

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Uproar over Private Member Bill on Uniform Civil Code



● BJP wins in Muslim majority seats in Gujarat

● President of Israel visits Bahrain

● Islam growing fast in Britain

● US officials visit Darul Uloom Deoband

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## Summary

Soon after the introduction of a private member bill in the Rajya Sabha on Uniform Civil Code, a controversy has erupted on the issue once again. Muslim fundamentalists have taken to the streets to oppose this move. However, the issue has not evoked any strong reaction from ordinary Muslims. The campaign against Uniform Civil Code is limited to the pages of Urdu newspapers. The statement of the chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, is correct that if the Uniform Civil Code is implemented in the country, incidents of discrimination against women will come down. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh clearly said that this is the right time to implement the Uniform Civil Code.

The Supreme Court has taken cognizance of a petition filed by Ashwini Upadhyaya demanding to stop conversion through force or allurement and directed the government to take necessary steps in this direction. Justice M R Shah said that if forceful conversion is not stopped, it would become a threat to the unity of the country. In an affidavit filed in the court, the Central government has said that so far eight state governments had made laws to stop forceful conversion. The matter is currently pending in the Supreme Court.

The Urdu newspapers have given an interesting information regarding the results of the recently held Gujarat Assembly elections as per which out of the 19 Muslim majority places in the state, BJP candidates had won from 17 of them. The interesting fact is that the Congress had fielded six Muslim candidates in the elections, out of which only one had won. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) had fielded 13 candidates and none of them could win and majority of them could not even retain their deposits. The Aam Aadmi Party had fielded three Muslim candidates and all the three had to forfeit their deposits.

The Urdu newspapers expressed concern that in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly elections, three Muslim candidates had won and that number has now come down to one. Presenting statistics, the Urdu newspapers argued that after 1980, there is a consistent decrease in the number of Muslim MLAs in Gujarat Assembly.

In Kabul, Sunni Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS's Khorasan wing is wreaking havoc. Recently they attacked a hotel belonging to the Chinese in Kabul. At least 21 people were injured in this attack and some people were killed as well. The Afghan security forces killed all the three attackers on the spot itself. Meanwhile, the Chinese government got really scared of this incident and it directed its citizens to pack their bags and leave Afghanistan immediately. This is because they were not secure there.

The most interesting thing is that this Islamic organisation had attacked the Pakistani embassy as well. In a tweet that appeared on behalf of this organisation, it has been claimed that this step has been taken against Pakistani diplomats because they are throwing Islamic rules to the winds. Till now, this Sunni terrorist organisation had targeted only Shias.

In Israel, the political instability still continues. In the past three-and-a-half years, the Israeli Parliament saw five elections but no single party has got a clear majority. This time also 73-year-old Benjamin Netanyahu managed to win 59 seats in the 120-member Israeli Parliament after some alliances. Later, he managed to win over two independent candidates and included them in his alliance and managed to cobble up a majority. A massive lobbying is currently on within this alliance. This is the reason why Netanyahu could not form his own cabinet till now.

## Uproar over private member's bill on Uniform Civil Code



**Avadhnama** (December 10) states that a ruckus took place over a private member bill introduced in Rajya Sabha proposing implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country. This bill was presented by BJP member Kirori Lal Meena on which 63 members voted in favour of presenting it while 23 opposed it. In the bill, it has been demanded that a national inspection and investigation committee shall be constituted for the implementation of Uniform Civil Code. When the effort was made to present the bill in the Parliament, many opposition parties including Congress, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Nationalist Congress Party and Trinamool Congress opposed it.

Opposing the bill, Samajwadi Party MP Prof Ram Gopal Yadav said that Muslims consider marrying uncle's daughter as appropriate. Will Hindus do like that? Hence the different traditions of all religions shall not be ignored. In protest against this bill, a Biju Janata Dal MP walked out of the House and did not take part in the voting.

On behalf of the government, Union minister and leader of the house in Rajya

Sabha, Piyush Goel, made it clear that every member of the house has the right to present a bill or raise any matter. Mentioning about the protest by Opposition parties, he said that once the bill is presented in the House, any party can voice its opinion on it. However, CPI (M) member John Brittas, while mentioning about the Law Commission report, said that the Commission had said that there is no need for a Uniform Civil Code in the country. Tiruchi Shiva of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) said that the concept of Uniform Civil Code is against the basic principles of secularism.

It is to be noted that there was a consistent discussion in the country about implementing a Uniform Civil Code. The BJP has given the indication of implementing Uniform Civil Code in states like Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka. In such a situation, the presentation of this bill in Rajya Sabha holds special significance. However, as per parliamentary traditions, it is very difficult to get a private member bill passed. In the history of Rajya Sabha, only three private member bills have been passed so far. The

BJP had promised the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the manifesto of Gujarat Assembly elections as well.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 10) states that as soon as the chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankar, called the name of Kirori Lal Meena to present the bill in the House, a number of Opposition party members stood up from their seat and said that permission shall not be given to present this



bill. On this, Dhankar said that this House is for debates and the members have the right to present their bills and hold discussion on it. Piyush Goel said that this bill is as per the sentiments of the Constitution. Hence it is futile to oppose this bill. CPI (M)'s Elamaram Kareem and John Brittas, DMK's Tiruchi Shiva, Congress' L Hanumanthayya and Imran Pratapgarhi and Nationalist Congress Party's Fauzia Khan also opposed this bill.

**Etemaad** (December 10) states that while opposing the presentation of the bill, the members of YSR Congress, TMC and BJD walked out of the house. Jawhar Sircar of Trinamool Congress said that this bill is anti-secular and against the Constitution. By presenting this bill in the House, the BJP has started a dangerous game. Muslim League's P V Abdul Wahab said that this bill is a part of the agenda of RSS and BJP. They want to destroy the secular fabric of the country. Manoj Kumar Jha of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that in the past also efforts were made at least six times to present a similar bill in the House. But the ruling party withdrew such a step due to protests from the opposition.

**Inquilab** (December 1) states that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while making a statement on Uniform Civil Code, said that now time has come to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the entire country and every state need to discuss this issue. Those who are implementing it deserves compliment.

**Inquilab** (December 13) states that the chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Justice Arun Kumar Mishra said that one should not ignore the directives given in the Constitution to implement the Uniform Civil Code for all citizens in the country. He said that implementation of Uniform Civil Code will help end the discriminatory practices being faced by women in the country. Article 44 of the Constitution has clearly given the directive to implement a Uniform Civil Code.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 11) states that the general secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, while criticizing the bill introduced in Rajya Sabha, said that this will affect the national unity of the country. He said that this was against the basic tenets of the Constitution which has given permission to the follower of every religion to practice his own religious faith. He said that the ruling party has presented such a controversial bill in an effort to polarize the votes. Muslim Personal Law Board will oppose this till the end.

**Siasat** (December 10) in its editorial said that the BJP wanted to gauge the mood of the people by presenting this private member bill in the Rajya Sabha. Their effort is to reap political benefits by raising this issue. Uniform Civil Code is a sensitive issue and it is against the secular credentials of the Constitution. It will not affect any particular community in the

country but its effect will be on every citizen of the country. Hence instead of baking the political bread on such sensitive issue, the BJP needs to concentrate on maintaining the unity and integrity of the country and there should not be any political game on the issue. This will lead to unrest in the country.

**Etemaad** (December 10) also in its editorial opposed the presentation of this bill in the House and said that this will destroy the social fabric and the unity of the country. It will also affect the sense of multiculturalism in the country. It is said in the editorial that the BJP has been taking about implementing Uniform Civil Code in the country right from the beginning. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also cleared his stand in this connection. In total, the dream of the Sangh Parivar is to make this country a Hindu Rashtra and this is one more step in that direction. Earlier, the BJP had formed a committee in Gujarat in order to discuss the implementation of Uniform Civil Code and a similar step has been taken in Uttarakhand as well. Those who want to implement Common Civil Code should not forget that apart from Muslims, Adivasis, Dalits, Sikhs, Christians and other communities in Northeast are also opposed to it.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 12) in its editorial has alleged that the present government is determined to end the civilization and culture of Muslims and attack their dignity and religious belief. Hence the Muslim Personal Law is being targeted once again. This bill is not presented on behalf of the government but has been presented through a member of

the Rajya Sabha. However, this bill has been presented in order to hurt just the sentiments of Muslims. However, every citizen in the country will be affected by it. The ruling party has presented this bill in order to promote its own communal politics and its aim is to impose single culture and impose a Hindutva agenda. Hence it shall be opposed at all levels.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 11) in its editorial said that the BJP wants to contest the forthcoming Rajasthan Assembly elections on the issue of Uniform Civil Code. Hence it has presented this bill. In the editorial it is being said that during the Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) also, the parties which describe themselves as secular had done a similar walkout. However, people did not take much time to understand that such a walkout was an indirect help to pass the CAA in the House. When the member presented the private member bill in the House, the members of some opposition parties created a huge ruckus. But what one is unable to understand is that when the resolution on the bill is presented in the House, why these opposition parties staged a walkout, instead of taking part in the voting? Why don't they understand that their action weakens the number of people who are opposed to the bill?

The truth is that people are upset with these parties because though they declare themselves as secular parties, when the time comes, their actions become just the opposite of secularism. Now this double politics cannot be sustained in this era of social media. These parties will have to suffer the damages due to such politics.

## Demand to make 18 years as minimum age for marriage of Muslim girls

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 12) states that the Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Central government on a demand to make 18 years as the marriageable age for girls in the country. The notice has been issued on a petition filed by National

Commission for Women raising objection to the marriage of minor Muslim girls on the pretext of religion and personal laws.

The Supreme Court has directed the Union government to file its reply on the issue within four weeks. The Women's



Commission said that except in the case of Muslims, the marriageable age of girls in all other religions is as per the law. For marriage, the minimum age for men has been fixed at 21 years and for women it has been fixed at 18 years. It is to be noted that the Women's Commission has filed a petition before the Supreme Court in which it had mentioned about some verdicts of the high courts of Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana. These judgments, while quoting Muslim personal law, had upheld those marriages of Muslim girls which were conducted after she attained puberty. The commission has questioned one such decision of a high court which had upheld the marriage of a 15-year-old Muslim girl.

**Avadhnama** (December 1) states that the Jharkhand High Court, while citing the Muslim Personal Law in one of its verdicts, had said that a Muslim girl of 15 years or more has the freedom to marry a person of her choice even without the consent of her parents. The court had given

this verdict following an FIR filed against a Muslim youth, who had married a 15-year-old girl who is a relative.

In the FIR it has been alleged that a 24-year-old Mohammad Sonu, a resident of Nawada in Bihar, had kidnapped a 15-year-old Muslim girl belonging to Jamshedpur in Jharkhand after luring her

with promise of marriage. The FIR was filed by the father of the girl against Sonu. However, later it was told in the court that both the families have approved the marriage.

A single bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi has said that it was clear that this marriage was held as per Muslim Personal Law. As per Section 195 of Muslim Personal Law, if the girl has reached 15 years of age, then she can marry a boy of her choice as per the Shariah Law.

The lawyer of the petitioners argued in the court that as per Muslim Personal Law, once a girl attains puberty, then her Nikah could be conducted and the parents do not have any right to intervene in it. In this connection, the lawyer also cited a verdict of the Haryana High Court, which had upheld the marriage of a man named Yunus Khan who had married a 15-year-old girl. The Haryana High Court had said that a 15-year-old Muslim girl had the right to marry a man of her choice.

## Controversy over stopping of scholarship to minorities

**Salar** (November 30) reports that despite the provisions under Right to Education (RTE) to provide free education to students of all communities from Class 1 to 8, the Central government had announced its decision to stop all scholarships provided to students studying in Class 1 to 8 belonging to backward classes and minorities. In a press statement, Union Ministry for Social

Justice and Empowerment said that the scholarships which were being given to students of SC/ST/OBC and minorities till metric shall now be given only to the students of Class 9 and 10. The students from Class 1 to 8 will not get any benefits under this scheme.

The Central government argued that since already there is a provision under the



Right to Education Act to provide free education from Class 1 to 8, scholarships also cannot be provided to them. Scholarships are also being given to minority students in Class 9 and 10 under Minorities Scholarship Yojana. Various political parties in the country criticised this decision of the Central government and described it as an attack on the weaker sections of the society. Congress General Secretary Randeep Surjewala said that it is a conspiracy by the Central government against the poor in the country. In the past eight years, the Central government has substantially reduced the welfare programmes meant for SC/ST/OBC and minority communities. He said that the Congress will oppose this.

Bahujan Samaj Party MP Kunwar Danish Ali described this decision of the Central government as a conspiracy to deprive minorities of education.

**Aurangabad Times** (December 13) states that the Central government has stopped the Maulana Azad National Fellowship which was given to minorities. In reply to a question, Minister for minority affairs, Smriti Irani, said in Lok Sabha that these scholarships have been given to minorities in order to attain higher education. Since this scheme overlaps with other programmes, it is being stopped.

Smriti Irani said that according to the statistics of University Grants Commission, between 2014-15 and 2021-22, Rs 738 crore has been awarded as scholarship to 6,722 students. This scheme started in

2009. Under this programme, financial aid is given to Buddhist, Christians, Jains, Muslims, Parsis and Sikhs to do MPhil and PhD upto five years. This project was started on the recommendations of Sachar Committee.

**Hindustan Express** (December 15) states that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it clear in the Lok Sabha that the Maulana Azad National Scholarship for minority students is not being stopped. In this connection, the news that has been circulated is untrue and misleading. The finance minister was replying to a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the demand for grants worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore being given for the financial year 2022-23.

It is to be noted that Leftist student organisation All India Students Association and a few other organisations held a protest in Delhi against stopping of this programme. The finance minister said those students who are currently receiving the Maulana Azad National Fellowship will be extended all help.

**Siasat** (December 13) states that Indian Union Muslim League MP E T Mohammad Bashir has demanded that the pre-metric scholarship shall be allowed to continue because lakhs of students are dependent on it for their education.

**Etemaad** (December 13) states that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel demanded in Lok Sabha that the pre-metric scholarships should be restored.



**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 14) in its editorial said that if opposition parties, minorities leaders and Muslim organisations protest, then the government would not dare to stop pre-metric scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship. The newspaper alleged that when a huge cut was made in the budget for Jamia Milia



Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University last year, majority of the political leaders kept quiet except issuing a few statements. The massive cut done in the budgets of these universities is quite regretful.

The newspaper said that the budget for Jamia Milia Islamia for the year 2021-22 was Rs 411.10 crore. However, in 2022-23, it has been reduced to Rs 105.95 crore. The same was done with Aligarh Muslim University. Last year, its budget was Rs 1,214 crore and it has been reduced to Rs 302 crore. Even Jawaharlal Nehru University and Rajiv Gandhi Universities were not spared. Though their budgets were not reduced, but no increase has been made. Why this is being done? This is a very important question. May be because voices of protests often erupt from these universities against the anti-people policies of the government. It may also be because these two universities, whose budgets were reduced, belong to the minorities. Or, maybe you can also say that the words 'Muslim' or 'Islamia' is attached to their names.

It is clear that the government is unwilling to provide for the education of minorities. In Jawaharlal Nehru University, there were protests by the students due to the increase in fees. It is a university where children from poor families could get education by paying a nominal fee. For them, the hostel fee is also kept at a nominal level. But now the government is making efforts to increase them.

Even the students of Allahabad University have been staging a dharna for

the past three months against the fee hike. All these universities are meant for the education of common people. Its sole aim is to deprive the children of poor from receiving education. The government understands well the need to keep people ignorant so that they do not raise their voice against the dictatorship of the government.

**Etemaad** (December 2) in its editorial said that the Modi government has handed over the responsibility of minority affairs ministry to Smriti Irani. It is assumed from the news that appear in media that the intention of Modi government is to close down the minority affairs ministry or divide it among other ministries. Hence all the schemes meant for minorities welfare are being closed. The Muslim Personal Law Board and Jamiat-e-Ulema have condemned this decision of the government and said that this scholarship has been instituted on the basis of the recommendations of Sachar Committee report so that the financial and educational backwardness of Muslims could be eradicated.

At one level, the Modi government gives the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.' The Prime Minister says that he wants to see Muslim students holding Quran in one hand and computer in the other hand. This slogan is raised just to keep Arab nations in good humour and just as a showoff to the world. In Uttar Pradesh, the agenda of Hindu Rashtra is being promoted. The survey of madrasas is conducted in order to close them down. In

Assam, the madrasa teachers are declared as terrorists and madrasas are being razed. This is being done so that Muslim children do not receive free religious education. Now, in order to give a shock treatment to Muslims, pre-metric scholarships are being stopped on the pretext of educational rights.

**Etemaad** (December 13) in its editorial condemned the closing down of scholarship schemes for Muslim students

and said that Majlis chief Asaduddin Owaisi, while raising his voice against it, said in the Parliament that the Central government is punishing poor Muslims. At one level Narendra Modi claims about 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, at another level poor Muslim children are deprived of their right to education. The alarming thing is that the Maulana Azad National Fellowship being given for higher education has also been stopped.

## BJP wins even in Muslim-majority regions in Gujarat



**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 10) states that though the population of Muslims in Gujarat is only 9 per cent, there 19 Assembly seats in the state where Muslims hold the key to the victory. Among these 19 Assembly seats, BJP had won in 17 seats. However, the BJP did not field even a single Muslim in the 182 Assembly seats in Gujarat. The last time BJP fielded a Muslim candidate was in 1998. Among the 19 Muslim majority seats, one seat namely Jamalpur Khadia was won by a Congress candidate, Imran Khedawala.

In these Muslim-majority seats, neither the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) won any seat, nor the Aam Aadmi Party. In majority of these seats, a number of Muslim candidates were vying for a single seat. For example, there were 44 candidates in the fray for Limbayat Assembly seat, out of which 36 were

Muslims. From here, BJP's Sangitaben Rajendra Patil registered her victory by securing 52% votes and the Aam Aadmi Party candidate came second with 20% votes.

This time, only one Muslim candidate, Imran Khedewala of Congress, managed to enter the Gujarat Assembly. Whereas in 2017, three Muslim MLAs had won including M A Pirzada

from Wankaner, Gyasuddin Shaikh from Dariapur and Imran Khedewala from Jamalpur-Khadia. However, this time M A Pirzada and Gyasuddin Shaikh were defeated in the elections. From the Muslim-majority Godhra seat, BJP candidate C K Raulji won the elections. He also described the accused in the Bilkis Bano case as 'sanskari'.

AIMIM had fielded its candidates in 13 out of the 19 Muslim-majority seats, but could not leave any impact anywhere. Their candidates got very few votes. In the Gujarat Assembly elections, the AIMIM could not become even a 'vote katua' party. In one seat in Bhuj, the AIMIM candidate got the highest of 36.17% votes, which, when compared to the votes secured by the BJP candidate, is very small.

If one goes by the election results, the BJP got a huge success. In the last

Assembly elections, the BJP got 99 seats, which this time has increased to 156. Gujarat is called the laboratory of communal hatred and it has been proved again this time. In these elections, no national issue has attracted the voters there. A hate campaign has been unleashed against Muslims in these elections.

**Salar** (December 10) states that in 2017, there were three Muslim MLAs in Gujarat Assembly, and it has now come down to one. The Congress had given ticket to six Muslim candidates, out of which only one had won. After 1980, there is huge decrease in the representation of Muslims in the Gujarat Assembly.

**Inquilab** (December 9) in its editorial said that in the Gujarat Assembly elections, the BJP managed to win due to the division of votes of Muslims. The Muslim votes got divided due to the entry of AAP in Gujarat and due to the strong campaign unleashed by AIMIM. In the state, the percentage of Muslim votes is 10%. There are more than 30 such Assembly seats in the state where the Muslims hold the key to the victory or defeat of candidates of any political party with their 15% percent votes. In 20 seats, the Muslims hold more than 20 percentage votes. There are 10 seats where the percentage of Muslim vote is between 26 and 48 percent. However, this time the BJP won in all these seats.

In the Muslim majority seat of Dariapur, the Congress used to win continuously for the past 10 years. This time, Congress candidate Gyasuddin Shaikh was defeated by BJP's Kaushik Jain. Gyasuddhin Shaikh was defeated by a margin of 4,000 votes. Whereas in this seat, the Aam Aadmi Party has fielded a Muslim candidate, Taj Mohammad Qureshi, who got more than 4,000 votes. Whereas Majlis candidate Hasan Khan got more than 1,700 votes. In this seat, a number of independent Muslim candidates also tried their luck. The division of Muslim votes ensured the victory of BJP in these elections. The Aam Aadmi Party fielded three Muslim candidates but none of them could win. The

role played by the Aam Aadmi Party and Majlis in dividing the Muslim votes in Muslim majority seats has directly benefited the BJP.

The newspaper said that it is not that Muslim candidates did not contest the elections. Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and AIMIM had reposed faith on Muslim candidates. However, all of them were swept away in the BJP's storm. In the 182-seat Gujarat Assembly, BJP got 156, Congress got 17 and Aam Aadmi Party got 5 seats. Samajwadi Party won in one seat. Three independent candidates also won. Since the BJP did not give its ticket to any Muslim candidate, there was not even an expectation from its side. On the other hand, out of the six Muslim candidates fielded by Congress, only one could win. The Aam Aadmi Party fielded three Muslim candidates. Whereas AIMIM fielded Muslim candidates in 13 seats.

The six Muslim candidates that the Congress had given tickets are Aslam Cyclewala (Surat East), Mohammad Jawed Parizada (Wankaner), Jat Mamad Jung (Abdasa), Suleman Patel (Vgra), Gyasuddin Shaikh (Dariapur) and Imran Khedawala (Jamalpur Khedia). The Aam Aadmi Party has fielded Taj Mohammad Qureshi from Dariapur, Sajid Rehan from Jambusar and Haroon Nagori from Jamalpur Khadia. Congress candidate Aslam Cyclewala got 42% votes in Surat East constituency. However, BJP candidate Arvind Shantilal Rana secured 52% votes and registered his victory from here. In Wankaner, Congress candidate Mohammad Javed Pirzada managed 30% votes and reached second position. From this seat, BJP candidate Jitendra Kantilal Somani registered his victory by securing 39% votes. Aam Aadmi Party candidate reached third spot by securing 26% votes.

Hence it could be said that the Aam Aadmi Party has seriously damaged the prospects of Congress in this seat and that is the reason why the BJP managed a victory here. In Abdasa seat, Congress candidate Jat Mamad Jung had given a tough contest to BJP candidate

Pradhyuman Singh Jadeja. Mamad Jung managed to get 43% votes. Whereas the BJP candidate got 49% votes. In Vagra Assembly seat, Congress candidate Suleman Patel reached second position by securing 43% votes. From here, BJP candidate Arun Singh Rana registered his victory by securing 51% votes.

In Dariapur seat, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party fielded Muslim candidates. Congress candidate Gyasuddhin Shaikh

got 44% votes whereas Aam Aadmi Party candidate Taj Mohammad Qureshi got 4% votes. Due to division of Muslim votes, BJP candidate Kaushik Jain got elected with 49% votes. In Jamalpur Khedia also Congress and AAP fielded Muslim candidates. However, Congress candidate won the election by securing 45% votes and Aam Aadmi Party candidate Haroon Nagori got only 4% votes. In Jambusar seat, Muslim candidate Sajid Rehan, fielded by Aam Aadmi Party got only 2% votes.

**Avadhnama** (December 14) in its editorial said that in Gujarat, the BJP used all its might to win the elections. The Congress had to face huge defeat. The BJP collected votes using both hands. However, the stain of the Gujarat riots, which has been washed off slowly for 20 years, has once again been brought to light by Amit Shah through his loose talk. The benefit that he got was temporary and it will have long-term drawbacks.

Due to the defeat in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, the BJP's dream of a Congress-mukt Bharat could not be realized. However, in Delhi, the Muslims did not vote much for Aam Aadmi Party and hence they ended up paying for it.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 11) in its editorial appealed to the Muslims that they learn from the recent elections. Whatever happened in Rampur will be disappointing for every Muslim. But this damage was not just for the community, but for the entire nation. The interesting



thing is that the Muslim vote is not united even now. This is the reason why among the 19 Muslim-majority seats in Gujarat, the BJP managed to win in 17 seats. Had the Muslims been against BJP, how the BJP managed to ensure its victory in these Muslim-majority seats? Where did the Muslim vote go? If they did not vote, then what is the reason for it? These questions come up from Gujarat and these question prop up in every place once elections are over. However, Muslims did not take any effort to find answer to these questions or find a reason for them.

The newspaper said that had Narendra Modi not come out on streets, the BJP would not have got these many seats. In Delhi, the BJP was in power at the municipal corporation for nearly 15 years. However, the Aam Aadmi Party has ended their rule. This is a good thing. The argument on whose milk got spoiled, whether that of Congress or Aam Aadmi Party, is an unnecessary one. Now we need to look at BJP. If it is not examined, then Rampur will be repeated at every place. Everyone knows it very well that in Rampur, Muslims were not allowed to vote. The police went to people's houses and created fear. It is Yogi Adityanath's Hindutva. In the coming days, this will become the law in the entire country. Today Muslims are stopped from casting vote by resorting to violence. Tomorrow law will be created to deprive them of their voting rights. Hence Muslims need to wake up and also wake up others who are sleeping.

## Law to stop conversion likely soon



A number of Urdu newspapers have predicted that the BJP government at the Centre is getting ready to introduce an anti-conversion law.

**Siasat** (October 29) states that the Central government has made conversion through deceit, pressure and allurements a serious matter. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the government said that nine states had formulated laws to stop such conversion and the Central government will also take necessary steps in this direction. Citing an important judgment of the Supreme Court, the Central government said that however, under the Constitution, every individual has the fundamental right to propagate one's own religion. However, nobody has the right to convert others. A Supreme Court bench headed by Justice M R Shah is considering a demand to formulate a stringent law to stop illegal conversion.

During the last hearing, the court had said that such religious conversions would pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. The court also

sought a reply from the Central government on the petition. The petition, filed on behalf of BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya, cited the example of Lavanya case in Tamil Nadu and sought the intervention of the Supreme Court. In Tamil Nadu, a 17-year-old girl Lavanya had committed suicide on January 19 this year. Before the suicide, she made a video in which she had said that her school had been putting pressure on her to become a Christian and she had been regularly harassed, due to which she was committing suicide. The Madras High Court had handed over the investigation into the case to CBI and the Supreme Court had also upheld the verdict.

**Quami Tanzeem** (December 14) states that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had demanded that a stringent law shall be formulated immediately to stop religious conversion and Love Jihad. In a press conference, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Joint General Secretary Dr Surendra Jain mentioned about more than 400 love jihad incidents. He said that the Kerala High Court had described Love Jihad as the

worst form of religious conversion way back in 2010 and had mentioned about the hands of fundamentalist Muslim leaders behind them. In Kerala, from the Hadiya case itself it had been proved that organisations like PFI enroll senior lawyers to argue the case on behalf of jihadis by paying them a hefty amount. He said that illegal conversion and love jihad are closely linked to terrorists and they cannot be stopped by making a law at state level. For this, it is necessary that the Central government create a stringent law at the national level.

He also said that the church in Kerala and Karnataka had alleged that 10,000 Christian girls had been made victims of love jihad. In Hyderabad, there is a talk about 2,000 girls missing, on which the high court had sought a clarification from the state government. He said that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is preparing to launch a nationwide awareness campaign against conversion.

**Siasat** (December 7) in its editorial said that there is a general complaint against Christian missionaries that they convert people from other religions into Christianity through allurement. A bench of the Supreme Court said that it is a different thing if one converts on his own will and it is another thing to convert someone else's religion through allurement. The court will study the issue of conversion through use of food, feast, treatment etc. The court said that conversion through force or pressure is a serious issue in the country. We want a solution to this problem. Every individual has the right to adopt a religion of his choice. However, nobody has the right to convert others by luring them. The aim should not be to convert on the pretext of doing good deeds.

**Inquilab** (November 29) states that in the light of Shraddha and Nidhi Gupta murder cases that are making headlines in the country, the anti-conversion bill in Uttar Pradesh has once again become the focus of discussion. In Uttar Pradesh, this law has been implemented nearly two years ago and so far 290 cases have been

registered under this provision, in which more than 50 minorities are involved. As per government statistics, so far 291 cases have been registered in this connection, out of which 59 are related to boys of minorities.

In this connection, 507 people have been arrested so far. Cases have been registered in districts like Moradabad, Shahjahanpur, Meerut, Amroha, Bareilly and Lucknow under this law. The highest number of cases have been registered in Bareilly. The numbers in Meerut, Gorakhpur and Agra follow it. The year after the law had been implemented, a total of 108 cases were registered. Among them, the chargesheet has been filed in 72 cases. Whereas 11 cases have been withdrawn because the police did not get enough evidence against them during investigation. Under this law, before two persons belonging to different religions get married, a written intimation shall be submitted to the district magistrate and the marriage can be conducted only after his permission. Under this law, the accused will get a jail term of three years to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000.

**Inquilab** (November 19) states that the Madhya Pradesh high court had declared the anti-conversion bill passed by the BJP government as unconstitutional and directed that no action shall be taken against any person under this law. It is to be noted that the Madhya Pradesh government, while making religious conversion strict under Section 10 of Freedom of Religion Act 2021, laid this condition that if any person wants to convert his religion, then he has to file an affidavit before the district magistrate 60 days in advance. In the affidavit, it has to be affirmed that he was converting not due to force or under pressure. Those who violate this law will get a jail term of 3 to 5 years and a fine of Rs 50,000.

There is also a provision in the law that if any person forces another to convert his religion for marriage, then he will get a jail term of 10 years. However, a few days ago, a bench of Justice Sujoy Paul and



is not stopped, it may lead to major problems. The court stressed on taking necessary steps to stop such activities. However, the Constitution never permits forceful conversion nor there is any scope about this in any religion. Hindustan is a secular nation. Here it is the legal right for anyone to convert.

The newspaper said that forceful religious conversion is against the soul and nature of Islam. Muslims used to be the rulers of this nation for centuries, but there is no increase in their population during this period and neither there was any incident of forceful conversion.

Justice Prakash Chandra Gupta had directed the state government that no case shall be registered against those persons who had married as per their wishes and where there is no forceful conversion.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 7) in its editorial has claimed that the mouthpiece of Sangh, 'Organiser' has claimed that a big e-commerce company, Amazon, has been providing money for conversion activities. It is to be noted that such allegations have been raised against some Maulanas as well, some of which are now behind bars.

The newspaper said that recently, the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya, said that conversion through allurement is a serious issue which would be a threat to the unity of the country. The court said that forceful conversion is a serious matter. If it

However, after Independence, allegations have been raised against Christian priests that there is population imbalance due conversion. Now, Muslims are also included in this campaign. In many states, laws have been made against such conversion. The fact is that if anybody converts due to his own free will, then he is also branded as a traitor. However, the fact is that the rate of conversion in Hindustan is only 2% and it hardly has any effect on the total population of any religious group. According to Pew Research Centre, more number of people convert to Hindu religion than the number of people who leave the religion. However, in the current political situation in the country, conversion has been presented as a major issue so that polarization of votes could be done through it.

## Islam growing fast in Britain



themselves as Christians in the Census, which is nearly 46% of the total population of the country. In the past 10 years, there is a decline of 13% in the number of Christians. Whereas the population of Muslims has reached 39 lakh, which is 6.5% of the total population of the country.

Earlier, as per the Census data in 2011, the number of Muslims was just 4.5%. This way Islam has become the fastest growing religion in Britain. In the second

**Inquilab** (December 1) states that as per latest Census in Britain, there is a huge decline in the number of Christians in the country. However, there is a huge increase in the number of Muslims in the country. For the first time in the history of Britain, following a 13% decline in the number of Christians in Britain and Wales, the number of Christians in the country has come down to below 50% of the total population.

According to news agency AFP, as per the Census 2021, there is a huge growth in the number of Muslims. In Britain and Wales, 2.75 crore people had identified

position is Hindus, whose population is 10 lakh. Whereas the population of Sikhs is 5.24 lakh. The number of followers of Buddhism has increased compared to the Jews. As per the data, there are 2.73 lakh Buddhists in the country as of now. Whereas, the number of Jews is 2.71 lakh.

The Archbishop of York has admitted that there is a huge decline in the number of Christians. Due to rising inflation and fastly growing atheism in Europe, people are now moving away from Christianity. He said that we need to review our policies.

## Blast in Chinese hotel in Kabul

**Inquilab** (December 13) states that a blast took place in a Chinese hotel in Afghanistan's capital Kabul a few days ago. Following the blast, the attackers entered the hotel and fired indiscriminately. At least 21 people were injured in the attack and there were also reports of death of some persons. In the retaliatory action by soldiers, all the three assailants were killed. Spokesperson of Kabul Police,

Khalid Zadran, while confirming the attack, said that Chinese citizens stay in this hotel and they were deliberately targeted. The blast triggered a massive fire in the hotel. He said that it was a multi-storied building.

According to police sources, the number of those who were killed could be higher. It is to be noted that before this attack, the Chinese Ambassador had held a



meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and he expressed concern that there is an increase in the number of attacks against Chinese in Afghanistan. Hence he requested to tighten the security system for Chinese embassy and Chinese citizens.

**Inquilab** (December 14) reports that Chinese foreign ministry has condemned the attack and said that there are at

least five Chinese citizens among those injured in the attack. The Chinese foreign ministry offered condolences on the death of Afghan soldiers who were killed in the attack. The newspaper also said that a day after the attack, Islamic terrorist organization ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Inquilab** (December 15) states that the Chinese government has directed all its citizens staying in Afghanistan to leave the country immediately. This is because the situation there is not good. A spokesperson of foreign ministry said that after seeing the situation there, we had directed all our citizens to leave Afghanistan immediately. The spokesperson admitted that due to this decision, Afghanistan will face financial difficulties. This is because China is a partner in many projects there and China has made huge investments in the country.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 1) states that in a blast that took place in Samangan province in Afghanistan, at least 40 people who were offering namaz in a madrasa were killed and 27 others were injured. On the other hand, the government has confirmed the death of 20 people including 10 students. The Islamic State has taken responsibility for the attack.

A doctor in a local hospital said that majority of the dead were youths. Observers suspect that Islamic terrorist group ISIS is stepping up their attacks.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 5) states that the ISIS had taken responsibility for the attack carried out on Pakistani embassy in Kabul and a spokesperson of



the Khorasan wing of Islamic State said in a video message that we had carried out this attack because Pakistan is not following Islam. Hence we carried out an attack on the Pakistani Ambassador and his body guards. One security guard was killed in this attack. According to a spokesman of Kabul Police, a suspect has been arrested in connection with this attack and some weapons were seized from him.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has condemned this attack. However, Pakistan government has not given recognition to the Taliban government in Afghanistan so far. However, it has not closed its embassy in Kabul and its Ambassador and other employees are still present there. An official of Pakistani embassy told news agency 'AFP' said that the Pakistani embassy had been fired upon. However, the embassy did not suffer any damages. Afghanistan's external affairs ministry said that they have decided to step up security to foreign embassies and citizens due to the increasing activities of terrorists.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 9) states that the US has decided to step up action against the Khorasan wing of ISIS and terrorist organization Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan due to terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The US State Department has confirmed that there is an increase in the activities of Islamic terrorist organisations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The spokesperson said that it will not allow Afghanistan to become a launching pad for carrying out attacks against Pakistan.

## Jamaat-e-Islami Amir arrested in Bangladesh

**Sahafat** (December 15) reports that Bangladesh Police has arrested the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami on charges of terrorism. It is to be noted that Jamaat-e-Islami had announced its decision to join the massive protests being organized by opposition seeking the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. There is a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami for the past one decade in Bangladesh. The Dhaka police had arrested the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Shafiqur Rahman, from his house. In 2012, the Bangladesh government had imposed a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami from taking part in elections. Condemning the arrest, Jamaat-e-Islami said that the aim of such action is to crush the opposition and violate the democratic rights.

It is to be noted that the Bangladesh Awami League, under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, had imposed a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and had arrested its entire leadership. Jamaat-e-Islami had been accused of cooperating with Pakistan during the Bangladesh liberation struggle. So far, more than 50 people associated with Jamaat-e-Islami has been sent to gallows. During the massive protests against these



death sentences, the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were killed in large numbers in police firing and thousands of them were arrested. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party had organized

protests in the country and they have been demanding the resignation of Sheikh Hasina. They said that ever since Sheikh Hasina came to power, a free and fair election never took place in the country. Hence it is necessary that the present government is removed and a caretaker government shall be formed under whose supervision fresh elections could be held.

**Siasat** (December 12) states that for the past several days, massive protests have been taking place in Bangladesh against increasing prices of petrol and shortage of electricity and a demand has been made that Sheikh Hasina resign from the post of the prime minister. Seeing the protests, the police took action at a large level, with many opposition leaders being arrested. The soldiers raided the head office of the main opposition party, Bangladesh Nationalist Party. At least six persons were killed in this action and many were injured.

## European Parliament leader held on charges of accepting bribe

**Siasat** (December 14) states that the Vice President of European Parliament, Eva Kaili, has been arrested on charges of accepting bribe from a Gulf nation. As per media reports, she has been accused of accepting bribe from a Gulf country, following which a search has been conducted at her house. The Belgium government suspects that the Gulf country is trying to influence the policies of European Parliament through cash and gift. Recently, the Belgium government had arrested four persons in this connection and



after receiving information from them, a raid was conducted at the residence of Vice President Eva Kaili and a huge amount of money was seized from there.

According to Belgium media, this European politician has been given a huge amount as bribe by Qatar. However, Qatar has rejected this allegation and said that it has not taken part in any such corrupt deals. The Belgium police raided 16 places in Brussels during which cash worth 6 lakh Euro was seized. It is being said that this amount was part of the money that Qatar had given to some leaders of European Union Parliament as bribe.

As per another news, officials in Greece have sealed the bank accounts of

the relatives of Eva Kaili and also the accounts of their companies. This apart, the bank accounts of a real estate company owned by Kaili and her husband have been frozen. The Greece government said that it is investigating the charges of corruption.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 13) states that the Qatar government has refuted the allegations of giving bribe to some leaders of European Parliament and said that the attempt to link Qatar to this incident is without any base it has nothing to do with facts.

## Germany tightens gun laws on fear of coup

**Inquilab** (December 13) states that the Interior Minister of Germany, Nancy Faeser, said that a decision has been taken to make the law regarding possession and purchase of weapons more stringent due to the conspiracy hatched by some right wing fundamentalist groups to overthrow the German government and bring back the old royal family to power. In an interview to a German newspaper, she said the extremist right wing party is a threat to Germany and its influence among people has been growing. According to intelligence sources, there were 2,000 people associated with this party last year. Now their number has grown up to 23,000. She said that these are not innocents, but terrorists. They cannot be tolerated because they can disrupt the peace in the country at any time. Hence the German government has taken this decision to stop the suspicious and extremist people from collecting weapons. Due to this, the government has decided to keep control of all weapons and impose stringent rules on their sale. She said that following a raid held at nearly 1,000 houses linked to this organisation, a huge cache of weapons was seized and even now more than 500 people are keeping weapons with them and the



government is taking strong steps to bring them under government control.

It is to be noted that on December 7, the German government had arrested 25 people including leaders of a right-wing party and some retired senior officials on charges of conspiring to launch an armed attack on the parliament. It is being said that this organisation wants to seize political power in Germany. That is why they collected weapons in huge numbers and recruited retired military officers to handle them. This conspiracy plan was hatched by a member of an old royal family of Germany. The royal family member, who has been arrested, uses 'Prince' as a prefix to his name and stays in an old royal palace. This royal family used to rule several regions in Eastern Germany. It is being said that they had established contact with some foreign leaders as well.

## Russia's efforts to make peace between Syria and Turkey



for a long time and now it has made full preparations to launch a war at the ground-level against Syria. Russia is facing trouble due to these preparations and it is putting pressure on Turkey not to take any such step that would lead to a Third World War.

Recently, the Deputy Foreign

**Roznama Sahara** (December 6) states that due to the efforts of Russia, a meeting took place between Syrian President Bashar Al Assad and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for the first time in 10 years. It is to be noted that a war is on between these two countries for the past 10 years. In the US political circles, there is a concern over the Russian efforts to establish its network in Arab world. This apart, Iran has also expressed concern over the Russian move. According to diplomatic sources, Russia is making efforts to stop Turkey's attacks on Syria.

It is to be noted that in this connection, Turkey has been issuing threats

Minister of Syria, Bashar Ja'afri has been appointed as Syrian Ambassador to Russia. Due to his efforts, Russia has become active in stopping Turkey's attack on Syria. An expert on Iranian affairs said that the changes that would happen in Iraq and Syria due to these efforts of Russia would be a threat to Iran.

It is to be noted that from 2011, Turkey and Syria have had a strained relationship. This is because Turkey had announced its support to the rebels who are active against the Syrian government. Syria has accused Turkey of destabilizing peace in the region by extending support to rebels.

## Benjamin Netanyahu fails to form his cabinet

**Roznama Sahara** (December 11) states that though Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has managed to capture power, he has so far failed to form his cabinet due to the lobbying in the alliance formed under his leadership.

He had sought two weeks' time from Israel President Isaac Herzog to form his new



cabinet. However, the Israel President refused to accept this demand and the President granted him 10 days' time to form the new cabinet.

There is very little chance of Netanyahu forming his cabinet during this period. Secondly,

Israel's former caretaker prime minister Yair Lapid joined opposition parties and

instigated nationwide protests against Netanyahu. Lapid said that it is a government of people obsessed with power and that they will not only be a harm to the democracy but also to the military and the judiciary as well.

It is to be noted that in Israeli parliament, Netanyahu got majority only in

one House. It is being said that a competition is on between different parties which are part of the alliance to get hold of important portfolios. In Israel, for the past three-and-a-half years, there has been a huge uncertainty and elections took place five times during this period. However, so far no party has got a clear majority.

## Deal worth six billion dollars to construct port

**Hamara Samaj** (December 15) states that an agreement has been signed between Sudan and United Arab Emirates to build a new port and an economic region on the shores of Red Sea. The project is estimated to cost six billion dollars. After signing the agreement, Sudan's Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim said that there would be huge increase in the economic development of Sudan with the construction of this port. This port will be named as Abu Amama. This agreement was signed with a company in Abu Dhabi, A T Ports Group. The head of this group is Osama Dawood Abdul Latif.

It is to be noted that following the military coup that took place in Sudan two years, the country is passing through an economic crisis. Last year, an agreement was signed between Sudan's military and political parties in order to put an end to the crisis. In 2021, the then chief of Sudanese



Army, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan had captured power and he removed Abdullah Hamdok from power. Following this, a massive protests started in Sudan seeking restoration of democracy. Scared over this situation, the military and political parties had to reach an agreement. Sudan's news agencies expressed hope that a new era of economic development would begin in Sudan due to this agreement.

## Protests continue in Iran

**Etemaad** (December 11) states that due to pressure from the world and perturbed over the massive protests by people, the Iran government has announced the termination of the notorious 'moral police.' However, this has not helped improve the situation. Massive protests still continue to rock the country. In a report, Amnesty International has claimed that at least 500 people have been hanged to death in Iran on charges of taking part in these protests and more than 14,000 people have been put behind bars.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 15) states that more than 400 protesters have

been given punishment on charges of taking part in the protests in Iran. Confirming this, Teheran's prosecutor general Ali Alghasi-Mehr said that 160 protesters have been given 5 to 10 years in jail, 80 protesters have been given 2 to 5 years in jail and 160 protesters have been given upto 2 years in jail.

Last week, two important disgruntled leaders Majidareja and Mohsen Shekari have been hanged to death publicly on charges of 'waging war against God.' The two were 23 years old. Since they were hanged publicly on road, the public anger grew up further.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 11) states that the niece of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei has been sentenced to three years in jail for extending support to the protesters. It is to be noted that the sister of supreme leader Khamenei and her entire family has come out in open support of protesters. The Iranian leader's sister urged his brother that he abandon dictatorial tendencies and desist from taking strong actions against the opponents. According to informed sources, the entire family of the sister of Khamenei has been detained in their house.

The supreme leader's niece Farida Moradkhani's lawyer Mohammad Hussain Aghasi told foreign media that initially Farida was awarded 15 years of rigorous imprisonment, but following an appeal, the sentence has been reduced to three years. He said that Moradkhani family has urged countries across the world to cut off their

relationship with Iran. In a tweet, Aghasi said that Moradkhani was awarded jail term by a special court of Muslim Ulema which has been constituted only recently. This court was not part of the traditional judicial system in Iran.

**Etemaad** (December 11) states that the European Union has imposed sanctions on several important leaders and organisations of Iran. This include the Iranian Radio and TV. In retaliation, the Iranian foreign ministry has imposed sanctions on European Union and nine organisations in Britain and 23 important persons. The Iranian government claimed that these foreign media channels are deliberately broadcasting fake news. Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock condemned the public hanging of political opponents on streets and said that the government is stifling the voices of opposition and they want to threaten Irani people.

## Israeli President's Bahrain visit

**Inqilab** (December 6) states that Israel's President Isaac Herzog has reached Bahrain capital Manama on an official visit. This is the first official visit of any Israeli leader to the Arab country. He held talks with the representatives

of Jewish community there. There was also a huge protest against the visit of Israeli President to Bahrain. Meanwhile, a Palestinian organisation also condemned Bahrain for holding hands with Israel, an enemy of Arabs. This organisation said that the aggressive tendencies of Israel have increased after the Abraham Accord signed between Bahrain and Israel due to pressure from the US. Hence they need to desist from establishing relationship with the enemies of Arabs and Islam.

According to foreign news agency AFP, the President of Israel held lengthy talks with the King and Crown Prince of Bahrain. It is to be noted that in 2020,



UAE, Morocco and Bahrain became the only Arab nations that established diplomatic relationship with Israel. This step was taken due to the pressure of former US President Donald Trump. Before this, Israel already had a peace agreement

with Egypt and Jordan. Israeli President said on twitter that he welcomes the sentiments expressed by the Bahrain King for peace, brotherhood and friendship. I hope that my visit would help open a new chapter with Bahrain in areas of defence, trade and tourism, he said.

As per another news, the chief of terrorist organisation Hamas' political affairs, condemned the visit of Israeli President to Bahrain and described it as a shameful incident. He said that Bahrain was till now supporting the Arabs of Palestine and now they have met a person whose hands are stained with the blood of our unarmed citizens.

Others

## The US officials visit Darul Uloom Deoband



there she met the chief of Darul Uloom, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani and deputy chief Maulana Abdul Khaliq Madrasi. These two Muslim leaders told her that Darul Uloom Deoband had played a major role in the freedom movement of India and it has been making efforts to give education to poor Muslims for the past 150 years. Hence no help has been taken from any

**Siasat** (December 7) states that the Deputy Secretary of Political Affairs in US Embassy, Michelle Elms, visited Darul Uloom Deoband situated in Deoband and

government and nearly 5,000 students receive education from here. They include many foreign students as well.

## Youths banned from purchasing cigarette in New Zealand

**Avadhnama** (December 15) states that the New Zealand parliament has passed a law, as per which a stringent provision has been made to stop smoking of cigarette. This apart, a ban has also been imposed on the sale of tobacco. Under this law, a ban has been imposed on selling cigarette and tobacco to anyone born after January 1, 2000. Those who violate this law will have to pay a fine of 1.5 lakh dollar. The government has taken this step in order to stop the increasing incidents of cancer among people. The government's effort is to make the country



completely tobacco-free by 2025. This apart, the government is running a nationwide campaign against tobacco and cigarette.

## Muslim nation's mission to land on moon

**Siasat** (December 12) states that United Arab Emirates is the world's first Muslim nation making an effort to reach the moon. Recently,



with this aim, a rocket was launched into space from the launching pad at Florida state in United States. This rocket was manufactured with the help of

Japan. Nearly 35 minutes into the launch, Eyespace loader got separated from the rocket. This rocket will reach the moon and send back the material collected from the moon. It is to be noted that in the past also the United Arab Emirates had sent a rocket

to the Mars. However, till now only the rockets of US, China and Russia have landed on the moon in a safe manner. Currently, India and Israel are also making efforts to send their rockets to the moon. So far these efforts have not succeeded.

## Civil Services coaching academy set up in Osmania University



**Etemaad** (December 15) states that a civil service academy has been started in Osmania University where students will be given coaching to attend the competitive

examination of Union Public Service Commission. This academy was inaugurated by the chief secretary of Telangana, Somesh Kumar. Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof T Ravindra said that a modern system has been adopted to provide training in the academy so that students who stay in rural areas could also win in the civil services examination. He appealed to the students to utilise this facility so that Telangana will get its rightful place in the administrative setup of the country.

## No extension to the visa period for Umrah




**Siasat** (December 12) states that Saudi Arabia's Ministry for Haj and Umrah has announced that the three-month visa issued for Umrah will not be extended further

under any circumstance. According to the Saudi government, children above the age of 5 years are eligible to do Umrah along with their parents. The government has made it mandatory for the applicants seeking permission for Umrah to get vaccinated against Corona. This year, 10 lakh people are expected to do Umrah. The Saudi government gets huge income from Umrah and Haj pilgrimage.



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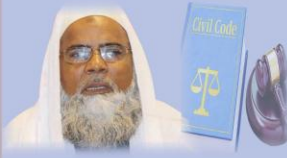
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