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Maharashtra Politicians under the Lens of Central Agencies



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- Plans afoot to send Imran Khan to jail
- Differences among members of royal family in Jordan
- Zakir Naik's organisation declared unlawful

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Summary

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been forced to leave his office. He used every means to save his position. The Opposition parties moved a no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly. Imran knew it very well that his party had no majority in the National Assembly and it would be difficult for him to save his chair. In order to upstage the plans of Opposition, he recommended Pakistan President Arif Alvi to dissolve the National Assembly even before the discussion on no-confidence motion came up in the House and Alvi gave his nod immediately. The Opposition parties knocked at the door of the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of Pakistan described the decision of President to dissolve the National Assembly as illegal and directed that a session of the National Assembly be convened and a vote on the no-confidence motion be held.

Imran Khan did not mind sabotaging even this decision of the Supreme Court. President Arif Alvi fell ill at his behest and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly resigned from their posts. In order to overcome this Constitutional crisis, the Chief Justice had to give the direction that the session of the National Assembly shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Upper House (Senate) of Pakistan Parliament. Describing this session as 'unconstitutional' Imran Khan got all the MPs of his Tehreek-e-Insaf party resign from their post. Later a new Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif, who is the younger brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has been elected. The Pakistan government has also started an investigation into the corruption charges against Imran Khan so that he could be sent to jail.

The reins of the Pakistan government are always in the hands of Army and America. No leader can stay in power in Pakistan by annoying the two. Imran Khan invited the wrath of the US by openly supporting the newly formed Taliban government in Afghanistan. The US had summoned Pakistan's Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa to New York and conveyed its displeasure with Imran Khan. Bajwa was already upset with Imran Khan. This is because he got information that Imran Khan would not be extending his tenure and wanted to make ISI chief Faiz Hameed as his successor. Russia has alleged that Imran visited Moscow against the wishes of US, hence the US removed him from power in order to take revenge. The US, however, has refuted this allegation. Meanwhile, the truth is that in Pakistan, it is not possible for governments to complete their tenures without the support of the US.

The Saudi Arabian government has permitted Muslims from across the world to do Haj after a gap of two years. Due to Corona pandemic, the Saudi government had imposed a ban on foreigners from doing Haj for the past two years. This year, 10 lakh Hajis have been given permission to do Haj. However, till now it is not clear how much is the quota among them for Indians. This is because this year Indian Muslims have not taken any special interest in doing Haj and hence an extension has been given on the last date to submit the application and allow more and more Indian Muslims to do Haj.

A number of leaders of Maharashtra have come under the scanner of Enforcement Directorate. The most powerful minister of Nationalist Congress Party, Nawab Malik, has been arrested on charges of money laundering and his properties worth billions of rupees have been seized. Similarly, the Enforcement Directorate seized properties worth billions of rupees of Shiv Sena's most vocal parliamentarian Sanjay Raut. An investigation is being conducted against him on different charges.



Many Maharashtra politicians under the lens of central agencies



Many leaders of Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra have come under the scanner of Enforcement Directorate and other Central investigating agencies.

Aurangabad Times (April 14) reports that the Enforcement Directorate has taken action against Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik and seized his properties worth billions of rupees. These properties include five flats and a 148-acre land situated in Osmanabad. This action was taken by Enforcement Directorate due to money laundering. According to sources in Central government, three of the five flats of Nawab Malik that have been seized are in Kurla region in Mumbai while two are in Bandra region. The case is being investigated by Enforcement Directorate and National Investigation Agency. The Enforcement Directorate said that the properties were bought using the money obtained from dealings with terrorist Dawood Ibrahim. Hence all these immovable properties have been seized. Nawab Malik also owns a manufacturing company and it is called Malik Infrastructure. This property was purchased

by him. The investigating agencies are probing whether Nawab Malik had mentioned this property in the affidavit he filed during the elections or not.

Nawab Malik questioned his arrest before the Bombay High Court. His lawyer Kapil Sibal argued in the court that Nawab Malik was arrested in an illegal manner. Sibal said that the section under which Nawab Malik was arrested by Enforcement Directorate came into existence in 2005. However, the allegations against him that are being probed relate to dealings that took place before 2000. It has been argued in the high court on behalf of the Central government that the FIR has been registered against Nawab Malik under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of which he has been arrested on February 23. Since then he is in jail. The high court has rejected his petition. Now he has knocked at the door of the Supreme Court.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 3) states that the lawyer of Nawab Malik has questioned the decision of the Bombay High Court and claimed that his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate is illegal and it

is a violation of his fundamental rights. He alleged that all these flats were brought by him nearly 22 years ago. Now he has been trapped in fake charges due to political animosity.

Aurangabad Times (April 6) reports that the Enforcement Directorate has seized properties worth crores of rupees belonging to the family of Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut. This action was taken over the Patra Chawl land scam. The properties seized by Enforcement Directorate include eight flats located in Alibagh and one flat in Dadar. Some of these properties belong to a relative of Sanjay Raut named Pravin Raut, while properties worth nearly Rs 2 crore belong to the wife of Sanjay Raut. In this connection, the Enforcement Directorate had arrested businessman Pravin Raut in February. Last year, the investigating agencies had questioned in length Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut in connection with PMC Bank scam and the wife of Pravin Raut, Madhuri, for her links with them.

Sanjay Raut said the Central government is putting pressure on him through Central agencies due to political animosity. As per the rule, the Enforcement Directorate had to issue a notice before seizing a property, which they did not do. The Maharashtra unit president of Nationalist Congress Party and minister for irrigation Jayant Patil alleged that the investigating agencies are deliberately harassing Sanjay Raut at the behest of the Central government. The reason for this is that Sanjay Raut has exposed the corruption by a BJP leader, Kirit Somaiya. The Central government has taken this action as a revenge step. He said that since the BJP could not form the government in 2019, they are trapping their opponents in fake cases in order to harass them.

Siasat (April 8) reports that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, while targeting BJP leader and former MP Kirit Somaiya, said he and his son Neil Somaiya will have to go to jail in INS Vikrant scandal. It is to be noted that the Mumbai Police had registered a cheating case against BJP

leader Kirit Somaiya and his son Neil Somaiya allegedly for misusing Rs 57 crore collected from the public in the name of saving decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. This case was registered at Trombay police station on the basis of a complaint filed by a Navy man. It is to be noted that INS Vikrant was commissioned into Indian Navy in 1961 and played a significant role in the liberation of Bangladesh. In January 2014, the Central government decided to do an online auction of this aircraft carrier. In order to save this aircraft and turn it into a museum, Kirit Somaiya sought donation from the public, during which Rs 57 crore were collected. However, from this fund only Rs 2 crore were donated to the office of the Maharashtra Governor and the BJP leader allegedly grabbed rest of the money.

Avadhnama (April 12) reports that recently when the leader of the Nationalist Congress Party Sharad Pawar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi, the corridors of power were filled with all kinds of speculations over the meeting. Later dismissing all such speculations, Sharad Pawar said that the Central government is harassing the leaders of NCP and Shiv Sena by trapping them in fake cases. He met the Prime Minister in order to draw his attention towards this issue. He said that action was taken against Sanjay Raut because he has been highlighting the scams of the Modi government and the BJP. Sharad Pawar said that the Maharashtra government is strong and the conspiracy hatched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to overthrow the government will never succeed. The BJP and the Central government are annoyed with Sanjay Raut because he had exposed the scandal worth crores of rupees by a BJP leader and his son.

The newspaper said that before the elections, former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had inducted many leaders of Congress and NCP into the BJP. The prominent among them include Kripashankar Singh and Narayan Rane. The strange thing is that earlier the BJP

leaders had accused Kripashankar Singh of amassing properties worth Rs 300 crore through corrupt means. But after taking dip in a holy Gangalike BJP, he has become pure and all the corruption charges levelled against him have been thrown into the dustbin. In the same manner, another leader of BJP, Kirit Somaiya, demanded registration of cases against Narayan Rane after raising corruption charges against seven companies owned by him. However, in 2019, when Narayan Rane took refuge in BJP, all his sins got washed away and he was made a minister at the Centre.

Inquilab (April 9) has published an article titled, 'Naked dance of political opportunism in Maharashtra.' In this article, Azam Saheb has alleged that the Central government has been trapping many opposition leaders in Maharashtra in fake cases due to political vendetta. In this connection, the writer has mentioned the cases of former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh, Nawab Malik and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut. Raut has stated it clearly that the Central government had been putting pressure on him to cooperate in its effort to topple the Maharashtra government. When he refused to budge to the diktats of the Modi government, he was booked in fake charges. The BJP unleashed a campaign against Nawab Malik because he exposed the Narcotics Control Bureau's trapping of Aryan Khan, son of film star Shah Rukh Khan in a fake case. Later when the Central government targeted Nawab Malik, Sanjay Raut was the first to defend Nawab Malik.

Nawab Malik has alleged that the connections of former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis are with mafia don. After this, the BJP went on a back foot. Annoyed over this, the Central government has directed Enforcement Directorate to trap Nawab Malik and finally arrested him. BJP had this hope that after the arrest of Nawab Malik, differences will erupt in the

ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. But what happened was just the opposite. All the political parties which are part of the ruling front in Maharashtra got united. That time, Sanjay Raut, while addressing a press conference, said that Nawab Malik was not arrested, instead he was kidnapped. People from outside came and took away one of our ministers. We will not tolerate this.

The newspaper alleged that ever since the Maha Vikas Aghadi government came to power in Maharashtra, different Central agencies are pulling out issues related to the leaders of NCP and Shiv Sena at the behest of the Central government. Now everyone knows that the Enforcement Directorate is targeting the leaders of Maharashtra in order to ensure that Shiv Sena comes out of the alliance and gets into a tie-up with BJP and brings it back to power.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 10) in its editorial condemned the trapping of NCP and Shiv Sena leaders in fake cases by the ruling BJP government at the Centre and alleged that the BJP wants to establish its own governments across the country and has brought a plan to marginalise all other Opposition parties. The Opposition parties have understood this game plan of BJP. They know it very well that the BJP and Sangh Parivar want their own dominance in the country's politics. They want to suppress the democratic setup and want only one party to remain in power. The newspaper has appealed to all Opposition parties that they should remain united to take on the dictatorship of BJP, otherwise their existence will be in danger for ever.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 4) has titled its editorial as 'Operation Lotus in Maharashtra.' It has been alleged in the editorial that the BJP government, in order to overthrow the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, is using Raj Thackeray.

Reaction to RSS chief's statement on Akhand Bharat



Urdu newspapers did not like the claim of the Sarsanghchalak of RSS Dr Mohan Bhagwat that Akhand Bharat would be realised in another 15 years.

Inquilab (April 15), while carrying the statement of Mohan Bhagwat as its main story on its front page, gave its headline as 'Bhagwat claims Akhand Bharat will be formed in 15 years.' According to the newspaper, amid creating an atmosphere of hatred in the country and incidents of regular targeting of the minorities, RSS has claimed to form Akhand Bharat in 15 years. The RSS chief also claimed Sanatan Dharma is the Hindu Rashtra. He claimed that Hindustan would once again become Akhand Bharat in 15 years and everyone would be able to see it with their own eyes. He also said that no one would be able to stop Akhand Bharat. Those who come in its way will disappear. The RSS chief said that we will talk about Ahimsa while carrying a stick in the hand. There is no hatred or enmity in our hearts and minds. If the world understands only the language of power, then what can we do. He said that in any case, Akhand Bharat would be formed in 20-25 years. But if we can make little effort, then we would be able to form Akhand Bharat that were in

the dreams of Swami Vivekanand and Maharshi Aravind in a span of 10-15 years. Nobody would be able to stop this.

He further said that India is progressing on the path of development. Everybody should come together in this path of progress and should not try to stop this. Those who want to become obstacles in the path will get disappeared. Those who don't want to come along should remain off the path. The so-called people who are opposed to Sanatan Dharma will also cooperate in this. Because if they don't oppose this, the Hindu will not wake up. They remain asleep. Hindustan will rise in the path of dharma. For the past 1,000 years, efforts were being made to finish off Sanatan Dharma. Such people have disappeared, but Sanatan Dharma and we are still present.

Meanwhile, general secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist) Sitaram Yechury criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat on Akhand Bharat and said that RSS is playing with the emotions of the people. What is this Akhand Bharat? They win by spreading these kind of hatred. Its outcome is often violence. Please tell Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan what exactly

Akhand Bharat is. Such people are playing with the sentiments of people. If they think that they get people's support by such tactics, then they are making a huge mistake. The nation's unity, integrity and multiculturalism could be sustained only on the strength of social harmony, communal amity and unity. The way such feelings are thrown to the winds, it is an insult to a great nation like Bharat.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut also criticised the statement of Bhagwat and said that you may please create Akhand Bharat. But don't take 15 years, make a promise of creating it in 15 days. He said that before one talks about Akhand Bharat, the Pak Occupied Kashmir should be merged with Bharat. After this, Pakistan should also be merged with Bharat. All those regions to which Bharat's border once extended, should be merged with Bharat. Merge Sri Lanka and then create a super power. Nobody is stopping you. But before this, ensure that Kashmiri Pandits can go back to their home. If you do it, then we will extend all kinds of support to you.

Commenting sarcastically on the statement of Mohan Bhagwat on Akhand Bharat, **Inquilab** (April 16) asked how can these people who can't tolerate 15% Muslims in the country will tolerate 45% Muslims? A long list of questions has come up on social media over his statement. Some questions are like, 'Which all countries will be part of the Akhand Bharat.? Will Afghanistan be also inducted along with Taliban? Why wait for 15 years, why can't it be in 15 days? Will Akhand Bharat need rulers like Aurangzeb? These kind of reactions have started pouring in social media over the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. In any case, it is being said about Akhand Bharat that its borders reach Afghanistan and Iran. Will Pakistan and Bangladesh be part of this? This apart many countries like Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Myanmar are said to be part Akhand Bharat.

The supporters of Akhand Bharat, apart from the dates for the formation of the state, also presented a map of Akhand

Bharat. A person named Sandeep Shinde tweeted that Hindustan is getting dismembered for the past 150 years. Akhand Bharat should be the dream of every nationalist Hindu. Come, first let's make Hindustan a Hindu Rashtra, then comes Akhand Bharat. Taking part on the debate on Akhand Bharat, Congress spokesperson Pavan Khera said that Mohan Bhagwat wants an Akhand Bharat where there will be 45% Muslims. However, he is not able to tolerate the 15% Muslims in Bharat. From this his intellectual bankruptcy is very clear. Congress leader P Chidambaram said that the governments in Pakistan and Sri Lanka are in trouble. The supporters of Akhand Bharat should come up with a proposal to merge them with Bharat. Commenting on the reaction of Sanjay Raut to the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, one person said that the first foreign minister of Akhand Bharat will be Sanjay Raut. Another person has written that Modi had told us to wait for 25 years. But now Mohan Bhagwat has told us to wait for 15 years.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 4) states that the chief of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Mohan Bhagwat has claimed that Kashmiri Pandits would soon be able to return to their ancestral houses. They should be settled there in such a way that in future they should not be uprooted from there. Mentioning about 'Kashmir Files' he said that the film portrays the situation of Kashmiri Pandits which has shaken the whole country. Addressing Kashmiri Pandits online, he said that some people are in support of Kashmir Files. While some others describe it as half-truths. However, it is the opinion of the common people in the country. The film has brought out the truth before the country and highlighted the pain of those who have become homeless and it has shaken us also. Now time has come for us that we go there depending on the situation there and settle there. BJP's spokesperson for Jammu and Kashmir region G L Raina said that this is the first time that Mohan Bhagwat is addressing Kashmiri Pandits on



the occasion of Kashmiri new year Navreh. He said that during the new year programme, we remember our ancestors and take inspiration from them. Life comes and goes in any situation. Hence there is no need to get worried.

Inquilab (April 15) states that during an Iftaar party organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch at Ghalib Institute in Delhi, the member of national executive of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Indresh Kumar said that 40% Muslim population of Pakistan lead a painful life there as Sindhi, Balochi, Pashtuni and Muzaffarbadi. The local people there call them Mohajirs and view them with hatred. He said that the Muslim Rashtriya Manch demands that the harassment of Muslims be stopped in Pakistan. He said that the British wanted to divide Bharat into two portions -- Aryan and Dravidian. But when Bhimrao Ambedkar adopted Buddhist religion, their plans were foiled. The British promoted Nehru and Jinnah and planned the Partition of the country by planting the seeds of hatred between the Hindus and Muslims of Hindustan and they succeeded in it.

Indresh Kumar said that there are several festivals related to April 14. Today is Mahavir Jayanti and Ramzan as well. Today we take this pledge that Bharat is one nation and not a union of many nations. Hence we need to work to make this country a united nation. Extremism should be replied with brotherhood and love and then only we will be able to win the hearts of the people. National Vice President of Muslim Rashtriya Manch Dr Imran Chaudhary highlighted the services of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Sardar Patel. The coordinator for the event was Jabiullah Jabi and those who participated include Dr Shahid Akhtar, Advocate Siraj Qureshi, Dr Amir Suhail and Dr Ravikant.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 2) has published an article in which the Muslims have been urged to boycott the iftar parties being organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch. Sangh wants to trap Muslims in the country and impose its agenda of Hindu Rashtra. The Muslims in the country need to be on guard against this plan of the Sangh.

Controversy over the dargah in Etah district

Inquilab (April 14) reports that when the foundation was laid for the construction of a building on the premises of a dargah in Etah district, the murtis of some devis and devatas were recovered apart from that of

Shanidev. BJP MLA from Jalesar Sanjeev Kumar Diwakar claimed that the dargah was constructed after destroying the Shanidev mandir. He demanded that the murtis be installed on the same land from



where they were recovered. According to the newspaper, a case for fraud has been registered against the members of Bade Miyan-Chhote Miyan dargah committee in Etah district. They have been accused of committing scam worth Rs 99 crore. The police registered this case on the basis of a complaint by the Gram Pradhan. Later the district administration took the dargah under its control and started an investigation into it. After registration of the case, all the members of the committee went absconding. The SDM of Jalesar has sought a report from the Deputy Registrars in three tehsils of the district on the purchases made by the committee in all the three tehsils. The Pradhan of Jalesar Dehat has filed a petition in this connection before the high court, district magistrate and district judge. The matter has also

reached the minorities commission and it has sought a report from the government on the issue.

According to the newspaper, there is a dargah of Bade Miyan-Chhote Miyan in Jalesar region in Etah. It is being said that thousands of Hindus and Muslims visit this dargah every Wednesday and Saturday and give offerings. According to police, they are searching for the

absconding members of the managing committee. It has also been informed that the former president of dargah committee, Akbar Ali, has some properties in Bhopal. The police are finding out how many properties are there and where these are located. The SDM of Jalesar Alankar Agnihotri has sent a letter to the Deputy Registrars of Sadar Aliganj and Jalesar tehsils and sought details on the properties of the nine members of dargah committee. DSP of Jalesar police Irfan Nazir Khan said that the houses of former president of dargah management committee Akbar Ali Khan and others against whom a case has been registered for misappropriation, remain locked and they have gone absconding to some unidentified places. The police are trying to trace them. ■

Action likely against Muskan Khan

Salar (April 12) reports that BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde has written a letter to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and demanded that action be taken against Muskan Khan who raised the slogan 'Allahu Akbar' and came into limelight. As per a news published in Salar, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that they are thinking of taking appropriate action against student Muskan Khan, who has been praised by the chief of terrorist organisation Al Qaida in a video message. MP Hegde has told the chief minister to find out what relations Muskan Khan has with Al Qaida.

As far as the issue of Muskan Khan is concerned, a few months ago, some Hindu youths had held a protest rally in front of the college over the hijab issue and as a reaction to it, she raised the slogan of Allahu Akbar. Muskan Khan is a student of degree college in Mandya. Ever since the video of this student raising the slogan of Allahu Akbar went viral on social media it became a point of discussion in media. The Jamiat Ulema rewarded her with Rs 5 lakh for her courage. Many other Muslim organisations have also taken several steps to give encouragement to her.



Mumbai Urdu News (April 7) reports that the chief of Al Qaida, Ayman Al Zawahiri, has released a nine-minute video in which he has described the girl shouting the slogan Allahu Akbar in front of a crowd shouting Jai Sri Ram as his sister and also recited a poem praising her. Al Zawahiri said that the Indian government is harassing Muslims in the country and the Muslims in the entire world should get united and take action. It is to be noted that after the death of Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al Zawahiri has taken control of Al Qaida. Later there were several reports in the media about his death. However, recently one of his videos has gone viral from which it could be established that he is still alive. The video related to Muskan Khan was released on the official website of Al Qaida. A poster was also released along with the video in which Muskan has been mentioned as ‘Noble Khatoon.’ The Al Qaida chief said that he got the information about Muskan Khan and the video from social media. This ‘sister’ won my heart by raising the voice of ‘AllahuAkhbar.’ He condemned the countries that imposed a ban on hijab and mentioned Pakistan and Bangladesh as the servants of Western nations.

Siasat (April 8) reports that after the video of Al Qaida chief went viral, a new controversy has erupted. The Home Minister of Karnataka Araga Jnanendra said that people involved in the conspiracy behind this video were those who were active in spreading violence in the name of hijab. Muskan Khan’s father Mohammad Hussain condemned this video of Al Qaida chief and said that the video has been prepared in order to create unrest in society. He said that he did not see the video and neither he knew the Al Qaida chief. This video has become a headache for us. We are living in peace in Mandya district in Karnataka. Now my daughter’s name has deliberately been linked to Al Qaida. However, it has nothing to do with this controversy. My daughter is interested only in studies and she has no idea about the latest controversy. Let investigating agencies be allowed to do their investigation. Because we know that this controversy and Al Qaida has no relation at all. Hence at this stage we are not worried at all. He said that police should do their job. I have said right from the beginning itself that some mischievous elements have been fuelling the hijab controversy so that the unity of the country could be destroyed.

Karnataka Minister K S Eshwarappa in trouble



alleged that the Panchayati Raj Minister of Karnataka, K S Eshwarappa, had sought 40% commission from him. He said that the minister had said he was willing to give him a contract worth four crores, but in return he has to give him 40% commission. After writing this letter, contractor Santhosh Patil committed suicide and his body was found in a hotel in Udupi. Initially, Eshwarappa had refuted this allegation. However, Congress organised a state-wide campaign to remove him from the cabinet and also file an FIR against him.

Karnataka Minister K S Eshwarappa had to resign from his post after getting entangled in corruption charges.

Hindustan Express (April 15) states that Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that Eshwarappa has resigned from his post on moral grounds. Before this, Eshwarappa had said that he had decided to resign from the state cabinet on the basis of the talks he had with the state chief minister. Before this, Bommai had said that there was no pressure from the party high command to remove K S Eshwarappa from the minister's post. Meanwhile, Congress has demanded the removal of Eshwarappa from the cabinet for his alleged involvement in the suicide case of Santhosh Patil. Before committing suicide in a lodge in Udupi, contractor Santhosh Patil had alleged that Eshwarappa had sought 40 per cent commission in return for awarding a contract.

Siasat (April 14) reports that Karnataka police had registered a case against Panchayati Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa. It is to be noted that before committing suicide, a contractor, Santhosh Patil, had held Eshwarappa as responsible for his death. Later Udupi police has filed a case against Eshwarappa under Section 306 of IPC. He has been accused of forcing Santhosh Patil to commit suicide. Patil was an activist of BJP.

Salar (April 12) has published a detailed report on the issue and said that an activist of BJP, Santhosh Patil, had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi before committing suicide in which he had

alleged that the Panchayati Raj Minister of Karnataka, K S Eshwarappa, had sought 40% commission from him. He said that the minister had said he was willing to give him a contract worth four crores, but in return he has to give him 40% commission. After writing this letter, contractor Santhosh Patil committed suicide and his body was found in a hotel in Udupi. Initially, Eshwarappa had refuted this allegation. However, Congress organised a state-wide campaign to remove him from the cabinet and also file an FIR against him.

Eshwarappa had claimed that when Santhosh Patil had accused him of extracting commission, he had filed a defamation suit against him. He committed suicide as he got scared of the case. It is being said that Santhosh Patil is linked to the ruling BJP in Karnataka. The BJP government had awarded him contracts worth crores in various departments. Panchayati Raj minister Eshwarappa had told Santhosh Patil that the bills for his contract would be cleared only when he pays him 40% as commission of the total amount. It is being said that Eshwarappa had been told to resign at the behest of the BJP's central leadership. It is to be noted that Santhosh Patil's brother had threatened that until Eshwarappa is arrested, his brother's body would not be cremated. The wife of Santhosh Patil alleged that Santhosh used his entire savings as well as money borrowed from people to complete the works of different projects. But when the time came for payment, Eshwarappa and many other leaders of BJP started demanding commission, the payment of which was not possible at all. He got frustrated due to this and had to commit suicide. It is being said that Santhosh Patil wanted to meet Chief Minister Bommai and lodge a complaint against Eshwarappa, but the Chief Minister had refused to meet him. Frustrated out of this, he committed suicide. It is being said that initially Bommai had refused to demand the resignation of Eshwarappa but later due to pressure from the high command he had to seek his resignation.

Preparations to send Imran Khan to jail



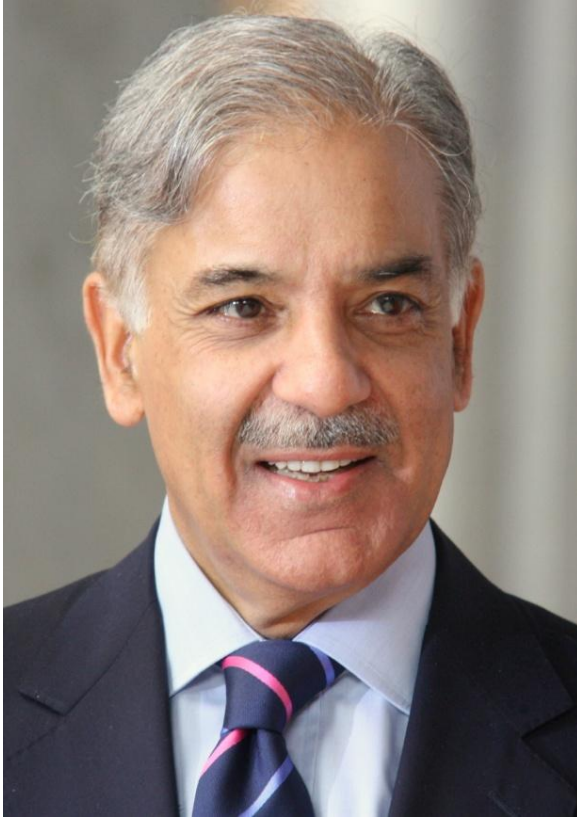
Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has made serious allegations of corruption against former Prime Minister Imran Khan and stated that he will have to give the details of every penny that was spent during his corrupt reign. He added that the anti-corruption wing of Pakistan government has been directed to start investigations into various cases of corruption that took place during Imran Khan's rule. According to Pakistan's leading TV channel, Geo News, Shahbaz Sharif has alleged that Imran Khan received gifts worth crores of rupees when he was in power. He sold off the gifts in Dubai and did not deposit that money in the government treasury. Apart from this, there has been massive corruption in the metro project as well. Imran Khan tried to save his seat by all means, but he had to face defeat in the no-confidence motion that was tabled in the National Assembly as per the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

According to **Inquilab (April 13)**, Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has taken charge and he has announced that he will strengthen the economic situation of the country and will improve its relations with neighbouring countries, which include India in particular.

He also announced that the government offices in Pakistan will now be closed only for a day instead of two. All the government offices will start functioning from 8 am instead of 10 am. He added that metro services will start from Peshawar Mor in Islamabad to the airport.

According to the Pakistani newspaper **Dawn (April 15)**, it is likely that the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will return home from London soon. Nawaz Sharif is the elder brother of the new prime minister of Pakistan.

Avadhnama (April 12), reports that Shahbaz Sharif has become the 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan. Acting Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq announced in the House that 174 members have cast their votes in favour of Shahbaz Sharif while his opponent Shah Mahmood did not get even a single vote. Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has announced that it will boycott the election of prime minister and with this, all the MPs of his party have resigned from National Assembly. An interesting fact is that the President of Pakistan has taken leave from his post citing illness. Meanwhile, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, who belonged to Imran



Khan's party, have resigned from their posts.

Aurangabad Times (April 8), states that the decision taken by Pakistan President Arif Alvi to dissolve the National Assembly was termed void by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and he directed that voting be held on the no-confidence motion tabled by the opposition. The new ruling front that has been formed in Pakistan includes Maryam Nawaz, Bilawal Bhutto, Shahbaz Sharif and Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman. These leaders, while addressing a joint press conference, stated that the Constitution was saved by the country's Supreme Court and the world has come to know that the judiciary in Pakistan is completely independent.

Aurangabad Times (April 14), reports that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has started an investigation into allegations of corruption against former prime minister Imran Khan. It is said that Imran Khan was gifted a diamond

necklace by the head of an Arab country, the value of which is estimated to be close to PKR 40 crore. Later, it is believed that Imran's wife Bushra Bibi sold this necklace to a jeweller for PKR 18 crores, but that money was not deposited in the government treasury. Shahbaz Sharif also alleges that gifts worth crores of rupees that were received by Imran Khan from abroad as the prime minister of Pakistan were not deposited in the government treasury and he kept all these gifts to himself. Police have arrested eight members of Imran Khan's social media team. They have been accused of spreading false propaganda on social media that Pakistan's army has pulled down the Imran Khan government to seek revenge. Imran Khan has alleged that the US has pulled down his government.

Daily Express (April 14), reports that 75 per cent people of Pakistan agree that US was involved in the toppling of Imran Khan's government. But the US has denied this allegation.

Siasat (April 7), states that Russia has accused the US of interfering in the political affairs of Pakistan. A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson claimed that Imran Khan is being punished by the US as he did not cancel his Russia visit despite pressure from the US administration. On the other hand, the US State Department spokesperson said this is an internal matter of Pakistan and the allegations levelled against the US are completely baseless.

Siasat (April 11), states that in the past 75 years, no elected prime minister has completed his/her term in Pakistan. In Pakistan, one of the prime ministers remained in his post for just two weeks while the longest-serving Prime Minister had a tenure of only four years and two months. In the parliamentary history of Pakistan, 31 prime ministers have held offices since 1947. Of these, 18 were forcibly removed from their posts either on charges of corruption or in a military coup.

List of Prime Ministers of Pakistan (from 1947 to present)

Sl. No	Name	Tenure
1	Liaquat Ali Khan	15-08-1947 - 16-10-1951
2	Sir Khawaja Nazimuddin	17-10-1951 - 17-04-1953
3	Mohammad Ali Bogra	17-04-1953 - 11-08-1955
4	Chaudhry Mohammad Ali	11-08-1955 - 12-09-1956
5	Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy	12-09-1956 - 18-10-1957
6	Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar	18-10-1957 - 16-12-1957
7	Sir Feroze Khan Noon	16-12-1957 - 07-10-1958
8	Nurul Amin	07-12-1971 - 20-12-1971
9	Zulfikar Ali Bhutto	14-08-1973 - 05-07-1977
10	Muhammad Khan Junejo	23-03-1985 - 29-05-1988
11	Benazir Bhutto	02-12-1988 - 06-08-1990
12	Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi (caretaker PM)	06-08-1990 - 06-11-1990
13	Muhammad Nawaz Sharif	06-11-1990 - 18-04-1993
14	Mir Balakh Sher Mazari (caretaker)	18-04-1993 - 26-05-1993
15	Muhammad Nawaz Sharif	26-05-1993 - 08-07-1993
16	Moeenuddin Qureshi (caretaker)	08-07-1993 - 19-10-1993
17	Benazir Bhutto	19-10-1993 - 05-11-1996
18	Malik Meraj Khalid (caretaker)	06-11-1996 - 17-02-1997
19	Muhammad Nawaz Sharif	17-02-1997 - 12-10-1999
20	Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali	23-11-2002 - 26-06-2004
21	Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain	30-06-2004 - 26-08-2004
22	Shaukat Aziz	28-08-2004 - 15-11-2007
23	Muhammad Mian Soomro (caretaker)	16-11-2007 - 24-03-2008
24	Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani	25-03-2008 - 25-04-2012
25	Raja Pervaiz Ashraf	22-06-2012 - 24-03-2013
26	Mir Hazar Khan Khoso (caretaker)	25-03-2013 - 05-06-2013
27	Muhammad Nawaz Sharif	05-06-2013 - 28-07-2017
28	ShahidKhaqanAbbasi	01-08-2017 - 31-05-2018
29	Nasir-ul-Mulk (caretaker)	01-06-2018-18-08-2018
30	Imran Khan	18-08-2018 - 10-04-2022
31	Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif	11-04-2022 to present

Inquilab (April 15), states that the Pakistani army has made it clear that it does not intend to re-impose martial law in Pakistan. The Pakistani army wants that the civilian government in Pakistan be elected through a formal election.

The news related to the change of power in Pakistan was published very prominently by all Urdu newspapers and they also published editorials on them.

Etemaad (April 1) titled its editorial, 'Army's displeasure cost Imran his post.' The editorial said that till date no prime minister in Pakistan has had the privilege of completing the five-year term. In Pakistan, the real rule is in the hands of

the military and there is no value for public opinion. The newspaper wrote that it was due to the differences that had arisen between Pakistan Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa and Imran Khan that the latter lost power. When Taliban captured Afghanistan, Imran Khan had supported them. Due to this, the western countries were upset with him. ISI chief Faiz Hameed had a special role in bringing Khan to power. It is said that Hameed had a hidden hand in bringing the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. When the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, Faiz Hameed reached Kabul to congratulate them. Due to this, Qamar Javed Bajwa



removed him from his post. Imran Khan, who dreamt of setting up a Medina like state in Pakistan had to step down from the post of prime minister. Shahbaz Sharif is liked not only by America but also India.

Avadhnama (April 15) titled its editorial, 'Is the movie still not over?' It said in this editorial that Imran Khan's wife Pir Bushra failed to save her husband's post even with the help of jinn and witchcraft. Surprisingly, two old rivals, the Muslim League (Nawaz) and the Pakistan People's Party, came together to oust Imran Khan from power.

Avadhnama (April 12) has written an editorial in this regard, titled 'New Abhimanyu.' The newspaper said that the real ruler in Pakistan is the army. They put whomsoever they want to on the throne. When Pakistan Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa criticised the foreign policy of the Imran government at a seminar in the US, it became clear at that time that Imran's days in power were over. America did not like the way Imran was becoming popular in Muslim countries. Therefore, at the behest of America, the army decided to remove Imran from his post. Earlier, Bhutto had also made the same mistake. He was hanged due to his growing proximity to China which was taking Pakistan away from America. It is a well-known fact that Pervez Musharraf was behind the murder of Benazir. The bitter truth is that any

person in the Muslim world who tried to take on America had to lose both power and life.

Salar (April 12) has said in its editorial that though Shahbaz Sharif has come to power, it is difficult to say anything with certainty about how long he will remain there due to the hostile attitude of the opposition. Imran Khan had used every trick to stay in power. To stop the no-confidence motion from being presented in the National Assembly, he put

pressure on the President and dissolved the Assembly. But the Supreme Court of Pakistan overturned this decision and saved Pakistan from a constitutional crisis. Shahbaz Sharif is the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, whose relations with the Pakistani army have never been cordial. Hence there is a possibility of instability in Pakistan.

Siasat (April 2) in its editorial expressed concern that the political tussle in Pakistan may give the army a chance to take back power.

Siasat (April 11) states the way Imran Khan used President Arif Alvi to remain in power has dented the image of the latter. Had Alvi announced his resignation in Parliament itself, it would have saved his honour. The way Imran Khan's supporters are taking to the streets across Pakistan has made matters even more complicated. Now the new government wants to ensnare Imran on corruption charges. The history of Pakistan is a testimony to the fact that most of the rulers were either hanged or they had to take refuge in other countries to save their lives.

Salar (April 10) said in his editorial that Imran may have been the captain of cricket but he has turned out to be a novice player of politics. Why did he take the anti-democratic step of recommending the

dissolution of the National Assembly even when he was aware that he lacked majority? The leaders of Pakistan should take a lesson from these consequences. Only a strong democracy can be successful in forming a strong government. But till now democracy in Pakistan has been functioning at the behest of the army.

Aurangabad Times (April 12) said in its editorial that the path of Shahbaz Sharif is laid with thorns. The economic

situation in Pakistan is deteriorating day by day and it is not getting aid from other nations. Terrorism and communal violence are increasing rapidly in Pakistan. To put an end to these, the new government will have to take concrete measures.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 11) said in its editorial that what is happening in Pakistan is regrettable. The way Shias are being persecuted in Pakistan can pose a threat to Pakistan's future. ■

Russia officially recognises Afghan Taliban

Etemaad (11 April) reports that Russia has recognised the Taliban government in Afghanistan. The Taliban government has appointed Jamal Garwal as its envoy in Moscow. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, he has taken charge. It has been eight months since the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan but till now, they have not been recognized by any country. In such a situation, Russia's recognition of the Taliban government is an important step.



Inqilab (April 3) reports that the United Nations has accepted that there was a possibility of getting four-and-a-half billion dollars in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan from various governments of the world, but this goal has not been met and so far, only 41 countries have promised aid to Afghanistan which totals a little over two billion dollars. Germany has announced a grant of USD 200 million to Afghanistan. Germany's foreign minister has said that as far as further aid to Afghanistan is concerned, it depends on the

attitude of the Afghan government in the coming days.

Roznama Sahara (April 3), states that Germany has made it clear that the aid it has announced will not be given to the Taliban government in Afghanistan, but to the relief agencies operating there. So far, Germany is the country which has given the largest amount of money to Afghanistan. The Secretary-General of the United Nations pointed that nine million people in the country are victims of starvation and if assistance doesn't reach them immediately, it will be impossible for them to survive. ■

Notorious terrorist Hafiz Saeed sentenced to 32 years in jail

Inqilab (April 9), reports that an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has sentenced Jamat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed to 32 years in prison in two cases for financing

terrorist organisations. He has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in one case and sixteen-and-a-half years in another case. Apart from this, a fine of Rs

3,40,000 has been imposed on him. Hafiz Saeed is already in jail. The court has said in its judgment that the notorious terrorist Hafiz Saeed is the chief of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba. Zafar Iqbal, Abdul Ghaffar, Amir Hamza and Hafiz Masood are trustees of the banned outfit and they had bought land in Mian Channu for an organisation affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba. This land was bought from a person named Ghulam Hussain who was aware that the organisation to which this land was being sold to is a terrorist organisation and the government has imposed a ban on it. The court has also sentenced Ghulam



Hussain to 12 years' imprisonment. The court observed that this organisation and its affiliates, by collecting money, keep inciting the flames of terrorism. ■

Corruption in Pakistan government in the name of Islam

Roznama Sahara (April 15) reports that a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, while pronouncing his verdict in a case for allotting plots to government employees, has said in his remarks that even though the country is named Islamic Republic of Pakistan, nothing happens in the country as per Islam. He said the Prime Minister of the country allots valuable plots to whomsoever he wants to. He added that in Pakistan, government gives land at a subsidised price to only powerful people and no one is concerned about the poor. The government provides plots to the generals of the Pakistani army to build luxurious bungalows while crores of poor are living in slums. Till date, no



government has thought of giving them plots or houses at subsidised rates. Justice Qazi asked the counsel for Pakistan Housing Foundation, 'What are the rules for allotting land in this country? Or are the decisions taken arbitrarily in this regard?' It is worth noting that the Pakistan government had allotted

plots for high-ranking military officers and judges, which was challenged by some in the Supreme Court. This allotment was cancelled by the Islamabad High Court. An appeal was made against this decision in the Supreme Court. The contention of the petitioner was that under the Constitution of Pakistan, the High Court can neither allot a plot to anyone or cancel an allotment. Therefore, this decision of the High Court should be set aside. ■

Sri Lanka on the verge of bankruptcy

Roznama Sahara (April 15) reports that Sri Lanka, which is in a debt of USD 51 billion, has appealed to its citizens living abroad to send foreign currency to help their countrymen so that people can be provided with food and fuel. According to government reports, Sri Lanka has not had

to face such a severe economic crisis since 1948. The government has announced that no instalment of any foreign loan will be paid. At present, Sri Lanka has to pay an interest of USD 200 million every year on its debt to foreign countries.



A doctor living in Australia has said that they want to help, but they do not trust the country's government. When the tsunami hit Sri Lanka in 2004, Sri Lankan citizens living abroad sent billions of dollars in aid to their country, but not a single rupee out of that was given to any citizen. All the money was pocketed by the leaders including current Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse.

Roznama Sahara (April 14) reports that the protests by citizens against rising inflation, shortage of fuel and food grains across the country is becoming fiercer day by day. Clashes are taking place between the army and civilians, in which many people have been killed. The President of Sri Lanka has removed his brother from the post of Finance Minister and Uvais Mohammed Ali Sabry has been appointed as the new Finance Minister. With this, all 26 ministers of Sri Lanka have resigned from their posts. Due to lack of fuel and power supply, the transport system has come to a complete standstill. Rice is being sold in the market for as high as Rs 1,000 a kilogram. While the price of pulses range between Rs 1,100 and 1,200. People are selling their jewellery at cheap prices to buy food. The price of one US dollar has crossed 300 Sri Lankan rupees. In view of the economic crisis, 40 MPs, including the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, have resigned from the ruling party and said they will sit in Parliament as independent MPs. The Prime Minister and President of Sri Lanka are not ready to resign from their

posts. At present, the value of one dollar in financial banks has reached 310-320 Sri Lankan rupees. Never in the history of Sri Lanka has the Sri Lankan currency been so devalued.

Roznama Sahara (April 4) the Sri Lankan government has imposed a curfew in the entire country. Along with this, a complete ban has also been imposed on social media. More than 2,000 people have been arrested for violating the curfew. Those who have been arrested had come to the market to buy food.

Etemaad (April 4) reports that Sri Lanka, which was among the happiest countries in South Asia, has become financially bankrupt. A state of emergency has been declared in the country to suppress public anger. Due to the huge increase in the prices of food grains, shortage of electricity and fuel, people have come out on the streets and they are demanding the resignation of the President of Sri Lanka and his brother who is the Prime Minister. The price of a cup of tea has gone up to Rs 100. The price of bread has gone up to Rs 150. The government claims that the entire economy collapsed due to Covid as tourists had stopped visiting Sri Lanka. While experts say that the government's economic policies are the biggest cause of the country's economic crisis. In this calamity, the Indian government has given 40,000 tonnes of diesel and 20,000 tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka as assistance. ■

One million pilgrims allowed to perform Haj



Siasat (April 10) reports that the Saudi government has announced that it will allow one million pilgrims to perform Haj in the current year. Due to the Covid pandemic, the Saudi government had banned foreigners from performing Haj for the past two years. According to the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah, only those below 65 years of age will be able to perform Haj this year. All Haj pilgrims will have to furnish a Covid negative certificate before entering Saudi Arabia. Along with this, they will also have to submit a vaccine certificate that is recognised by the Saudi Ministry of Health. So far, the government has not announced the prescribed quota of Haj pilgrims for different countries. According to government figures, last year only 58,000 Saudi citizens were allowed to perform Haj.

According to a news published in the same newspaper on **April 7**, huge air-conditioners are being installed to keep the

environment of Mecca cool. The air-conditioned systems installed in Ka'aba are among the largest in the world. The first system is 'Ajiad', which has a cooling capacity of 35,300 tonnes. The second is the 'Central Plant' with a cooling capacity of 1.2 million tonnes. Both of these plants will keep Mecca cool. Apart from this, arrangements have also been made to supply Aab-e-Zamzam water filled in bottles to 20 lakh people. Every pilgrim coming to Mecca will be given two bottles of Aab-e-Zamzam as a gift by the government. It is noteworthy that among the Muslims, Aab-e-Zamzam is considered as holy as the Ganges water is considered by Hindus.

Avadhnama (April 10) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has announced the removal of all restrictions imposed on performing Umrah. Now Muslims from all over the world can come to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. ■

Trade agreement between Israel and UAE

Etemaad (April 3) reports that Israel's Ministry of Economic and Industry and United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Trade have announced that a trade agreement has been reached between Israel and UAE.

The UAE's Minister of Economy, Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, said that currently, trade between the UAE and Israel is worth USD 60-70 billion annually. Both the nations have announced that trade between them will be



increased up to four times. For this purpose, 95 per cent of the goods have been exempted from customs duty. The items which have been exempted from customs duty include food items, cosmetic goods, medicines and surgical equipment as well as electronic goods. Similar agreements have already been signed with Bahrain and Morocco. Significantly, in 2020, under pressure from America, many Arab countries established trade relations with Israel. It has been officially announced that due to this decision, the relationship between the two countries will strengthen further.

Siasat (April 1) has criticised in its editorial that many Arab countries have become puppets of Israel under pressure from US. A few years ago, no one would have even imagined that Arab countries would become such puppets of Israel. Under US pressure, UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt and Sudan have established trade and diplomatic relations with Israel. Now it is America's effort that Saudi Arabia also openly recognise Israel, but Saudi Arabia fears that if it does so, then it will have an adverse reaction in Muslim countries around the world. It would confirm that Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations are recognising Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine. Under pressure from the US, the Israeli Prime Minister visited Egypt and there he also met with the President of Egypt and the Crown Prince of UAE. Surprisingly, Israel and Arab countries now have trade agreements as well as defence agreements.

After the Second World War, Britain and other countries gave birth to a new Jewish nation of Israel which illegally and forcibly occupied the land of Palestine and

forced Arabs to flee from there. They brought Jews from all corners of the world and resettled them there replacing the Arabs. In the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, Israel occupied the Arab regions of the West Bank, the Sinai and the Golan Hills, and the occupation continues to this day. Now the situation is that under US pressure, such rulers are brought to power in the Arab countries who sympathise with Israel. At this time, the real target of America and Israel is Iran. Because Iran is successfully destroying the plans of America and Israel. The recent attacks by Iranian supporters on Saudi Arabia's oil reserves have left Israel and America sleepless. Both the US and Israel are concerned about the growing Houthi influence in Yemen.

Inquilab (April 8) reports that Yemen's President Mansur Hadi has resigned from his post and handed over all his powers to the leadership council. In addition, he has also sacked Vice President Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar from his post. Hadi said that he has taken this step to find a solution to the ongoing civil war in Yemen so that peace talks can be started with Houthi rebels. It needs to be noted that a truce was declared between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebels due to Ramzan. Hadi said he wants this ceasefire to last permanently. The Houthis, who have the backing of Iran, are trying to snatch Saudi Arabia's oil reserves from it. Significantly, the civil war in Yemen started in 2014 and it is going on even now. So far, one million people have been killed and four million have been left homeless. Mansoor Hadi, who resigned, is considered a supporter of Saudi Arabia.

Fierce differences in the Jordanian royal family



Etemaad (April 5) reports that serious differences have arisen within the Jordanian royal family. Jordan's King Abdullah II's half-brother, Hamza has openly rebelled against him and declared that he will boycott all his royal titles and will have no ties to the Jordanian royal family. It is said that last year, King Abdullah II of Jordan had imprisoned his half-brother. Meanwhile, the differences between the two have intensified. It is noteworthy that after the First World War, when Britain divided the Ottoman Empire into various parts and handed over their reins to their puppets, then the rule of Jordan was handed over to the Hashmi dynasty. Shah Hussein was the successor of this Hashmi dynasty. His wife, Mallika was a British citizen. He ruled Jordan for 50

years. His eldest son, Abdullah II, was proclaimed King of Jordan after his death in 1999. Since then, he has had serious differences with his half-brother Hamza.

Hamza accused his elder brother Abdullah of paving the way for corruption and misgovernance. He is also said to have had the support of some of the powerful tribes of Jordan. Seeing his throne in danger, Abdullah

arrested him and placed him under house arrest in the palace and banned anyone from meeting him.

The rulers of Saudi Arabia tried to quell the growing discontent in the Jordanian royal family, and they pressured Prince Hamza to reconcile with his elder brother, King Abdullah, by asking for a pardon. But Hamza refused to come to any compromise with his brother Abdullah.

According to European media, Hamza is becoming popular among the Jordanian people. He has announced that he will continue his struggle against corruption and misgovernance. Along with this, he also announced that he will break ties with the dynasty. Growing discontent in Jordan can take an explosive form at any time.

Israeli government loses majority

Inqilab (April 8) reports that an Israeli parliamentarian, Idit Silman, has resigned from the ruling coalition of Israel in protest against rising corruption in hospitals. As a result, Israel's Naftali Bennett government has lost majority and the prospects of a mid-term election in Israel have increased. Not even a year has been completed since Naftali came to power. So, he will find it difficult to run this government. The parliamentarian who resigned, Idit Silman,

belongs to the radical Jewish party Yamina. She had opposed the permission which was granted to serve food items that were not 'kosher' to government hospitals. Because according to Jewish tradition, it is forbidden to eat such foods during Jewish holiday.

Naftali Bennett's party was unable to obtain a clear majority in the Israeli parliament. Eight opposition parties formed an alliance aiming to oust former Prime



Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power due to his hard-line policies. He withdrew from power but the opposition parties did not have any alternative to replace him. Eight different political parties formed a coalition, including radical Jewish parties, pro-Arab parties and liberal parties to keep him out of power. So far, elections have been held thrice in Israel but no coalition

has ever received a clear majority. The total number of Israeli parliamentarians is 120. Out of these, Naftali Bennett has the support of 60 of them. Holidays are going on in the Israel parliament at present, because of which it is difficult to say whether the opposition will move a no-confidence motion against the current government.

It is noteworthy that in the past three years, five general elections have been held in the country, but no party or alliance got a clear majority in them.

Naftali Bennett was once considered one of Netanyahu's biggest supporters but later differences developed between them which was enough to overthrow Netanyahu's 12-year-old government. It is very difficult to say anything about what new direction the resignation of Idit Silman will give Israeli politics.

Increase in number of alm seekers during Ramzan

Roznama Sahara (April 4), reports that a number of foreign nationals come to Saudi Arabia in the holy month of Ramzan to beg and earn money. Therefore, the Saudi



government has decided to launch a nationwide campaign against such people. According to the newspaper, a foreign national woman who had come to beg has been arrested at the security check-post. An amount of one lakh thirty-two thousand riyals was seized from her possession. During interrogation, she told the police that she had collected the money by begging from people. According to the Ministry of Interior of Saudi Arabia, during the holy month of Ramzan, foreign beggars enter Saudi Arabia illegally and earn a lot of money. They use different tactics to get people's sympathy. They declare themselves to be old and physically challenged and make innocent children beg for money. The Saudi Interior Ministry has announced that the police have been strictly instructed not to allow such people to enter

the Saudi Arabian border. Anyone found begging or helping a beggar to enter Saudi Arabia will be punished with imprisonment of one year and a fine of one lakh riyal and will be banned from entering Saudi Arabia in the future. The

Interior Ministry has announced that the security posts along the border have been directed to immediately arrest any person suspected of being a beggar.

Inquilab (April 14), reports that six beggars, two of whom are Pakistani nationals, have been arrested for begging inside a mosque in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh. According to the Interior Ministry, these beggars were seeking financial assistance from worshipers at Masjid al-Rahim for the treatment of their ailing father. They had sought the help of 20,000 Riyals from some pilgrims. When the police tried to arrest them, they fled in a car. They were later traced with the help of CCTV cameras installed in the mosque. Two Pakistanis, two Sudanese and two Bangladeshis are among those arrested.

Ramzan prayers in Hagia Sophia



Mumbai Urdu News (April 2) reports that Ramzan prayers were being offered at Hagia Sophia, a historic building in Turkey after 88 years. Significantly, Hagia Sophia is a historical building, which was built as a cathedral between 532 and 537 AD during the reign of Emperor Justinian I of the Roman Empire in the Turkish capital of Istanbul. It is considered the most important building of the Roman Empire. For centuries, Orthodox Christians offered prayers to Jesus in this cathedral. When the Muslim Sultan Mehmed II conquered Constantinople in 1453, the Muslims converted this cathedral into a mosque by the force of the sword. When the Ottoman Empire was abolished during the reign of Kemal Ataturk, he announced the conversion of this mosque into a museum in 1935. When radical Islamic

organisations came to power once again in Turkey, they announced the conversion of this museum into a mosque in 2020, which was challenged by the Christian nationals in the Supreme Court of Turkey. The court directed that this historic building should not be converted into a mosque. But flouting this directive of the judiciary, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cancelled the order of the court by issuing a decree and announced the conversion of this building into a mosque again. Along with this, he also directed that arrangements should be made to offer Namaz five times a day in this mosque. Due to the Corona pandemic, offering of prayers were yet to start there. But now with the beginning of Ramzan, prayers are being offered and the building has been given the status of a demolished mosque.

Zakir Naik's organisation declared anti-national

Mumbai Urdu News (April 1) reports that the Anti-Terror Tribunal has declared Islamic Research Foundation, the organisation of the religious preacher ZakirNaik, as anti-national and has put a ban on it. The tribunal had asked the Islamic Research Foundation to explain its position on the ban. This organisation has claimed that it is a registered charitable

trust, the goal of which is public welfare, helping the needy and to establish educational institutions and hospitals. The tribunal rejected these claims, saying that the evidence presented by the government confirms that the Islamic Research Foundation has been involved in activities that endanger the security of the country and pose a serious threat to the country's



peace, harmony and secularism. This tribunal has confirmed the notification issued by the Union Home Ministry on

November 15, 2021 and has extended the ban imposed on this organisation by five years.

Renovation of mosque in Tripura

Mumbai Urdu News (April 5) reports that Jamiat Ulema has renovated the mosque located near Panchayat Dargah Bazar in Agartala and handed it over to the worshippers. According to a press release issued by Jamiat Ulema, this mosque was vandalised in the communal riots that took place in October 2021 in Tripura. When a delegation of Jamiat Ulema went to Tripura, the local residents had requested them to renovate this mosque. After renovation, it has been handed over to the Muslims there. Jamiat Ulema has also provided financial aid of around Rs 50,000 to the shopkeepers who were



affected by the riots. Maulana Arshad Madani has announced that the other mosques which were damaged in these riots will also be rebuilt and handed over to the local management committee of Muslims.

Action against writing slogans on walls of VC's house

Mumbai Urdu News (April 1) reports that some controversial slogans were written on the walls of the residence of Aligarh Muslim University vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor and five security personnel have been suspended for negligence. Show-cause notices have been issued to three

students. Some students are said to have written on the walls of the vice-chancellor's bungalow, 'AMU got the status of a central university. VC got extension. What did you (students) get? 'Function at Kennedy Hall, corona in class room, wake up VC!' The remarks were found written outside the



residence of Aligarh University vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor. According to the university's proctor Mohammad Wasim Ali, the university administration has suspended five security personnel for negligence and a reply has been sought from the students who wrote these slogans. Further action will be taken in this regard after receiving their reply. The controversy is about reopening the university. Students

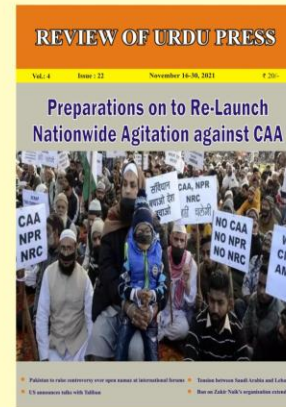
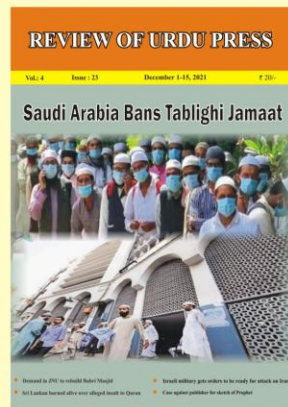
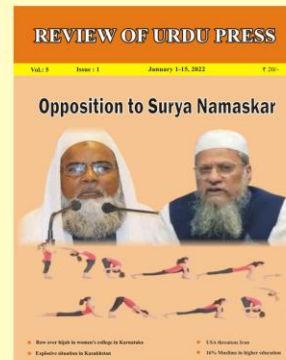
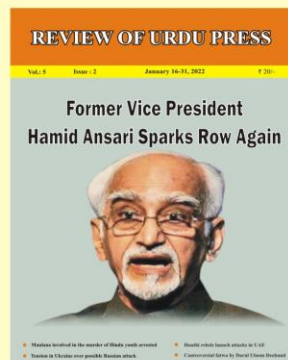
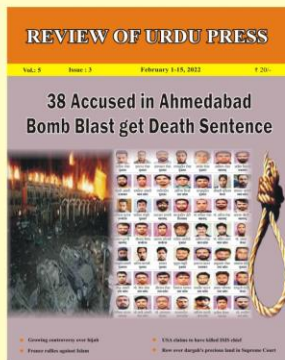
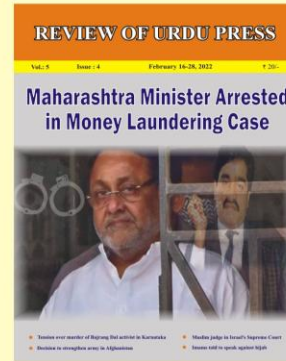
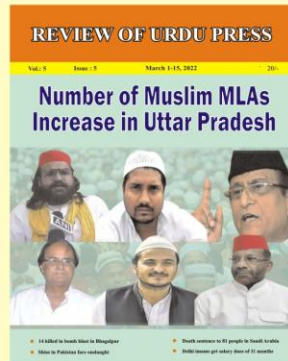
of Aligarh Muslim University say that students are being prevented from coming to the university due to the spread of corona. But on the other hand, cultural programmes are being organised at the Kennedy Hall. The students also added that the university administration had assured them that the university would be opened for students. But till now 80 per cent of the university remains closed.

Efforts to erase signs of Nizamshahi

Siasat (April 13) has reported that some miscreants are trying to erase the historical palaces of Nizamshahi as well as all traces of the Asafia era and no efforts are being made by the government to stop them. Earlier, the Telangana government had tried to demolish Errum Manzil, a palace of the Nizam, but the government had to cancel it due to strong opposition from the citizens. Now efforts are being made to usurp the valuable land of the seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan by demolishing the historical buildings located inside the King Kothi Palace. Recently, an MLA from the ruling party forcibly captured Nizammat Imambara. Here, Shias used to organise Muharram Majlis. Before this, a historical building of



Nizam's period, Khusro Manzil, was demolished and a mall has been constructed there. The newspaper has warned that if an attempt is made to eradicate the culture of Sultanate Asafia, the citizens of Hyderabad will strongly oppose it.



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