

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Number of Muslim MLAs Increase in Uttar Pradesh



- 14 killed in bomb blast in Bhagalpur
- Shias in Pakistan face onslaught
- Death sentence to 81 people in Saudi Arabia
- Delhi imams get salary dues of 11 months

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## Summary

In the Assembly elections held in Uttar Pradesh this time, 10 more Muslim MLAs got elected compared to the previous term. While 24 Muslim MLAs were elected in the Assembly polls held in 2017, this year 34 Muslim MLAs got elected. For the first time since 1984, Muslims in Uttar Pradesh got united and voted en masse to defeat the Yogi government. However, they did not succeed in their attempt. The interesting thing is that they did not vote for any party which they thought would not be able to prevent the BJP from coming back to power. This is the reason why they rejected Asaduddin Owaisi's Ittehadul Muslimeen, Welfare Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress. Along with this, one should not ignore the fact that extremist Muslim organisations are speedily spreading their influence in the North-eastern region. This time three Muslim MLAs got elected to the Manipur state Assembly in 2022.

Now, if one does an analysis of the Assembly elections held in states recently, the results were totally unexpected for the Urdu press, especially for the Muslim press. Right from the beginning itself, the Urdu press have been running a vilification campaign against BJP and the Sangh Parivar. However, when the results were announced, the castles they built in their dreams came crashing down. Now Muslim institutions, especially Jamaat-e-Islami, are claiming that all secular parties have only deceived Muslim voters till now. Hence Muslims need to create a strong leadership of their own.

The much-hyped Islamic unity and brotherhood has burst now. Recently, Saudi Arabia awarded death sentence to 81 persons in a single day. The Saudi government media has claimed that those who were beheaded by the executioners were either thieves or killers of innocent people. However, Iran has denounced this claim. The foreign ministry of Iran has closed its doors for any future talks with Saudi Arabia and declared that majority of those whom the Sunni government of Saudi Arabia had sentenced to death were Shias and their only crime was that they raised their voice against the dictatorial stand of the Saudi ruling family.

The Shia-Sunni controversy is not limited to Saudi Arabia. It has spread to Pakistan as well. It is believed that Sunni organisation Islamic State is behind the suicide attack that took place at the Shia mosque in Peshawar recently. More than 75 people were believed to be killed in the attack. The Shias held protests against the attack throughout Pakistan and were furious that the Pakistan government has failed to provide them security. Currently there are four such Sunni organisations in Pakistan who openly make Shias their target of attack.

China has made a huge hike in its defence budget. The Chinese government has also started seriously implementing a project to equip its military with most modern weapon systems. As per the information given by media, China is already number two in the world in terms of defence spending and its military is the biggest in the world. Despite this, India has made a decrease in its defence budget this year.



## Increase in the number of Muslim MLAs in Uttar Pradesh



The strategy adopted by the Muslims to vote unitedly in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2022 has reaped rich harvests. This time, 34 Muslim MLAs got elected while the number of Muslim MLAs got elected in 2017 was 24. This time, 31 Muslim MLAs got elected on Samajwadi Party ticket, whereas two Muslim MLAs got elected on Rashtriya Lok Dal ticket and one got elected from Mau constituency on Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party ticket. An analysis of the election results of newly elected Muslim MLAs makes one thing clear—that the Muslims unitedly voted for Samajwadi Party and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal. Maybe their strategy was to extend support to only those parties that would be able to stop the BJP from coming to power.

The BJP, however, did not field any Muslim candidate in the elections but its electoral ally Apna Dal fielded a Muslim candidate, Hyder Ali Khan, in Suar constituency in Rampur district against the son of Azam Khan, Abdullah Azam. However, he lost the elections badly. The maximum number of Muslim candidates was fielded by Bahujan Samaj Party, but none of them won the elections. The Samajwadi Party fielded 64 Muslims in the elections, out of which 31 won the

elections. Congress has fielded 75 Muslim candidates while Ittehadul Muslemeen fielded more than 60 Muslim candidates, but none of them managed to win.

**Inquilab** (March 11) and **Roznama Sahara** (March 11) published the names of the victorious Muslim candidates and their constituencies. It is as follows.

S. No.	Constituency	Candidate
1.	Behat	Umar Ali Khan
2.	Kairana	Nahid Hasan
3.	Thana Bhawan	Ashraf Ali Khan
4.	Najibabad	Tasleem Ahmad
5.	Kanth	Kamal Akhtar
6.	Thakurdwara	Nawab Jan Khan
7.	Moradabad Rural	Mohammad Nasir
8.	Kundarki	Ziaur Rahman
9.	Bilari	Mohd Faheem Irfan
10.	Sambhal	Iqbal Mahmood
11.	Suar	Abdullah Azam
12.	Chamraua	Naseer Ahmad Khan
13.	Rampur	Mohd Azam Khan
14.	Amroha	Mehboob Ali
15.	Siwalkhas	Ghulam Mohammad
16.	Kithore	Shahid Manzoor
17.	Meerut	Rafiq Ansari
18.	Baheri	Ataurrehman
19.	Bhojipura	Shazil Islam Ansari
20.	Sishamau	Haji Irfan Solanki
21.	Nizamabad	Alam Badi
22.	Domariyaganj	Saiyada Khatoon
23.	Gopalpur	Nafees Ahmad

24.	Kanpur Cantt	Mohammad Hasan
25.	Mau	Abbas Ansari
26.	Saharanpur	Ashu Malik
27.	Sikanderpur	Ziauddin Rizvi
28.	Lucknow West	Armaan Khan
29.	Patiyali	Nadira Sultan
30.	Ramnagar	Fareed M. Kidwai
31.	Matera	Mariya
32.	Bhadohi	Zahid Beg
33.	Isauli	Mohd Tahir Khan
34.	Mohammadabad	Suhaib Ansari

This apart, from the Malerkotla Assembly constituency in Punjab, Aam Admi Party's Mohammad Jamil ur Rahman won the elections. In Laksar Assembly constituency in Uttarakhand, Shahzad of BSP won the elections. In Manipur, from Lilong constituency Mohammad Abdul Nazir, from Kshetrigao Sheikh Noorul Hassan and from Jiribam, Mohammad Achab Uddin won the elections.

**Comment:** In the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, in order to understand the

change that has taken place in terms of the number of Muslim MLAs, the data from 1991 is as follows.

In 1991, 197 Muslim candidates had contested the elections, out of which 23 won. This number is considered as the lowest in the history of Uttar Pradesh Assembly. This election was held after the Babri Masjid agitation, when there was a massive polarisation of Hindu votes. In 1993, 128 Muslim candidates entered the election fray, out of which 25 won. In 1996, nearly 118 Muslim candidates contested the elections, in which 36 had won. In 2002, 199 Muslim candidates were in the election fray, out of which 39 won. In 2007, 179 Muslim candidates contested the election, out of which 51 won. In 2012, 230 Muslim candidates contested the election and 64 of them won. In 2017, 180 Muslim candidates contested the polls, out of which only 24 won.

## Assembly elections in the eyes of Urdu Press

Right from the beginning of the recently concluded Assembly elections in the five states, the Urdu press had launched a massive campaign to create an atmosphere against the BJP, but the election results have humbled them.

**Jadeed Markaz** (March 20), published from Lucknow, in its editorial stated that the assumptions of journalists who visit village after village and that of experienced people who make poll predictions and even the politicians were proved wrong and the BJP won the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections with a two-third majority. In the elections, ignoring issues like unemployment, skyrocketing prices, crop destruction by stray animals and mismanagement during Corona pandemic, the 52% Hindu community got swept away by the slogans of Hindutva and pseudo nationalism and voted for BJP. Other than Hindutva, the main reasons for the victory of BJP include the transfer of BSP and Congress votes to BJP, faulty EVMs, free ration, sophisticated election

machinery of BJP, huge money power and to top it all, the open support of Election Commission. Secondly, the efforts of Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav to unite all small backward class communities in the state failed. The administration alone has put 35-40 seats in the bag of BJP. Former leader of BJP Shatrughan Sinha alleged that wherever the BJP governments were there, the EVMs were manipulated. Though BSP leader Mayawati blamed Muslims for the debacle, the reality is that there is a 10% decrease in the vote share of her party and these votes had gone into the account of BJP. The entire Brahmin, Rajput and three-fourths of backward classes got swept with the Hindutva wave and went in favour of BJP. There is no doubt that the way Mayawati contested the elections, it was clear that she was committed to transferring her votes to BJP. In this election, Muslims stood unitedly in full strength and voted for Samajwadi Party. Before this, except in 1984, Muslims never displayed such unity.



**Inquilab** (March 11) has credited the success for BJP's win in the elections to its strong economic resources, ground support of RSS cadre, propaganda of Godi media and booth management. The newspaper expressed surprise that in many districts like Lekhimpur Kheri, where it was believed that the BJP would suffer a crushing defeat, it has romped home with a thumping victory. Meanwhile, though the Muslims unitedly voted for Samajwadi Party, it failed to reap the dividends of people's anger. The election results in western Uttar Pradesh shattered the dreams of Samajwadi Party's hopes of coming back to power.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 11) stated that due to BJP's election management, free ration and communal polarisation of votes, the Samajwadi Party failed to come to power in Uttar Pradesh. The party has to do a review and analysis of its defeat in the elections so that in the 2024 elections, the Opposition would be able to make an impression.

**Awadhnama** (March 14) has given the credit for the BJP's success to its propaganda that in case Samajwadi Party comes to power again, then there will again be goonda raj in the state. Hence the Dalits, backward castes and upper castes got united and extended support to BJP and the Samajwadi Party totally failed to stop such propaganda. Mayawati was not serious in contesting the elections right from the

beginning. Her only aim was to transfer her vote bank into the account of BJP. In the fourth phase of the election, when Amit Shah openly praised Mayawati, it was confirmed that the BSP was working as a B team of BJP in this elections. On the day of elections results, when the Karnataka High Court refused to take action against Mayawati in a nine-year-old case, it was confirmed that the BJP has given her a loyalty reward.

**Siasat** (March 13) states that BJP's victory in four states will be a boost to Hindutva ideology. The administration, media management and settings of EVM played a major role in this victory. The newspaper rejected the claim that AIMIM had a contribution in the victory of BJP.

**Siasat** (March 15), while expressing concern about the future of Congress, said the recent elections has established that the Congress has become a fringe party instead of being a national party. The surprising thing is that the Congress leaders have not learned any lesson from this adversity and the infighting among them has only increased.

**Salar** (March 13) has stressed that the government and the BJP-sponsored media are deliberately presenting the success of BJP as a great achievement. However, nearly a dozen ministers of Yogi Government lost the elections including Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. Some hard-core poster boys of

Hindutva politics even failed to save their own seats. They include people like Sangeet Som, Raghuvendra Singh, Suresh Rana, Anand Swaroop Shukla and Umesh Malik. Suresh Rana was defeated by Rashtriya Lok Dal candidate Ashraf Ali Khan by a margin of over 10,000 votes. Sangeet Som had to face defeat in Sardana Assembly seat. For the first time in the history of Uttar Pradesh, a Samajwadi Party candidate won from this seat. In Kairana, Union home minister Amit Shah went house-to-house seeking votes for BJP, but despite that BJP candidate Mriganka Singh was defeated by Samajwadi Party candidate Nahid Hussain by a margin of over 26,000 votes.

**Salar** (March 12) in its editorial, analysing the victory of BJP, said the way the BJP has come to power in the four states has spelled doom for future of democracy in the country. The newspaper said the biggest misfortune is for Congress and it has become so much narcissist now that it does not even understand the necessity to do an introspection on their defeat.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 11), while analysing the Uttar Pradesh elections, expressed surprise that the predictions of all experts had gone wrong and the bulldozer government has come back to power. The newspaper has held media management, wide financial resources, EVM setting and the failure of Opposition parties in effectively countering the BJP's election propaganda, as responsible for this situation. Yogi Adityanath knows it very well that the EVM card plays a bigger role than the bulldozer card for his electoral success. Let BJP claim whatever it wants, but the election results remind us of Anil Kapoor – Juhi Chawla film Benam Badshah. The film shows victory in elections through goondagardi in which people have no role.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 11) has published an article written by Salim Sheikh, president of Maharashtra Welfare Party of India, the political wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, in which he has alleged that all

secular parties and its leaders have only cheated Muslims so far. Hence Muslims should unite and develop their own leadership, otherwise they will be finished.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 9) in an article said the BJP and Yogi Adityanath, with the help of goondas, have created an atmosphere due to which opposition voters have failed to reach polling booths and exercise their franchise.

**Hamara Samaj** (March 13) in its editorial expressed surprise over the election outcome in Uttar Pradesh and said the beneficiary class who received free ration and cash assistance had played a major role in bringing BJP back to power. The second reason is Mayawati's lethargy in the election campaign and she transferred her vote bank to BJP. However, Samajwadi Party has increased its strength though it failed to come to power. The reason for this is its poor election management and strategy. The biggest reason for Congress's failure is that it has failed to emerge itself as an alternative to BJP in the minds of people.

**Etemaad** (March 11) in its editorial said the BJP's return to power in Uttar Pradesh means that the roots of Hindutva in the country has got a major boost. Now there will not be any difficulty for Modi to come back to power again in 2024. Had the BSP and Congress also stood with Akhilesh, then the situation could have been different. Now, after the election results, the Congress should shut down its shop. It is badly caught in groupism and has lost its way. Congress is like a horse where nobody has the courage to take control of it. The newspaper said that Modi wanted to remove Yogi from the post of Chief Minister but due to the support of Sangh Parivar he could not achieve his aim. Uttar Pradesh elections was not just an election, instead it was a comprehensive political plan in which the entire administrative machinery stood with it. As far as Punjab is concerned, due to the victory of Aam Aadmi Party, a new era has begun in the state. ■

## 14 killed in Bhagalpur bomb blast



**Inqilab** (March 4) reports that at least 14 people were killed on the spot and a dozen were injured when a bomb exploded nearly 100 metres away from Tatarpur police station in Kajwali Chak village in Bhagalpur. According to police, the explosion took place during the making of a bomb. At least four buildings were totally destroyed in the explosion. While removing the debris, the police got several kilograms of gunpower and iron nails. The police are investigating the incident from several angles. An FSL team was specially brought in for the investigation. On the directions of the Director General of Police, the incharge of Tatarpur police station has been suspended. The police claimed that bomb was being illegally manufactured at the spot. In this connection, the local police got complaints several times but they did not take any action. The Chief Minister of Bihar has ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident. However, the police claimed that the factory where the bomb was being manufactured has been functioning there for several decades and firecrackers were being manufactured there. However, the biggest flaw in this police claim is that iron nails are never used in the manufacture of firecrackers. Iron nails

are used only in the manufacture of bombs so that maximum number of people gets killed due to the nails. The mohalla where the explosion took place was very congested. Hence it took a lot of time to evacuate the dead and injured from the area.

Former Deputy Mayor of Bhagalpur, Preeti Shekhar said similar explosions had taken place in the area in the past as well but the police had suppressed such incidents. She said she was not happy with the police stand. She demanded that a fair investigation be held into the incident so that the conspirators and the intentions of those who made the bombs could be unravelled. She said that an inquiry should also be conducted to find out the organisations linked to those involved in this business. The Chief Minister has handed over the investigation into the incident to ATS. It has registered six cases in this connection. It is said that the land and the building belong to Mohammad Azad. Many people staying in the locality died in the blast. Mohammad Azad claimed that he had given the building on rent and he has no connection with this incident. Earlier also similar blasts took place in 2002, 2008 and in 2021.



## Uproar in Bihar Assembly



**Inquilab** (March 12) reports that there was a huge uproar in Bihar Assembly when the Speaker extended the timing of the session during the time of Juma namaz. When Speaker of Vidhan Sabha Vijay Kumar Sinha directed the continuation of proceedings of the House, the Opposition members trooped into the well of the House and launched a protest and said that as per the rules of the Assembly, the House adjourns at 12.30 during Juma so that people can go for namaz. When the Speaker refused to accept the demand of AIMIM legislator Akhtarul Iman and RJD legislator Akhtar Shahin in this connection, they were supported by Congress legislator Vijay Shankar Dubey who alleged that the Speaker has shelved all the rules of the House and is starting a new tradition. Later a huge uproar erupted in the House. In reply to it, the BJP members also shouted slogans. The Speaker said those who want to offer namaz can go outside

and do so. The uproar continued for some time on the issue. The House adjourned after the ruckus. BJP MLA Pawan Jaiswal said it is totally wrong to run the House on the basis of religion. On this, he had a clash with the members of the Opposition.

**Inquilab** (March 8) reports that a huge uproar took place in Vidhan Sabha also when BJP legislator Kumar Shailendra described minorities as anti-nationals. Opposition members entered the well of the House and shouted slogans and boycotted the House. They demanded that Kumar Shailendra should apologise for his comments, but he refused to do so. Later CPI(M) and AIMIM legislator Akhtarul Iman held a joint press conference and demanded that the Speaker suspend the BJP legislator who described minorities as anti-nationals. This is because the new tradition, that has been started, is against minorities. This cannot be tolerated. ■

## Tablighi Markaz at Nizamuddin not to open now



**Roznama Sahara** (March 15) reports that the Home ministry has opposed in Delhi High Court the opening of the Markaz of Tablighi Jamaat situated in Nizamuddin colony. In March 2020, during the outbreak of Corona pandemic, an international meet of Tablighi Jamaat was held in this Markaz. Later, many people associated with Tablighi Jamaat were arrested from different parts of the country on charges of spreading Corona and the Markaz was sealed. The Markaz remained closed since then. The Markaz is situated in a mosque named Banglawali Masjid. There is also a madrasa in the complex. This month, Tablighi Jamaat had demanded in Delhi High Court that in view of Ramzan and Shab-e-Barat, the Markaz should be opened, but the Home ministry opposed this proposal. Later the high court granted permission to Tablighi Jamaat to open the Markaz to celebrate Shab-e-Barat. The government advocate said the Markaz is a case property and the petitioner has no right to seek its reopening. Right from the beginning itself the court had given permission to some people to take care of the Markaz. Meanwhile, the lawyer of Tablighi Jamaat said all the restrictions imposed in the wake of Corona pandemic have been lifted in Delhi. Hence its seal should also be removed.

**Hamara Samaj** (March 15) has claimed that the chairman of Delhi Waqf Board and Aam Aadmi Party legislator Amanatullah Khan has been trying to get the Markaz reopened. This is because it

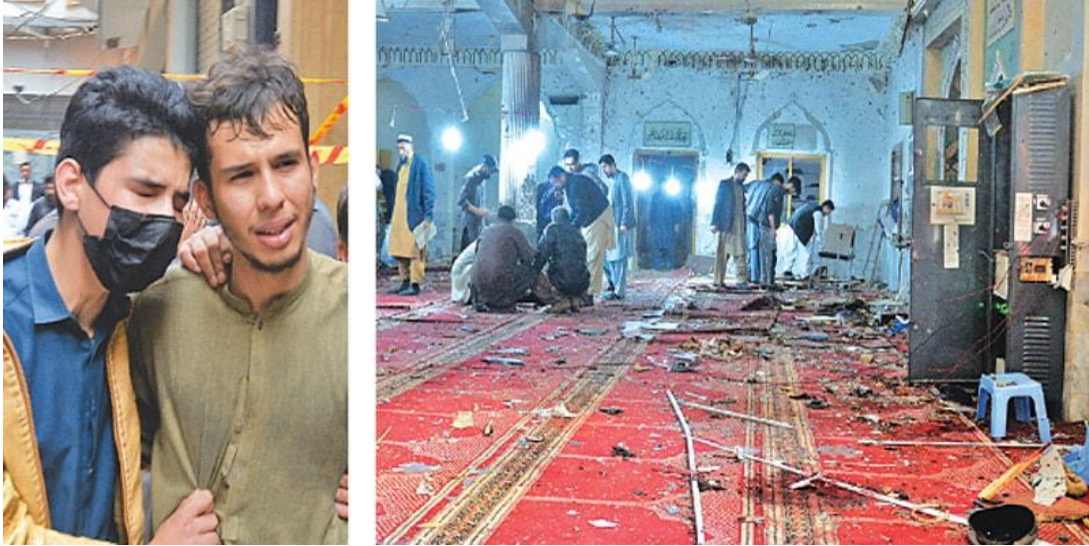
was sealed due to Corona pandemic. The court has directed him to approach the local police in this connection. His article in which he has criticised the continued locking of Tablighi Jamaat has been published in different newspapers in the country.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 12) has published an article in which it has been alleged that the government has been deliberately interfering in the religious affairs of Muslims and they are not given permission to offer namaz in the Markaz which is their fundamental right. It has alleged that the government policy is anti-Muslim and hence they are deliberately stopping the propagation of Islam.

**Inquilab** (March 15) reports that the government is adamant on its stand on not giving permission to open the Tablighi Jamaat Markaz located in Nizamuddin colony in Delhi. It has once again told the high court that the court had granted permission to offer namaz to 50 people earlier itself. Hence the entire Markaz cannot be opened.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 11) reports that a Muslim leader, Ubaid Khan, while accusing the Central government of adopting an anti-Muslim policy, said dozens of cases registered against the activists of Tablighi Jamaat in various courts in the country have all been dismissed. This is because the court did not find Tablighi Jamaat as guilty. Despite this, the Tablighi Markaz is not reopened in order to deliberately harass Muslims. ■

## Shias in Pakistan face onslaught



**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 5) states that the number of namazis killed in a suicide attack in a Shia mosque in Peshawar has crossed 62. This apart, more than 200 others are undergoing treatment in a serious condition in different hospitals in the city.

**Siasat** (March 5) reports that the blast took place at the Shia Jama Masjid in Kissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar. The interior minister of Pakistan, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, said that a suicide group was behind the attack and three fidayeens linked to this group entered the masjid and triggered the bomb tied to their body, blowing themselves up. He said the security agencies did not give indication of any possible attack before the incident. However, the Peshwar police claimed that when the attackers tried to enter the masjid, the policemen deployed on the spot stopped them. Soon, they shot dead the two policemen. According to Pakistani media, it is being said in the beginning that the hands of a neighbouring country was suspected behind the attack, but according to **Mumbai Urdu News** (March 6), Jihadi organisation Islamic State admitted that they were behind the attack. Interior minister Sheikh Rashid claimed that the intelligence sources had found those

responsible for the attack and they would soon be arrested. According to Pakistani media, later five suspicious persons were taken into custody by police in this connection. However, the police have so far did not provide any information regarding the arrested persons.

**Inqilab** (March 6) reports that the United Nations has expressed concern over the incident and appealed to different countries in the world to extend help to Pakistan government to arrest those people accused in the case and the organisations responsible for the incident.

**Inqilab** (March 7) reports that after the incident, Shias held protests in different cities of Pakistan and alleged that the Pakistan government has failed in providing security to them. In Pakistan, there are many such organisations that target Shias and their imambaras in an organised manner. In this connection, the Shia organisations have named Taliban, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Sipah-e-Sahaba and Lashkar-e-Jhanghvi. Protests took place in Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Kandhkot, Lahore, Multan, Gujranwala, Parachinagar and Muzzafarabad in Pakistan.

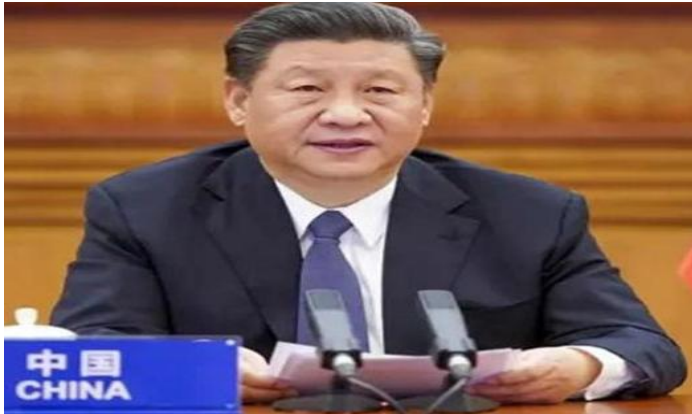
**Siasat** (March 9) in its editorial has expressed concern over the increasing

violence between different sects of Muslims and said that after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, the threat for Shias has increased. In the past two years, more than 200 Shias were killed in different blasts in Pakistan. In Afghanistan, the terrorists of Islamic State are active and they have been targeting Shias. Though Islamic State claims to be a Muslim organisation, they are selectively targeting Muslims. According to analysts, Islamic State has spread its network throughout Pakistan and the Shias in the country have become their target.

According to the newspaper, two other fundamentalist Sunni organisations of Pakistan, Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and Tehreek-e-Labbak, are also actively taking part in the anti-Shia campaign. When

Pakistan was established, it was claimed that it would be an Islamic country where every Muslim would be able to live amicably. But as soon as Pakistan was established, its first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan was killed in broad daylight and till today, his killers remain unidentified. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who made Pakistan a nuclear power, was hanged to death. General Zia-ul-Haq, who was demanding a revival of Khilafat Islamia with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, was finished off by some secret powers by exploding bomb. Nawaz Sharif, who was trying to make Pakistan a strong power, had to flee from this country. The growing tension between different sects of Muslims in Pakistan is a grave threat to both Islam and Pakistan.

## Increase in the defence budget of China



**Inqilab** (March 12) reports that China has made an increase of 229 billion dollars in its defence budget. It is clear from this that China is strengthening itself compared to the past from the military point of view and it is not only trying to challenge its neighbours but the US as well. After the US, China spends the maximum money on its military in the world and the strength of its regular soldiers is nearly 30 lakh which is considered as the largest Army in the world. This apart, it is equipped with world's most modern weapon systems including fighter planes, most modern

missiles, aircraft carriers and submarines equipped with nuclear weapons.

Though China's economy suffered a huge jolt due to Corona pandemic, it is still regularly strengthening its military power and equipping its military with modern arms and ammunition. China is self-dependent in weapon systems and the People's Liberation Army plays a major role in the country's administration. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is also the head of the Communist Party, is also the head of the military. According to military experts, China is trying to annex Taiwan and encroach into Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. This apart, China is trying to encircle India in a string of pearls by signing military treaties with India's neighbours. Recently, it has signed several military agreements with Sri Lanka. After improving its relations with Russia, it has once again resorted to expansionist policies.

## Welfare schemes for Bihari Muslims in Bangladesh

**Roznama Sahara** (March 8) reports that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that a number of projects have been initiated for the welfare of Urdu-speaking Muslims, who are called as Biharis in that country, on humanitarian basis. According to Bangladesh News Service, during the Partition of India, lakhs of Urdu-speaking Muslims migrated to East Pakistan and settled there. During the liberation movement of Bangladesh, these people opposed local Bengalis and strongly supported Pakistan. When 90,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered in Dhaka, these Urdu-speaking Muslims had the hope that the Pakistan government would accept them and would allow them to settle in West Pakistan. However, the Pakistan government did not allow them to enter the country and they started staying separately from the local residents in different camps



in Bangladesh itself. Their financial condition is deteriorating day by day. However, they have been extended some help on behalf of United Nations but so far they have not become self-dependent.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that currently there are 15 lakh to 20 lakh Urdu-speaking Muslims in Bangladesh. She said that a large number of their younger generation was born after 1971. They are hard-working and they have the desire to work. The Bangladesh government wants to create employment opportunities for them on humanitarian basis so that they can stay properly in Bangladesh. They are staying in rehabilitation camps set up for them in 13 districts for the past several decades. The number of Bihari Muslims staying in the Geneva camp in national capital Dhaka is said to be nearly 2 lakh. Till now they are totally dependent on the help extended to them on behalf of United Nations.

## Sirajuddin Haqqani comes out of exile



**Siasat** (March 7) reports that the most controversial figure in Afghanistan, Sirajuddin Haqqani, has appeared in public for the first time at a function in Kabul. He addressed the passing out parade of National Police Academy. Along with him was the Deputy Prime Minister of

Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. He addressed police cadets and media for the first time during the function. It is to be noted that Haqqani is regarded as the most dangerous terrorist. He is the head of the dreaded organisation Haqqani Network. The US had announced a reward of 1 crore dollars on his head. After Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, he has been made the foreign minister of the country.

However, so far he had never appeared in public. It is being said that the Afghan government is worried that any US agent will target him. This is because he is among the 'most wanted' in the list of US security agencies.

## Western nations on a weapon-buying spree



**Inquilab** (March 15) reports that a race to keep a stockpile of arms and ammunition has started among different countries of the world. As per a report, between 2017 and 2021, there is a decline of 5% in the trade of arms and ammunition. However, despite that there is a 19% increase in the purchase of weapons by European nations. The maximum number of weapons was purchased by European nations. They are also making a huge increase in their defence budget and purchasing arms and ammunition from foreign nations in large quantity. The maximum number of weapons is traded by the US. In the second position is Russia. However, there is a 26% decline in weapons trade in Russia recently. The main reason for this is the less purchase of Russian weapons by India and Vietnam.

According to arms dealers of the world, India is likely to buy arms and ammunition in large quantity from Russia in the near future. Recently, many countries in the Europe had announced that due to the changing atmosphere in the world, it has become necessary for them to increase their defence budget. Recently, Germany made a huge hike in their defence budget. Denmark and Sweden had also given the indication to increase purchase of weapon systems. Due to this, there is a 10% increase in the participation of European nations in the international weapons market and it is set to increase further. Every country buys weapons from international market in a secret manner and hence it is not possible to say which country is spending how much on buying the weapons.

## 81 people get death sentence in Saudi Arabia



**Etemaad** (March 13) states that for the first time in the recent history of Saudi Arabia, 81 people were given death sentence in a single day. As per the tradition of Saudi Arabia, all the accused were publicly executed using swords outside the city's biggest mosque. The government press agency of Saudi Arabia has claimed that those who were awarded death sentence were either thieves or killers of innocent people. However, according to other sources, majority of those who were given death sentence were linked to Al Qaida, ISIS or Yemeni Houthis.

According to sources, majority of those who were given death sentence were Shias who were running a campaign against the Sunni rulers of Saudi Arabia for a long time. They were arrested on charges of holding protests against the government. According to the foreign affairs ministry of Iran, it has indefinitely suspended its proposed talks with Saudi Arabia while lodging a protest against the harassment of Shias by the Saudi government.

The Saudi Press Agency has claimed that those who were given death sentence

were provided legal aid by the government in order to argue their case. Majority of those who got death sentence were linked to the administrative services of Saudi Arabia. A spokesperson of Saudi government claimed that Saudi Arabia will not tolerate terrorism and violence under any circumstances and it would be crushed with an iron hand. This is because the peace and stability of the entire world would be in danger due to such acts.

According to government sources, in an earlier instance, 47 people were beheaded using swords in a single day in 2016. All these people were linked to the disgruntled Shia group active in Saudi Arabia. They had held protest marches against the government in Saudi Arabia. Following this incident, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran became strained and a mob attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and set it on fire. From that time, the diplomatic relationship between the two countries is on a decline and not restored yet. Later in 2019, 37 Shia rebels were given death sentence in one go

in a single day. They were accused of participating in terrorist activities.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 12) reports that extremist Islamic organisation Islamic State has confirmed that its Ameer-e-Ahla, Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al Qureshi, has been killed in an American attack. Abu Al-Hasan Al-Hashimi Al Qureshi has been nominated as his successor. It is to be noted that this terrorist organisation was founded in 2014.

Before this, its two Khalifas were also killed. A spokesperson of Islamic State said Abu Al Hasan will be the Ameer-e-Ahla of Muslims and their Khalifa Al Muslimeen. However, no information is available about the new Amir till now. It is being said that Abu Ibrahim during his life time itself had nominated him as his successor. The first Khalifa of Islamic State was Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, who was killed by the US military in October 2019.

## Corona restrictions end in Saudi Arabia

**Etemaad** (March 7) reports that due to decreasing cases of Corona, the Saudi government has announced lifting of all restrictions imposed on entry to Mecca and Medina. However, it is mandatory for those interested in doing namaz at Masjid-e-Nabwi in Mecca and Medina to get prior permission from the Haj ministry. According to Saudi government, all the posters directing to maintain social distancing at the circumambulation of Mecca and in and outside areas have been removed. On last Friday, 5 lakh people offered Juma Namaz. Now, those who arrive in Saudi Arabia need not conduct RT-PCR test but only those who have taken Corona vaccine will be allowed to enter the holy places and they have to wear masks. Restrictions on gathering of people



at public places have also been removed. This apart, the Saudi government has announced lifting of all restrictions imposed on the airlines of 17 nations but in order to do Umrah and offer namaz at the mazar of Hazrat Mohammad, prior permission is required. This step has been taken to stop huge crowds. The government has also announced insurance facility to all the visitors.

## Israeli parliament bans citizenship to Palestinians

**Inquilab** (March 12) reports that the Israeli parliament has passed a law as per which Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza strip are banned from obtaining the citizenship of Israel and from staying in the region. In Israel parliament, 45 votes were polled in support of the law while 15 votes went against it. Israel claimed that the law has been passed due to security reasons. However, analysts claim that the intention of Israel is to uproot the Palestinians from these places and settle Jewish population there.

The Israeli newspaper has published a news as per which a new Jewish colony is being set up in West Bank. It is being set up in Arad region which is located near the Egyptian border. In the new colony, 20,000 new flats are being constructed, in which one lakh Jews could stay. Shopping centre, medical centre, school, hospital and all other facilities will be available there. Extremist Islamic organisation of Palestine, Hamas, has protested the new project of Israel and described it as a violation of the UN resolution.



**Siasat** (March 13) in an editorial condemned Israel and said that the entire world is glued to the situation in Ukraine and taking advantage of this, Israel is openly infringing the human rights of

Palestinians and the United Nations is watching silently. The newspaper has urged Arab nations to remain alert about the increasing danger of Israel and oppose that country by forgetting their differences.

## Turkey ready for defence cooperation with Israel



**Hamara Samaj** (March 11) reports that Israel President Isaac Herzog visited Turkey after a gap of 14 years where he was welcomed by the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The presidents of both the countries declared that the visit of the Israel President will pave the way for a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries. Turkey will cooperate with Israel in the areas of defence and energy. This is the first time since 2007 that an Israeli leader visited Turkey. Erdogan said that it was an important beginning in our friendship with Israel. Our aim is to start a new age of peace and development in the region, he said.

It is to be noted that after the Russian attack on Ukraine, there is an improvement in the relationship between the two countries. In 2010, the relationship between the two countries

got strained when Turkey sent its ships in aid of Palestinians against the restrictions imposed in Gaza Strip. Israeli commandos attacked these warships in which at least 10 Turkey soldiers were killed. In 2011, when the United Nations released a report on this incident, Turkey expelled the Israeli Ambassador from the country. In 2018, when the US announced to open its embassy in Jerusalem, Turkey, while protesting against the decision, withdrew its Ambassador from Israel. The relations between the two countries got strained over this incident and it was also declared to end diplomatic relations. Last year, due to the efforts of former US President Donald Trump, the relations between Turkey and Israel improved a lot.

**Etemaad** (March 12) in its editorial criticised the increasing close relationship between the two countries.

The newspaper wrote that after decades of war and enmity in the Middle East region, Israel is making efforts to re-establish its relationship with Arab nations and it is getting all kinds of support from the US in this connection. The new leadership of Saudi Arabia wants to shift from the country's dependency on oil production and supply to tourism and trade in order to take advantage of its relationship with Jews, apart from Western nations. However, if this friendship goes against Palestine and Iran, then it would be a concern for Muslims across the world. The entire world knows that on whose behest Israel was established in Arab world. Due to the support of Western nations, Israel is emerging stronger day by day. On the other hand, Muslim nations are digging each other's grave. The Muslim nations should put pressure on Israel so that the Palestinians get their genuine rights.

However, history is witness to the fact that the Jews had always stabbed the Muslims in the back and cheated them. Hence Muslim nations should avoid falling into the trap of Israel.

The newspaper has written that after a gap of 14 years, due to the pressure of the US, Israel and Turkey have started a new era of friendship and the Muslim world has to keep an eye on them. The two countries have announced cooperation in defence and energy sector and the foreign minister and energy minister of Turkey will soon visit Israel. After this, the newspaper also mentioned about the animosity between the two nations. The newspaper said that the trade relations between Israel and Turkey are also growing day by day. Currently, trade worth 8 billion dollars take place between the two countries which is expected to reach 10 billion dollars in the current year.

## Iran sends its second military satellite to space



**Inqilab** (March 11) reports that Iran has announced that it has successfully sent a second military satellite to the space. The satellite is revolving round the earth nearly 500 kilometres away in the atmosphere. Earlier in April 2020, Iran had sent its first military satellite 'Noor' to space which is still revolving around the earth. Iran's defence ministry has claimed that it is a major success for its military. Western

nations and Israel expressed concern over Iran sending satellite to space. The US defence experts claimed that the way Iran had sent its military satellites to space and also securing ballistic technology, they would be able to make nuclear weapons. This can lead to imbalance of power in the world. Iran, however, refuted this claim of the US and said that it is not making any ballistic missile or nuclear weapons under the cover of this programme.

Iranian news agency 'Tasneem' reports that the new satellite sent by Iran is named as 'Noor-2.' It was sent to space with the help of a rocket named 'Qased' from Shahroud spaceport. It uses both liquid and solid fuels. It is to be noted that a few missions of Iran to send satellites to space had failed in the past.

## Delhi imams get salary dues of 11 months



**Inquilab** (March 13) reports that the Delhi Waqf Board has announced that the imams and muezzins in the over 4,000 registered masjids in the national capital have been paid their entire dues and the money have reached their accounts. It is to be noted that the Delhi Waqf Board pays Rs 10,000 to imams and Rs 7,000 to muazzins per month. Waqf board office-

bearer Mahfooz Mohammad told reporters that they were not able to pay the salaries as they did not get the required aid from the Revenue department of Delhi government. It is to be noted that for the past one month, the imams and muezzins were staging a dharna outside Waqf board office due to non-payment of wages.

## Colourful chadar presented on the Urs of Shahjahan

**Inquilab** (March 2) reports that the Urs of Mughal Emperor Shahjahan was celebrated at Taj Mahal. On this occasion, devotees presented a 1,381 metre colourful chadar on his mazar. It is to be noted that this was Shahjahan's 367<sup>th</sup> Urs which was celebrated for three days. The chadar

presented on Shahjahan's mazar was sent on behalf of Hanuman Mandir. This tradition started 25 years ago. It has been named as Hindustani colourful chadar. The preparation to make this chadar begins one month before. It is painted with different colours and stars are pinned on it.

## Order to return property worth crores to Waqf Board

**Roznama Sahara** (March 5) reports that the District Magistrate of Patna has directed the Hasan Imam Waqf Trust that they vacate the Waqf property within a month and hand over the same to Shia Waqf board. It is being said that the property is valued at crores of rupees.

According to the newspaper, Hasan Imam Waqf has illegally sold eight properties. Now since Shia Waqf Board has made a complaint on this, an inquiry is being undertaken into the scam. The District Magistrate has directed the buyers of this Waqf property to

immediately vacate the property and hand over the same to Bihar State Shia Waqf Board. Shia Waqf Board chairperson Afzal Abbas said that these Waqf properties were sold off by mafia gangs

in an illegal manner on which the administration has filed a complaint. After an inquiry into the complaint, the administration directed that the property be handed over to Waqf board.

## Muslim member nominated to National Assembly in Nepal



Mohammad Khalid Siddiqui, in a function organised at 'Singha Darbar' took oath of office. Later he was welcomed at the office of Jamiat Ulema Nepal. On this occasion, Khalid said that earlier he was in Congress but later he joined People's Socialist Party. The chief of this party, Upendra Yadav, nominated me to the National Assembly. It is the first time that a

**Inquilab** (March 7) reports that the head of the Jamiat Ulema of Nepal, Mufti

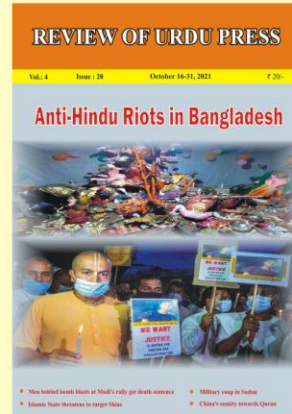
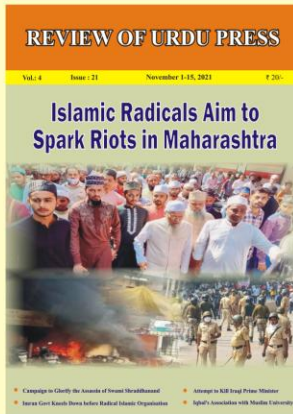
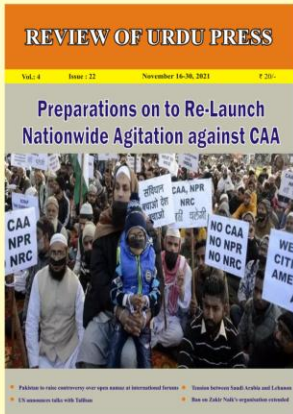
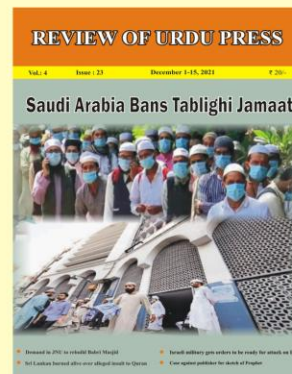
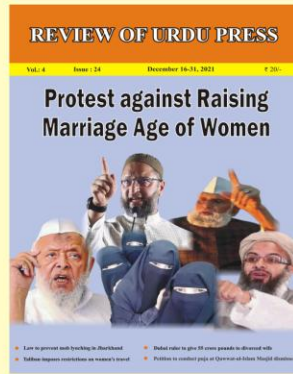
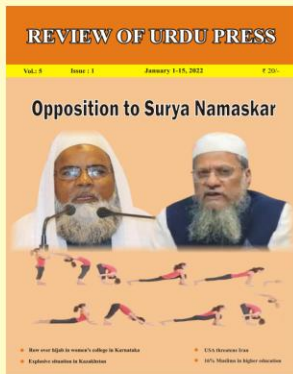
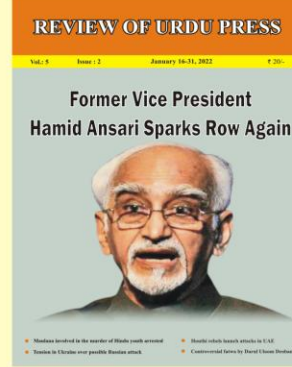
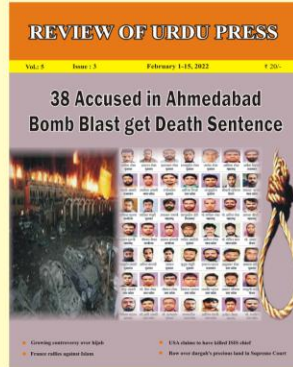
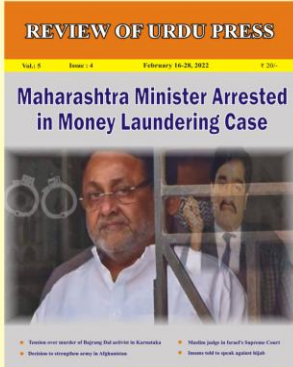
Muslim has been nominated to the national assembly of Nepal.

## Friday prayers in Jamia Masjid in Srinagar after 30 weeks

**Salar** (March 5) reports that thousands of people offered namaz at the old Jamia Masjid located in Jammu and Kashmir capital Srinagar after a gap of nearly 30 weeks. Earlier, the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police visited the Jamia masjid region and inspected the arrangements for namaz. Haji Ghulam Mohammad said that he was very happy that namaz has started again in this historic masjid. According to an office-bearer of Anjuman Waqf, due to the house arrest of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the Friday sermon



was delivered by Syed Ahmad Naksbandi. In this connection, the police had made tight security arrangements so that no untoward incident could take place.



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