies of Central government are conducting a detailed inquiry in this connection. Nawab Malik has been targeting the Union government and officials of Narcotics Control Bureau for quite some time. He had alleged that cine star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was trapped in a fake case in order to elicit money from him.

The hijab controversy is still raging in Karnataka. Radical Muslim organisation Popular Front of India and its student wing Campus Front of India are active in this controversy. Since the influence of extremist Muslim organisations among the Muslim community is on the wane, they are trying to mobilise Muslims against the government on the pretext of one issue or other. In this connection, Harsh, an activist of Bajrang Dal, was killed in broad daylight by Muslim goons in Karnataka recently. It is being said that this activist of Bajrang Dal had posted allegedly objectionable comments on Islam and the Prophet on social media. When protests erupted over it, he withdrew the post. However, despite that he could not save his life from extremists. The interesting thing is that when the police took action against these extremists, there were protests against it in Muslim majority areas of the country. Protests and dharna were held in each and every place. The question here is how one could justify such efforts to save these assailants from the clutches of law.

Recently, Mamata Banerjee suffered an image loss among Muslims when a few personnel of West Bengal police killed Anis Khan, a student leader linked to Left parties, by throwing him from the third floor of a building. When the matter took a serious turn, the chief minister intervened on personal level and initiated action against some police personnel. The parents of the murdered student still demand that the incident should be probed by CBI. However, this is being opposed by the state government.

The Arab politics in Middle East has taken a serious turn recently. For the first time, the UAE has entered into a deal to purchase military aircraft from China. Till now, all the countries in the Arab world were dependent on the US and European countries for the supply of arms and ammunition. This new measure by China has naturally raised concerns in the US. It is being said that China is making efforts to increase its influence in Muslim world by taking advantage of its growing relationship with Pakistan.

The Taliban government in Afghanistan has announced its decision to strengthen its military. More than one lakh soldiers are being recruited with this aim. It is to be noted that the US and its allies spent billions of dollars to equip the erstwhile military of Afghanistan with most modern weapons but those were left behind in Afghanistan when the US troops evacuated from there. The Taliban is now trying to sell these US weapons to different countries through international market.



## Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik arrested in money laundering case



**Inquilab** (February 24) reports that the officials of Enforcement Directorate along with a team of Central Reserve Police Force reached the house of Maharashtra minister and leader of Nationalist Congress Party Nawab Malik at 5.30 am and questioned him for over one-and-a-half hours for purchasing property from the associates of Dawood Ibrahim and later took him to their office. In the afternoon, Assistant Director of Enforcement Directorate, Neeraj Kumar, announced his arrest. As soon as the news of his arrest came, activists of Nationalist Congress Party arrived at the office of Enforcement Directorate in large numbers. Given the situation, the Enforcement Directorate called more CRPF teams for their protection. When Nawab Malik was taken to the hospital for medical check-up, he waved his hands in the air and said that he won't get scared, will fight and win. Later he was produced in the court which granted his custody to the Enforcement Directorate till March 3.

Condemning the arrest of Nawab Malik, president of Nationalist Congress Party, Sharad Pawar, said he has been implicated in a fake case as he had been

exposing people linked to BJP in the past four months. He said if a man is a Muslim, those people sitting in Delhi immediately describe him as a man of Dawood. We will fight against this fraud. He said that a united front will be formed against the Central government.

**Hamara Samaj** (February 22) reports that Nawab Malik was arrested on charges of purchasing property from a man linked to the 2005 bomb blasts. Earlier, the Enforcement Directorate had raided several places in connection with cases linked to Dawood Ibrahim. Later Dawood's brother Iqbal Kaskar was taken into custody from Thane jail and questioned. In this connection, Dawood's nephew Salim Qureshi was also questioned, who is said to be linked to Chhota Shakeel gang. It is to be noted that Nawab Malik had made serious allegations against former chief of Narcotics Control Bureau, Sameer Wankhade, in connection with the arrest of Aryan Khan, son of cine star Shah Rukh Khan. Earlier, another leader of NCP and former home minister of Maharashtra, Anil Deshmukh, was also arrested. The chief of Maharashtra Congress, Nana Patole, said that Nawab

Malik has been implicated in a fake case due to vengeance.

**Hindustan Express** (February 25) reports that the leaders and ministers of ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra staged a dharna in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha and raised slogans against Modi government and alleged that the Central government is using its agencies to overthrow the Maharashtra government. We will strongly oppose this, they said.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 25) has published an article written by A Rahman Khan in which it is stated that Nawab Malik's company 'Soldius Investments' purchased 3 acres of land from a woman named Munira Plumber in Kurla area in 1999 and in 2003 which was sold by the sister of Dawood Ibrahim, Haseena Parkar. Now, 20 years later, the government has described its Mukhtarnama (power of attorney) as fake. Both Munira and Haseena have, meanwhile, passed away.

The latest money laundering case was filed against Dawood Ibrahim, Tiger Memon and some members of their gang on February 14, 2022. The first case in this connection was filed by Thane police in 2017 against Iqbal Kaskar, Hasrar Ahmad and Mumtaz Sheikh on charges of extortion. The interesting thing is that those against whom the case was registered are already in Thane jail since 2017. The Enforcement Directorate, during its investigation, has raided nine places including the building of Haseena Parkar in Nagpada and in this connection also questioned Dawood's nephew Alishah Parkar. Nawab Malik has also been booked on the basis of this interrogation. In simple words, the case against Nawab Malik is that 20 years ago, the accused had purchased a property from Haseena Parkar for Rs 55 lakh which Haseena had got from its original owner through a fake power of attorney.

The interesting thing is that the original owner did not file any complaint in this regard. Haseena Parkar was sister of Dawood Ibrahim and hence it is assumed that Nawab Malik purchased property from him in order to extend financial resources to spread terrorism. This incident was of 1999. However, the law on money laundering namely PMLA was promulgated in 2005. Any law can be implemented only from the date on which it was adopted.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 24) has published an editorial which described the arrest of Nawab Malik as political vengeance.

**Siasat** (February 25) in its editorial has alleged that this case was registered as part of a conspiracy by the Central government to overthrow the Maharashtra government. The Maharashtra government has refused to demand the resignation of Nawab Malik. The newspaper alleged that the arrest of Nawab Malik is part of a well-planned conspiracy of Sangh Parivar to give a bad name to the biggest minority community in the country. The Enforcement Directorate is working under the pressure of Modi government. The Sangh Parivar thought that after the arrest of Nawab Malik, differences will erupt between the three parties of the ruling alliance and the BJP will play its own game once the government gets destabilised. On getting information about the arrest of Nawab Malik, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee telephoned Sharad Pawar and expressed solidarity with him.

**Roznama Sahara** (February 24) in its editorial condemned the arrest of Nawab Malik and said that his arrest was not unexpected. Last year, after the arrest of Aryan Khan, Nawab Malik had opened a front against the Central government and the BJP and it was clear that time itself that the Central government was preparing to implicate him in some case. This assumption got a confirmation when

his son-in-law Sameer Khan was arrested on charges of smuggling narcotic substances.

Flaying the arrest of Nawab Malik, the newspaper said that it is condemnable that a person who is in politics for the past 25 years and a minister in a government was arrested from his house

without any prior information. Several such incidents have come to light where the Central agencies have flouted all rules and acted as puppets in the hands of their political masters. Those who keep an eye on the country's politics say that it was a political arrest and that it was done to seal the mouth of Nawab Malik. ■

## Tension over murder of Bajrang Dal activist in Karnataka



**Etemaad** (February 22) states that a 26-year-old activist of Bajrang Dal, Harsh, was stabbed to death in Shimoga district in Karnataka. Violence broke out in the town when his body was being taken to cremation. Those who took part in the procession pelted stones and they also set fire to several vehicles. Many shops and buildings were also damaged. The police arrested three persons in connection with the murder. A few unidentified persons attacked Harsh at Bharati Colony on Sunday night. He was admitted to hospital with injuries where he passed away. Karnataka minister K S Eshwarappa has alleged that Muslims goons were behind Harsh's murder.

Recently, president of state Congress Committee D K Shivakumar gave a provocative speech claiming that in a government school the national flag was lowered and instead Bhagwa flag was hoisted and an order was given to purchase 50 lakh saffron shawls from Surat to be distributed among students. The Muslim

goons found their support in this statement. In Shimoga, the district magistrate imposed Section 144 and summoned more police personnel from outside in order to bring the situation under control. He said that no person who disturbs peace would be spared.

Earlier, hundreds of Hindu activists took part in the funeral procession of Harsh including minister Eshwarappa and MP B Y Raghavendra. The administration had closed all the schools and colleges in the town. A hartal was observed in different places of the town. President of Congress in Karnataka D K Shivakumar said that Harsh was killed due to infighting between different gangs. Joint general secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Dr Surendra Jain alleged that the tukade-tukade gang is spreading venom under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi for the appeasement of minorities.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 23) states that violence continued even on the second day of the incident. Curfew was imposed in the town and Rapid Action Force was deployed in the area. Twelve more persons were arrested in connection with the murder of Bajrang Dal activist.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 22) reports that a place of worship also became a target of violence. People linked to Sangh Parivar tried to take out a procession in Muslim-majority areas which was foiled by the police. ■

## Fine collected from anti-CAA protesters to be returned



**Inquilab** (February 19) states that the Supreme Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to withdraw the notices issued to some people for allegedly damaging public property during the protests against Citizenship Amendment Act and said that the fine extracted from the protesters shall be returned by the administration. The Uttar Pradesh government told the Supreme Court that the notices issued to 274 persons for damaging property during the 2019 anti-CAA protests have been withdrawn. The Additional Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh urged the Supreme Court not to issue any order to return the amount collected as fine as it runs into crores of rupees and it would also be assumed that whatever actions were taken by the administration were illegal. However, the Supreme Court bench dismissed this appeal. A bench of Justice Chandrachud and Justice Surya Kant directed the state government to return the entire amount it got from the protesters in 2019.

It is to be noted that the Uttar Pradesh government had passed a law on August 31, 2020, in which it has been provisioned that the compensation for any damages that occur to government or private property during protests will be extracted from the protesters. The Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by

Pervez Arif seeking to cancel a notice issued by the district administration. It is mentioned in the petition that a similar notice has been issued to a man who died six years ago and the notices have been issued to many including some who are 90 years old.

Senior journalist Qurban Ali told reporters that he had filed a petition in the Supreme Court urging the court to declare this law as illegal. The Supreme Court will likely hear the petition soon.

**Hamara Samaj** (February 20) states that the chairman of Jamiat Ulema Arshad Madani welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and expressed hope that now the law would also be scrapped. He said that from this decision it has become clear that the dictatorship of a government does not work in a democracy.

Earlier on February 17, human rights activists organised a press conference at the Press Club in Delhi and released an investigative report on the harassment of Muslims in the wake of protests against Citizenship Amendment Act in which Asif Iqbal Tanha and Safoora Zargar on behalf of APCR had given a detailed description of incidents of harassment of Muslims. As per this report, the Uttar Pradesh police filed 350 FIRs in connection with the protests, in which the names of 5,000 people have been mentioned. Nearly 3,000

people have been arrested and 23 people have been killed in police action.

**Inquilab** (February 19) reports that the individuals, from whom the administration collected the fine, have welcomed the cancellation of the recovery notice and described it as a defeat of dictatorship and victory of justice.

**Roznama Sahara** (February 20) in its editorial welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and said that from this it has become clear that it is the rule of law that always prevails in a democratic system and not the arbitrariness of any

government. The editorial states that the law has discriminated against Muslims. Hence it is the right of Muslims to protest against the law.

**Etemaad** (February 21) also in its editorial welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and said that a former Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh, Vikram Singh, had described it as a hasty step right in the beginning itself. The newspaper said that action of the Yogi government was aimed at scaring the Muslims. The Supreme Court has foiled their intentions. ■

## Mysterious death of Muslim youth in Kolkata

**Inquilab** (February 20) reports that some individuals in police uniform entered the house of a leader of the anti-CAA protests and a 28-year-old student of Aliah University, Anis Khan, and threw him down from the third floor, resulting in his death. The incident has created quite a stir in West Bengal.



According to the newspaper, Anis Khan had recently joined a political party launched by Abbas Siddiqui namely ISF. According to his family members, some people in police uniform forcibly entered his building on the pretext of conducting some search in the house and caught hold of him and then threw him down from the third floor. On the other hand, the policemen at Amata police station claimed that no team from their station went to Anis Khan's house. The question that arises here is who went to his house in police uniform? And who killed him? The family members of Anis alleged that four persons in police uniform came to his house on the night of Juma. One of the men in khaki had identified himself as an officer from Amata police station. Initially, police had taken Anis' father into custody. Three other policemen went to the third floor with

Anis. Later, they heard the sound of Anis falling from the building.

**Roznama Sahara** (February 21) reports that SFI, the student wing of CPI(M), had announced a state-wide protest against the mysterious death of Anis Khan. After this incident, large-scale protests took place in the state. Leaders of Congress, CPM and BJP alleged that Anis Khan was killed at

the behest of the leaders of Trinamool Congress. More than 500 students of Aliya University organised a candle march and demanded the arrest of his killers. The Commissioner of Police launched a high-level investigation into the incident on the orders of the chief minister. However, according to Anis' father Saleem Khan, since policemen are directly involved in the murder, he doesn't see any possibility of getting justice through this investigation.

**Inquilab** (February 22) reports that the SFI activists held a protest march in front of Banga Bhawan in Delhi against the murder of Anis Khan. The protesters were led by the state president of the organisation Sumit Kataria. The protesters blamed Trinamool Congress for the murder of Anis Khan.

**Roznama Sahara** (February 25) reports that while hearing a petition seeking to handover the investigation into the murder of Anis Khan to CBI, the Calcutta



High Court has directed that the body of Anis Khan should be exhumed from the grave and a re-post-mortem be conducted under the supervision of the district judge of Howrah. The high court also sought a report from the police within three days. The Advocate General of the state told the high court that a special team of experienced police officers have been formed that will conduct an inquiry to the incident from a new angle. The court directed that the mobile of Anis Khan should be seized and sent to CFL Lab at Hyderabad for investigation. This apart, the court also directed that the witnesses in the case should be given full protection. On the directions of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, three police officers have been suspended and two others including one home guard and a police staffer have been arrested. These two persons have admitted that they went to the house of Anis Khan.

According to Anis Khan's father Saleem Khan, the police are covering up the incident. Hence he has no faith in the state police. Though a week has gone after the murder of Anis Khan, huge protests are still taking place in the colleges in the state. Mamata Banerjee said that justice will be delivered under any circumstance. However, nobody will be permitted to disturb peace in the state on the pretext of this incident. Meanwhile, Qasim Siddique of Furfura Sharif said that if the SHO of Amata police station is not arrested, then they would lay siege to the secretariat.

As per another report, while mentioning about the incident, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar expressed hope that the state government would conduct a fair investigation into the incident. Because, due to this incident, there is anger among the youth against the Mamata government.

## Efforts to form united front of non-BJP governments

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 22) reports that ever since the Central government started targeting the ministers of non-BJP governments, the political parties in power in non-BJP ruled states also stepped up their efforts to form a united front against the Modi government as a reaction to it. Recently, following the arrest of Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik, Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee telephoned the chief of Nationalist Congress Party Sharad Pawar and urged him to stand firm against the 'fraud' of the Central government. The Central government is trapping the ministers of Opposition parties in fake charges. Instead of asking such ministers to resign, this injustice should be fought together, she said.

**Inquilab** (February 21) reports that Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao visited Mumbai all of a sudden and held a meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. This



meeting has been viewed as an effort to form a non-BJP alliance to take on the BJP. Uddhav Thackeray said that it is necessary for all non-BJP parties to unite in order to take on the fraud of the Central government. He said that this meeting was a beginning towards that aim. We will soon meet Mamata Banerjee also in this connection so that this united front gets a formal shape.

It is to be noted that former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda had described the united front of non-BJP parties as the need of the hour. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has also announced that a meeting of

non-BJP chief ministers will soon be called in Delhi so that the dictatorship of the Central government could be strongly opposed.

**Inquilab** (February 22) states that commenting on the itinerary of K Chandrashekar Rao in Mumbai, Maharashtra Congress Committee chief Nana Patole said that any united front against the BJP will not be a success without Congress. If the purpose is to defeat the Central government, then no other party except Congress will be able to do it. Commenting on this, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that we never said that somebody would be able to form a front without Congress. Sharad Pawar had said right in the beginning itself that a united front of non-BJP parties would be formed in which Congress should also participate. Commenting on these efforts, BJP leader and former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis said these things would not affect BJP in any manner. During Lok Sabha elections also similar efforts were made but failed.

**Siasat** (February 16) in an editorial welcomed the decision of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin to call a meeting of chief ministers of non-BJP ruled states and said that the threat from BJP is increasing and now if the BJP wins the states where elections are currently being held, then the Sangh Parivar's attitude would further become harder. The Central government is consistently trying to make undue interferences in the work of non-BJP ruled states and concentrate all the powers in their hands. They are using the Governors for this purpose. However, the Governors work like a puppet in the hands of the Central government in every respect. The non-BJP governments in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have become the targets of Sangh Parivar. Recently, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, while seeking votes from people, demanded that they make BJP stronger in order to avoid becoming states like West Bengal, Kerala and Kashmir.

**Etemaad** (February 16) in its editorial states that the Chief Minister of Telangana, Chandrashekar Rao, has announced the formation of a united front long time ago and he held lengthy talks with West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in this connection. From this, it could be assumed that hectic efforts are on to form a united front of non-BJP parties. If the non-BJP parties want to survive in the political landscape of the country, then they have no choice but to unite. This is because the BJP is slowly making efforts to swallow its allies as well. It has marginalised the Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar. On realising these intentions of BJP, Shiv Sena has distanced itself from BJP. Hence it is necessary that a united front comes into being before the next Lok Sabha elections.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (February 22) in its editorial has welcomed the efforts of Telangana Chief Minister to unite non-BJP parties and wrote that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also made efforts to bring Opposition parties on one platform and form a united front but those attempts have failed. There is no doubt that Mamata Banerjee is a skilful politician. However, her biggest drawback is that she doesn't understand any of her competitors. She thought that after seeing her big victory in the West Bengal elections, all regional parties would welcome her leadership and join her newly formed front. But this plan has failed. It is being said that her political advisor Prashant Kishore played a part in foiling the plan. Later Prashant Kishore had given several controversial statements targeting Rahul Gandhi and Congress. It is being said that Prashant Kishore also had a role in creating the rift between Mamata Banerjee and her nephew. Chandrashekar Rao's differences with Modi are also growing rapidly. In the beginning of this month, when Modi visited Hyderabad, Rao was not present at the airport to receive him. Later he intensified his rhetoric against the Prime Minister and the BJP and also took the lead in uniting non-BJP parties ahead of the general elections to be held in 2024. Looking at the dictatorial attitude of Modi government, it is necessary that the Opposition parties get united. In this connection, ignoring Congress can prove to be disastrous. Though the Congress has weakened considerably, its influence is still there in all parts of the country and no front can be formed without Congress.

## Decision to strengthen army in Afghanistan



**Qaumi Tanzeem** (February 17) reports that the Defence Minister of Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, has decided to form a new Afghan army comprising 1.1 lakh soldiers. In his first public appearance, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob told Afghan radio that so far 80,000 people have registered for enlisting in the army and 10,000 people have already received the training. It is to be noted that Mohammad Yaqoob is the elder son of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar. He said that those Afghan soldiers sent abroad for training by the previous government can also join the new army. Mullah refuted the claim that Taliban is harassing Afghanistan's former soldiers and policemen. As per the report of the Afghanistan government, the US and its allies had spent 80 billion dollars in the past

decades for the training of Afghan soldiers and to equip them with modern weapons. When the Americans packed their bags and left Afghanistan, they left all these weapons behind. Now Taliban is selling these modern weapon systems in international market. As per another report, there is a new turn in the US policy on Afghanistan.

**Inqilab** (February 27) reports that the US department of Treasury has announced that the US trade department could do financial and business transactions with all institutions in Afghanistan. However, the US administration continues to maintain the economic sanctions imposed on Taliban, Haqqani network and other institutions linked to them. The US has also frozen Afghanistan's assets worth nearly seven billion dollars. ■

## Arrest of journalists stayed in Pakistan

**Hamara Samaj** (February 24) reports that the Islamabad High Court has stayed the arrest of journalists across Pakistan on the basis of the ordinance issued under the Pakistan Electronics Crime Act. The court has directed that if any arrests are made under Section 20 of this Act, then the director of Federal Investigation Agency

(FIA) will be responsible for it. The court issued this order on a petition filed by Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists. The case was heard by Chief Justice Athar Minallah. Lawyer for the organisation of journalists, Adil Aziz Qasi, while arguing the case, said that the session of the Upper House (Senate) of Pakistan Parliament

ended on February 17. The next session was supposed to begin on the next day, on February 18. However, it was cancelled all of a sudden. Later this ordinance was promulgated. The Chief Justice then asked which section of the law was being amended? Adil Aziz replied that in the ordinance, apart from the amendment, a new section has also been added. The Chief Justice then again asked what amendment had been made in the law. The lawyer then told the court that earlier the punishment under the section was for three years, which has now been increased to five years. The judge said the journalists need to have the right to criticise leaders. Hence the defamation law shall not be applied on them. The leaders also need to adopt a liberal view. This is because criticism from the press is a necessity in democracy.

The court said that in future if any journalist is arrested under this section, then those who arrest him will be responsible for their action and stringent action would be taken against them. On behalf of the government, the Attorney General assured that the intention of the government is not to take action against any journalist under this law. Mentioning some African nations, the Chief Justice said that even Zimbabwe and Uganda have made provisions in the law that if any journalist publishes any news against any leader, then a defamation case cannot be registered against him.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's minister for information and telecommunication Syed Aminul Haque has sent a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan, in which it has been stated that before amending the law, his ministry was not taken into confidence.



There is country-wide unrest as the amendment has proposed non-bailable arrest and not described "fake news". It would have been good had the opinion of journalist associations and organisations linked to the protection of human rights were taken into consideration before making any amendments. Due to this amendment, journalists and media are up against the government and have announced to hold protest marches in the entire country.

What is interesting is that even the Attorney General of Pakistan doesn't seem happy over the ordinance and stated in Islamabad that if the ordinance is applied as it is, then it becomes a dictatorial law. Hence necessary amendments are being made. In this connection, the Supreme Court had expressed apprehensions. However, along with it, he has made it clear that action against journalists would be taken under this provision only in serious issues. He said that they are holding talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan in this connection and they would apprise him about the complexities in the ordinance.

## British prince lands in fresh controversy

**Roznama Sahara** (February 18) reports that Britain's Prince Andrew, who was in the midst of a controversy over sexual exploitation, has landed in a fresh controversy. In order to withdraw the case, he has decided to reach an out-of-court

settlement with the woman involved in the case.

As per the news published in the media, Prince Andrew had signed a deal with Virginia Giuffre outside the court. Virginia had accused him of sexual assault



at the age of 17. In order to withdraw the case, Andrew will give 20 lakh pounds to the social welfare organisation linked to

Virginia. It is being said that the Queen of England had put lot of pressure on her second son so that the royal family does not get a bad name. However, the Prince had said that he was innocent in the case.

It is to be noted that after Prince Andrew landed in this sexual assault case, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II stripped him of all royal positions and titles. Sources close to the British royal house claimed that even if the Prince and his victim reach any kind of agreement, his former royal positions and other facilities will not be restored.

## Black judge in the US Supreme Court

**Inquilab** (February 27) reports that for the first time in the history of the US, a black woman has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court. During his election speeches, the US President Joe Biden had declared that the US Supreme Court would be expanded. In the



past 200 years, only white people were appointed judges in the Supreme Court. Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first black woman in the history of US, who has been nominated to the Supreme Court. She has been appointed in place of 83-year-old Justice Stephen Breyer.

## Eight polio officials killed in Afghanistan

**Inquilab** (February 26) reports that the officials who administer polio drops in Afghanistan are facing difficult times. Last Friday, Taliban brutally murdered eight persons who were administering polio drops to children. As per a report published in Dawn newspaper, the United Nations has expressed shock over this incident and stressed that stringent action be taken against the attackers.

It is to be noted that whether it is Afghanistan or Pakistan, in every Islamic nation, giving polio drops is considered as anti-Islam. Hence, those administering polio drops are a target of attacks for



several years now. According to the Ulema, use of vaccine is against Islamic Shariah. A spokesperson of Afghan's health ministry told reporters that they had a very clear policy that every child who completed 5 years should be given polio drops. However, when the mob killed those who were administering polio drops, they were either giving polio drops to children at houses or were on their way to village to give polio drops. There are only two nations left in the world—Pakistan and Afghanistan--where polio could not be eradicated so far.

## Trillions of dollars of ruling Arab families in Swiss bank



**Inquilab** (February 23) reports that as per a new report of Swiss Bank, the Arab rulers have deposited trillions of dollars of their money in different secret accounts in Swiss Banks. The money was deposited before the ‘Arab Spring’ that shook the Arab world in 2011. Later several rulers of Arab world had lost their power. Recently, a team of Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project made an estimation of the money in these accounts. This investigation was done following leak of papers. It has come to light from the investigation report how the ruling families of several countries like Egypt, Libya, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia deposited such huge money in Swiss Banks.

The sons of the former President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, have six Swiss bank accounts which have a deposit of 27.7 crore dollars. A huge network of people associated with their in-laws and other business colleagues have also deposited billions of Swiss Francs in these secret accounts. When the news about these secret accounts got leaked, lakhs of Egyptian citizens took to the streets and demanded that the black money deposited in foreign banks must

be brought back to the country. Due to these huge protests, Hosni Mubarak had to abdicate power and resign from his post. Apart from these accounts, more than a dozen other accounts belong to the ruling families of Syria, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan.

As per this investigation report, at least 10 trillion Swiss Francs are deposited in the accounts of these ruling families. The rulers of Arab nations have deposited this money in Swiss banks anticipating some bad days. It has been known that the family members of the former king of Iran, Reza Shah Pahlavi, had kept nearly a dozen secret accounts. The current government of Iran has been putting pressure on Swiss bank to hand over the money to them. But the Swiss banks have rejected their request. For the past 200 years, the ruling families from world over are keeping their black money in Swiss banks. It is difficult to guess how much money is kept in the secret accounts of these banks. This is because as per the bank law of Switzerland, account holders cannot be forced to give information about their deposits in the banks.

## Muslim judge in the Supreme Court of Israel

**Inquilab** (February 23) reports that for the first time a Muslim judge, Khaled Kabub, has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court in Israel. According to a government report, Arab Muslims constitute nearly 20% population of Israel. Earlier, only Jews and Christians used to be appointed as judges in the courts in Israel. Till now, 63-year-old Khalid Khabub has been functioning as the judge of the district court in Tel Aviv. He is among the six judges selected by a panel comprising the judges of the Supreme Court, ministers, legal experts and lawyers. Khalid Kabub was born in Jaffa and he received higher



education in History and Islam from Tel Aviv University. After getting a law degree, he started his legal practice. Earlier, a Muslim judge, Abdel Rahman Zuabi was also appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel on temporary basis and he held office only for nine months.

The interesting thing is that there are several Islamic Shariah courts also in Israel. These courts were established in 2017. One among the three judges of these courts is a Muslim woman and her name is Hana Khatib. These courts hear matters related to Shariah laws of Muslims in Israel like talaq, nikah and alimony.

## UAE to buy fighter planes from China

**Roznama Sahara** (February 25) reports that in order to face the situation arising out of the Houthi attacks, the UAE has decided to purchase a dozen L-15 war planes from China. Nowadays, UAE is strengthening its defence system and in order to achieve this target, it is purchasing military equipment from across the world. According to a spokesperson of the defence ministry of UAE, after the purchase of these war planes,

his country would also buy 36 fighter jets from China. Recently, three dozen pilots of UAE were sent to China in order to provide training to fly these planes. This is the first time that an Arab nation is purchasing arms and ammunition from China. Till now the air force of UAE has been using US-manufactured F-16 planes and French-made Mirage planes. Last year, it had signed a deal to purchase Rafale aircraft from France.

## Agreement between Iran and Qatar

**Roznama Sahara** (February 22) reports that Iran President Ebrahim Raisi and the Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani have signed more than a dozen agreements recently. These agreements were signed ahead of Iran President's visit to Doha to participate in the meeting of heads of nations of GICF countries. It is being said that as per the agreements, Qatar has decided to extend cooperation to the



nuclear energy programme of Iran. In the meeting, it has also been said that due to the situation in Ukraine, if there is any disruption in the supply of oil from those regions, then the Arab nations are willing to increase the quantity of supply of oil to Europe. Qatar and Iran also expressed their interest in supplying gas to European nations.

## Turkey keen on friendly relations with African countries

**Etemaad** (February 23) states that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stepped up his efforts to improve relationship with African nations. Recently, he began a visit to four Central and Western African nations. Speaking at a press conference along with Senegal President Macky Sall at the country's capital Dakar, he said that Turkey is taking a keen interest in establishing relationship with African nations. We want different companies of Turkey to play a major role in the rebuilding of these nations by implementing different projects in those countries. This will create new employment opportunities in African countries and will benefit Turkey as well. On this occasion, five agreements were signed between the two countries.

**Hamara Samaj** (February 19) reports that President of Turkey, Erdogan told journalists that his aim is to establish a close relationship with Saudi Arabia and UAE. He said that he would soon be visiting Saudi Arabia. It is to be noted that Turkey is in financial crisis these days. The value of Turkish currency Lira has been falling in international market due to which prices have shot up. He expressed hope that Saudi Arabia and UAE would make huge investments so that Turkey's economic situation improves.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (February 17) reports that Turkey is taking a special interest in improving its relationship with UAE and Egypt. However, they used to support the



banned Islamic extremist organisation Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Sinem Akgul, head of international relations department at Kadir Has University in Istanbul, stated in an article that in order to improve the financial condition of Turkey, it is necessary that Arab nations and Iran improve their relationship. Recently, as per the information received from Israel's intelligence agency Mossad, the Turkey's intelligence wing had arrested a gang of Iranian spies who were active in Turkey. Infuriated over this, Iran stopped the supply of gas to Turkey's industries for almost two weeks. Hence Turkey has now signed a deal with Russia and Azerbaijan to purchase gas from them so that in future Iran would not create a similar situation for them. Iran and Russia are supporters of the Bashar Al Assad government in Syria while Turkey has been extending help to the rebels active in that country, who are linked to the US.

## Algerian minister convicted in corruption case

**Etemaad** (February 19) reports that a court in Algeria has awarded a five-year jail term and a fine of 3 lakh dinars to former minister for industry Djamila Tamazirt on charges of corruption.



This woman was minister for industry

and mines in April 2019. She has been accused of giving quota to people after taking bribe, indulging in scam in government treasury and embezzlement. The court in Algeria has also ordered seizure of her entire property.



## Imams told to speak against hijab



**Salar** (February 22) has published a report in which it has been stated that the Secretary of Waqf board of Karnataka, Captain Manivannan, has been putting pressure on the officials of Waqf Board that during the Juma Namaz at various mosques, the imams should tell Muslims that hijab is not an essential practice in

Islam. The secretary has also threatened that if they do not obey the directives of Waqf Board, the monthly allowance given to them will be stopped. It is being said that after this refusal, the secretary has issued a circular restricting the use of hijab in all schools being run by the minorities' welfare department.

## Payment dues of Delhi imams



**Roznama Sahara** (February 25) reports that imams and muezzins of various mosques in Delhi staged a dharna at the office of the Delhi Waqf Board over non-payment of their wages for the past 11 months. When the news about their dharna

reached the chairperson of Delhi Waqf Board Amanatullah Khan, he returned midway from his journey to the Waqf office. According to a spokesperson of imams, they are finding it difficult to feed their families as they are not getting their wages for the past 11 months. Waqf board has been giving assurances every time that their payments, which were due, would be released soon but these assurances were never fulfilled. Delhi is among the five states in the country where the governments provide monthly wages to imams and muezzins.

## Medina safest city for women

**Siasat** (February 18) reports that for women who travel alone, Medina is the safest city. This survey was done by a British institution 'Inspire My Trip.' The institution has claimed that the most unsafe city for women is Paris. Then come Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur and Delhi where women staying alone feel insecure. In these cities, there is a consistent increase in the number of offences against women. As far as other cities in the world where women feel secure are



concerned, they include Chiang Mai (Thailand), Dubai and Kyoto city in Japan. On the fifth position is Chinese city Macau.

## Protest against construction of mosque in Vellore

**Siasat** (February 25) reports that a huge uproar has erupted over the construction of a mosque in Vellore town in Tamil Nadu. The activists of Hindu Munnani opposed the construction of the mosque. They said that a house was converted as a mosque overnight. There are three other mosques within 100 metres of this mosque. This can lead to communal tension. Vellore Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kannan said the house has been used for personal purposes earlier. Now it has been converted as a mosque. Muslims claimed



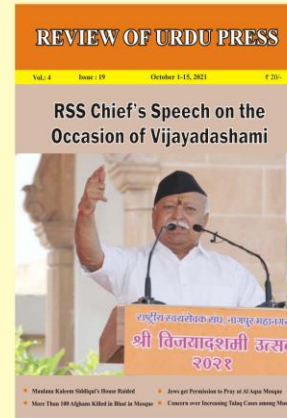
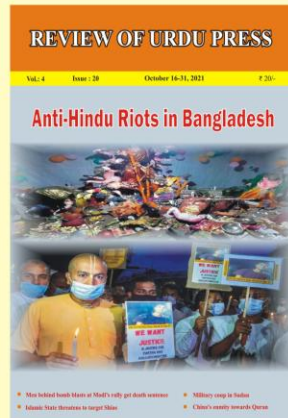
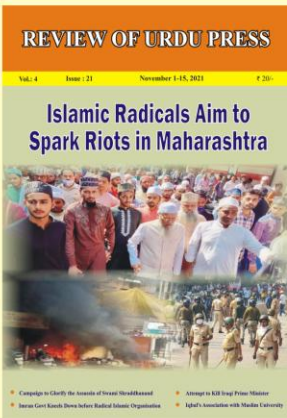
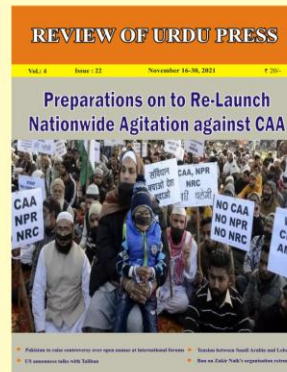
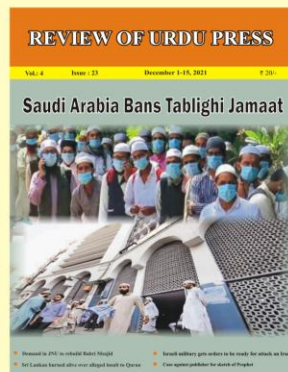
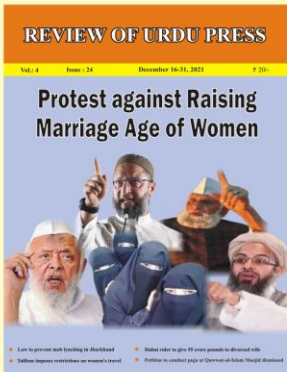
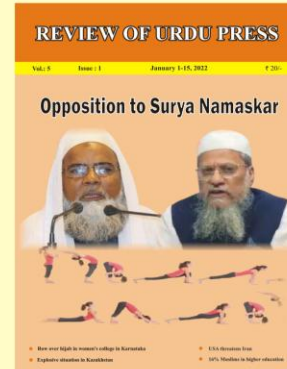
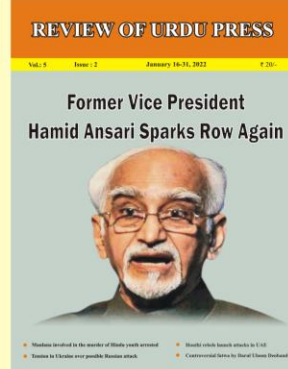
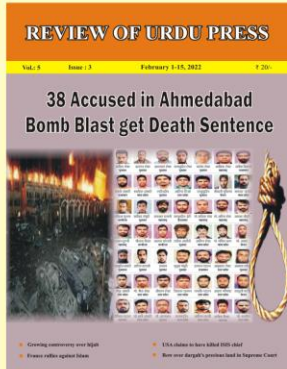
that namaz is being offered there from 1896 and Hindu communal organisations are deliberately stopping it.

## Thiefs who stole ancient idols arrested

**Siasat** (February 18) reports that Asifabad police has claimed that a gang which had stolen nearly more than a dozen ancient idols from Balaji Venkateswar temple in Sirpur Nagar has been arrested. These idols are 800 to 1,000 years old. This gang has been selling these historic idols abroad. The



arrested have been identified as Sheikh Mehboob and a man named Gaddam. These two were arrested from Telangana-Maharashtra border. Apart from the idols, gold ornaments were also seized from them. The police also arrested a person named Sothiya who used to smuggle the idols to foreign countries.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान  
**India Policy Foundation**

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016  
Tel : 011-26524018 • Fax : 011-46089365  
E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolity@gmail.com  
Website : www.ipf.org.in