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Urdu Media Response to the Interview of RSS Chief



- Anti-Conversion law questioned in Supreme Court
- Tension in the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Resolution against Israel in United Nations
- Women given punishment on charges of terrorism in Tunisia

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Summary

The Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are getting increasingly strained with each passing day. Pakistan's interior minister Rana Sanaullah has alleged that the terror incidents taking place in his country are being directed from Afghanistan. He also admitted that in the recent past there is a huge growth in the terrorist activities of banned organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Pakistan's national security council also accused the Taliban government in Afghanistan of the serious charge of promoting terrorism in Pakistan. The council said that the Afghan government had promised during the Doha summit that it would not allow its land to be used for terrorist activities. They, however, did not fulfill this promise.

Afghan government spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid rejected the charge of Pakistan and said that the Pakistani rulers are making false and baseless charges against Afghanistan government. The interesting thing is that the US State department also supported Pakistan and said that Pakistan has the right to take action against terrorist organisations in Afghanistan for its own security.

Recently, the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mohan Bhagwat, had given a detailed interview to Panchajanya and Organiser. Almost all Urdu newspapers prominently published his comments about Muslims during the interview. Along with it, these newspapers also highlighted the criticism of opposition leaders against Bhagwat. In their editorial, the newspapers also strongly criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat about Muslims.

One Urdu newspaper has prominently published a news about the press conference addressed by the General Secretary of Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot, Govinda Chandra Pramanik. This Hindu leader has alleged that there is a huge increase in the incidents of torture against the minorities in Bangladesh. The fundamentalists are targeting their places of worship which are often damaged. The land of Hindus and Adivasis are forcefully occupied often, displacing and forcing them to flee Bangladesh. There is also a huge increase in incidents of abuse and gang rape of women belonging to minority community in Bangladesh.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader and veteran journalist M J Akbar, in a detailed interview to the editor of Urdu newspaper Inquilab, Wadood Sajid, claimed that the Modi government has not discriminated Muslims. Muslims are equal beneficiaries of various welfare schemes launched by the government for the poor. Akbar complained that the party that the Muslims have voted to power in the past 60 years, did not take any step for the uplift of Muslims. Due to this, the condition of Muslims has turned from bad to worse. He also said that Muslims are rapidly getting educated and the educated Muslims are getting new opportunities in public and multinational companies.

Urdu media response to the interview of RSS chief



Recently, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had given a detailed interview to weekly magazines Panchjanya and Organiser. The Opposition leaders and Urdu newspapers got infuriated over the statement made by the Sangh chief about Muslims during the interview. The Urdu newspapers wrote editorials, fiercely attacking Mohan Bhagwat.

Inquilab (January 12) reports that the leaders of different political parties including Congress, Shiv Sena, CPI (M), Asaduddin Owaisi and Kapil Sibal reacted strongly to the statement of RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat about Indian Muslims and described his statement as a threat to future of the country and against Constitutional principles.

The newspaper said that Mohan Bhagwat had said in his recent interview to Panchjanya and Organiser that Muslims have nothing to fear in India, but they have to abandon their sense of supremacy. Mohan Bhagwat also said that the Muslims who stay in Hindustan do not face any danger. If they wish to stick to their faith, they can. If they want to return to the faith of their ancestors, they may. It is entirely their choice. There is no such stubbornness among Hindus.

Mohan Bhagwat said that extremist Christians say that the entire world will be

turned Christian and those who do not become so shall remain at our mercy or will die. Extremist Muslims also keep this way of thinking. However, a Hindu will never say that everyone should follow Hinduism. This is not our perspective. Our view is that we set an example for everyone. We talk to everyone. Those who want to become good, may follow us. Even if they do not follow us, we are not against them. This apart, Mohan Bhagwat also said that we got stronger in all these battles and they cannot harm us now. The Hindus are very strong in the present situation.

Mohan Bhagwat also said that today nobody has the power to break our political freedom. Hindus will stay in this country. They will not go anywhere. Now Hindus have woken up and we have won the battle using this awareness. Today we are in a position of strength. If not now, even 50 years later we have to do this same thing.

Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi said that the viewpoint of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is a threat to the future of the country. Who is Mohan Bhagwat to give permission to Muslims to stay in this country and practice their religion? We are Hindustanis. Because Allah wants it to be so. How dare Bhagwat is putting conditions on our citizenship. We are not staying in this country to adjust with our faith or to



government often works against the spirit of his statements at the ground level. We cannot tear away the pages of history. If Ashok, Humayun and Akbar ruled over this country, then this fact cannot be erased. A lively community can never tamper with

make a group in Nagpur happy. No civilized society will tolerate this kind of hatred in the name of the religion.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that the population of Muslims in the country is more than 20 crore. This country will break if we harp on Hindu-Muslim divide to win the elections and a partition-like situation will be created again. In his tweet, Sanjay Raut said that one cannot do politics for a long time by creating fear in your minds. If Mohan Bhagwat has brought this point to the fore, then the BJP needs to think about it. Reacting to the comments of Mohan Bhagwat, Rajya Sabha member and senior lawyer Kapil Sibal said that Hindustan shall remain a Hindustan. I agree with this. However, a human should remain a human.

CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat said that the statement of RSS chief is against the Constitution, dangerous and provocative. The court should take note of it. It looks like the RSS chief will decide on the conditions to stay in the country. Mohan Bhagwat and his Hindutva Brigade should study the Constitution. Especially Article 14 and 15, as per which every citizen of the country is given equal rights regardless of his religion. Karat said that the former chief of RSS Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar had said that if Muslims want to stay in this country, then they need to be obedient. The current chief of RSS also wants to implement this thinking.

Congress leader Rashid Alvi said that though the RSS chief definitely gives good statements once in a while, his

history. Hence it is wrong to say that since a Muslim rule existed in this country in the past, Muslims are now obsessed with a sense of superiority. This is totally wrong perspective. In this country, Muslims are a minority and members of majority community sit in all institutions and important positions in the country. Whether it is the President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice or the Army chief. They all belong to the majority community. However, despite this, Mohan Bhagwat says that Muslims must abandon their sense of superiority. But where is such a feeling among Muslims?

Alvi said that the truth is that you all are not willing to accept Muslims even as your junior. I say with due respect that you consider us as your younger brother. But the younger brother also expects love and consideration. However, the elder brother's stand is such that sometimes he scares us using bulldozer, sometimes threatens to send us to Pakistan and sometimes say that let the elections come, we will turn on the heat. An elder brother never adopts such a stand. First you show us by becoming an elder brother. We are ready to become younger brother. Just issuing statements will not help. There is a need to implement them as well.

Salar (January 12) states that former Union minister and senior Congress leader K Rahman Khan said that there are several inconsistencies in the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. The fact is that Muslims have never emphasized that they were superior,



instead they had always given the message of equality and the foundation of Islam itself is equality. There is no need for Muslims to learn from Mohan Bhagwat on what they need to do in this country. The Constitution of this country has given equal rights to all residents of the country and Muslims are bound by it. They treat everyone as equal. No one is treated as superior or inferior. If anyone thinks of himself as superior, then he violates the spirit of Constitution.

Rahman Khan said that as soon as the bugles have been sounded for elections, efforts are being made to divide the society on religious lines at the behest of ruling the dispensation. The majority Hindus in this country are peace-loving and it is not necessary that the agenda of religious fundamentalism and hatred always succeed. The current rulers are inciting people in the name of religion after neglecting the basic problems in the country.

Hamara Samaj (January 12) in its editorial said that Mohan Bhagwat often remains in the headlines due to his statements. In the past, he had visited a madrasa and held a meeting with Maulana Umer Ilyasi. Now, his one more statement

has become a topic of discussion. In the latest statement, whatever he said about Muslims, those are far away from the truth. The argument begins as to why the reality is being denied that an atmosphere of fear is being created among Muslims and why it is being ignored? It is not just Muslims who are witness to this, but also many former senior officials and intellectuals who time and again had sought the attention of the government to the fact that an atmosphere of hatred is being created against Muslims in this country. Why no restrictions are imposed on those who slander Muslims and issue statements to provoke Hindus?

In its editorial, the newspaper said that people often ask this question that on what basis the Muslims could be convinced that they could lead a free life in this country. The truth is that in the past seven to eight years, this fear has multiplied several times among Muslims. In the past few years, there is flood of claims from the majority community over masjids, madrasas, hospices and on buildings related to Muslims. The stand of police is one-sided. Will the Muslims be happy due to this? The secularists claim that Mohan Bhagwat should ask this question to those who create discomfort among Muslims on the pretext of Love Jihad, appearance, clothes or for being foreigner.

Roznama Sahara (January 12) in its editorial said that the truth is that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is indirectly ruling Hindustan for the past eight-ten years behind the veil of Bharatiya Janata Party. It is only after the approval from Sangh that the government takes any decision or take any step to implement it. To some people, this may look like a baseless claim but for the world, both the BJP and RSS are one. The government has also time and again proved that nothing moves in the government without the

approval of Sangh. The government's job is just to implement the agenda formulated by Sangh and tread on the path shown by it to reach the ultimate goal of Hindu Rashtra. Till now, whatever has happened in Hindustan in this journey is not hidden from anyone. However, now the Sangh has decided to make this journey to Hindu Rashtra an aggressive one.

The newspaper said that Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat, while describing Hindus as warriors, said that it is natural for a warrior to turn aggressive. Means, if a Hindu turns aggressive, it will be natural. This can neither be stopped nor any action could be taken against it. In a lengthy interview to the mouthpieces of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Organiser and Panchjanya, Mohan Bhagwat said that the Hindu society is in a situation of war for the past one thousand years. This war has been forced on it. The Hindu is fighting its enemy for the past one thousand years as a warrior. This war is still on against foreign attacks and the conspiracies that come from abroad. The Sangh has extended its support to this fight of the Hindu society. Due to the activities of Sangh, an awareness has been generated among the Hindu society.

In the editorial, it is said that from the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, it is not clear that during this Amrit Kaal of independence, the Hindu society is fighting against whom and who is its enemy? However, the signals given in the interview tell a lot. He said that if a war takes place then the enemy should be taught a lesson. The enemy should be kept in mind while doing the work. We need to understand what we are and what we need to do now. While citing the example of Shivaji who fought against the Mughals, he said that Hindus need to implement the policy of Shivaji. What was the policy of Shivaji Maharaj? asked Mohan Bhagwat. He had knowledge about the enemy. But he also



knew about himself and knew when to fight and when not to fight.

In the interview, Mohan Bhagwat had also given some advice to Muslims. He said that Muslims staying in Hindustan do not face any danger. If they want to stick to their religion, they can do so. In case they want to return to the religion of their ancestors, they are welcome. It depends on their will. However, they need to change their stance that their religion is the best. They also need to stop the thinking that since they had ruled this country once, they will rule again.

In the interview, Mohan Bhagwat also mentioned about provoking and inciting Hindus to take up arms. Mohan Bhagwat openly said that ever since the first invader Sikander arrived in Bharat, till now different people had prepared Hindu society for the next war. This war was not from outside, but from inside. It is difficult to predict which new flower will bloom from this concern of Mohan Bhagwat and RSS about the protection of Hindus. However, from the statement of Bhagwat, a fear has come to the fore that there would be an increase in extremist and communal incidents in different parts of the country and the government is not going to take any step against it. This is because, from the

point of view of Sangh, these are totally natural. In case if it is not like that, and the government has got a separate identity, then let this interview and statement of Mohan Bhagwat be analysed from the spirit of the Constitution. Let action be taken against them. However, it will not happen like that. This is because people say that today the Sangh indirectly rules Hindustan and this statement of the Sarsanghchalak is a directive to the government.

Salar (January 12) in its editorial said that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, while once again talking about peace, has repeated the same thing, which, instead of improving the situation, only increases the hatred in the mind. Bhagwat said that Muslims should not feel threatened in this country. However, along with it, he also said that Muslims should not think of themselves as superior to others. Mohan Bhagwat is the chief of an organisation which never kept any faith in the Constitution of the country. In the Constitution, every religion is given equal treatment and the people have accepted it. However, some forces have been trying to finish off the country's Constitution which was created on the basis of justice and equality, and establish the domination of a particular community and keep all other communities suppressed.

The newspaper said that the vision of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is a threat to the future of the country. The earlier the people identify the enemy within, the better it will be. Bhagwat says that Hindustan doesn't face any danger from outside. But the Sangh people are crying hoarse over internal enemies and about a situation of war in the country for the past several decades. Bhagwat needs to understand that the Muslims in the country are responsible to the Constitution and not to the Sangh. The Constitution has given every citizen in the country the freedom to live as per his or her wish. Hence Bhagwat, RSS or its allied organisations should not be under the illusion that the Muslim or any other community will live at their mercy. Besides, it is also not at all acceptable to us

the RSS or any of its associated organisations putting up any kind of conditions on Muslims to stay in this country. The latest statement of Bhagwat exposes his mala fide intentions and he wants the domination of a particular Hindu section in this country. Bhagwat is trying to give this message that Muslims can stay in this country, but on the conditions set by it. This is totally unacceptable to us. Muslims in this nation may not be superior to any one, but they are also not inferior to anyone.

Avadhnama (January 13) in its editorial, while targeting the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, said that those who pass comments about any particular religion, need to study deeply about that religion before doing so. It is not fair to give advice to the followers of any religion just on the basis of some hearsay or taking out of context the opinion of some people. The question here is who has forced Hindus to be driven out of this country and who has talked about stealing your identity?

At one point during the interview, Bhagwat says that being Hindu is our identity, our nationality. Our aim is to take everyone along. You are right in your place, I am right in our place. Why we need to fight, why can't we travel together? This is Hindutva. Quran also says that your religion is for you and our religion is for us. Hence it becomes your duty that you talk about things that help establish peace. One that maintains unity. It is not good for anyone to talk hatred and antagonism. It is not good for anyone to target or indirectly threaten any other religion.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 12) in its editorial alleged that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has once again raised a mountain of lies. This time he was giving interview to the two publications of Sangh namely Panchajanya and Organiser. Since these two publications are the mouthpieces of his organisation, nobody has made any effort to question him or reject his contentions. Had any unbiased journalist or newspaper interviewed Mohan Bhagwat, then they would have definitely questioned



that everyone should follow Hindu religion? If one thinks about what Mohan Bhagwat said, several contradictions come to the fore about his statement. For example, he says that the extremists among Muslims, Christians and other religions tell everyone to follow the path of their religion, but a Hindu never says that everyone should follow

his unilateral claims. Since Mohan Bhagwat also knew it very well, he chooses to give such interviews to the publications of his own organisations and talk to those journalists who support his ideology.

The newspaper said that Mohan Bhagwat gives the right to stay in this country only to those who have not come from Arabia, Vatican and Jerusalem. Means, it is clear that Mohan Bhagwat is the head of RSS, an organisation whose thinkers have all along been saying that this nation belongs to those who are the actual residents of this country, who have not come from outside. In this new interview, Mohan Bhagwat has not said anything which was not said earlier.

In the interview, Mohan Bhagwat also said another thing. What is the world view of Hindutva? Did Hindus ever say

the Hindu religion. What will people understand from the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, that every citizen in this country is a Hindu, even Muslims are also Hindu? Doesn't people know that the Ghar Vapasi campaign was launched by RSS? Isn't the Ghar Vapasi campaign a conversion from another religion? These are just a mountain of lies. These are white lies. Such lies can further strengthen the waves of hatred. Had this statement been given by somebody else and not Bhagwat, then a case would have been registered. Isn't it a threat in clear voice that we are in a situation of war. This interview of Bhagwat neither upholds the values of the Constitution of this country that claims to be a democratic and secular one, neither did he think about the sentiments of those who follow other religions while giving such a statement.

Petition filed against formation of committees for UCC rejected

Inquilab (January 10) states that the effort to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country has got a boost following a decision of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, while refusing to accept the claim that the committees formed in Uttarakhand and Gujarat to implement Uniform Civil Code are against the spirit of the Constitution, rejected a few petitions filed in this connection. In its verdict, the court said the states have the right to

constitute such committees. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha said the state governments have the power to form such committees under Article 162 of the Constitution. Hence the public interest petition filed against it cannot be admitted for hearing.

It is to be noted that Anoop Baranwal and a few others had filed a public interest petition in the Supreme



Court in which it had been claimed that Uniform Civil Code is a Central subject and the state governments do not have the power to form committees or implement it. The Supreme Court said that this petition can't be admitted for hearing. The court also expressed surprise over filing of the petition.

It is to be noted that the BJP, instead of implementing Uniform Civil Code at the national level, has formed committees in Uttarakhand and Gujarat to take forward the issue as part of its new strategy. In Gujarat, ahead of the announcement of the dates for Assembly election, a committee was formed in October to decide on the implementation of Uniform Civil Code. Similarly, the Uttarakhand government also formed a committee under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai before the elections to decide on the implementation of Uniform Civil Code.

The chief justice asked what was wrong with it? The constitution of such committees cannot be scrapped by saying that they are against the Constitution. It is to be noted that the Congress, while raising questions over the inclusion of Uniform Civil Code in the election manifesto in Uttarakhand and Gujarat, said that in these states, the population of Muslims is very low. Hence the promise of implementing

Uniform Civil Code has become an election agenda.

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said that even a student of law knows that until the Parliament amends the law, no state can implement the Uniform Civil Code. However, the BJP stresses that the Uniform Civil Code is in the concurrent list, hence the state government can also implement it. However, it is mentioned in Article 44 of the Constitution that efforts should be taken to provide a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of Hindustan. From this, one gets an indication that the Uniform Civil Code is a central subject. However, the Chief

Justice, while citing Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7, said that things like marriage, divorce and inheritance are in the concurrent list and the states have the power to make laws on them, provided they do not clash with Central laws.

The newspaper has written that many allies of the BJP are also against it on the issue of Uniform Civil Code. The Shiromani Akali Dal had opposed it even during the time of its alliance with the BJP. The latest opposition came from Conrad Sangma, chief minister of Meghalaya, who is an ally of BJP. In Meghalaya, Conrad Sangma had made it clear before the Assembly elections that his stand was very clear. National People's Party will not accept Uniform Civil Code under any circumstance. This is because it will adversely affect the life and culture of the tribal community in Meghalaya.

Salar (October 13) states that Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while addressing an event organized in Lucknow, made a major statement regarding the Uniform Civil Code. He said that our government had fulfilled the promise made to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution. Now the turn has come for Uniform Civil Code. Work is on for it. I will not make a promise because in Hindustani politics, leaders make lot of such promises. If such

promises are fulfilled, then crisis of credibility wouldn't have arisen.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 10) in its editorial asked whether the path has been opened for implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country? This question has come up after a decision of the Supreme Court. People may remember that ahead of the Assembly elections in Uttarakhand and Gujarat, the BJP governments had promised that they will implement the Uniform Civil Code in their respective states and with this aim, committees have been formed in both the states, which, however, was questioned in the Supreme Court in the form of Public Interest Litigation. The court has rejected these petitions.

It is to be noted that the Uniform Civil Code will be implemented for all citizens in the country. Currently, different personal laws exist for different religions in

the country. For Muslims, Muslim Personal Law is applicable. Following the decision of the Supreme Court, a major section feels that the purpose of giving nod to the formation of the committees for Uniform Civil Code itself is to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country. Till now, the BJP has been winning elections by raising the Hindu-Muslim issue. Now, the Uniform Civil Code has also been given a communal colour. If the Uniform Civil Code is implemented, it simply means an interference in the dignity of Muslims and they are being stopped from following their religious values. Hence it should be mandatorily ensured that the religious values of those who follow any religion or faith shall not be meddled with in the name of Uniform Civil Code and the rights given by the Constitution to every citizen to follow his religion shall be respected.

Lakshadweep MP's Lok Sabha membership cancelled



Roznama Sahara (January 15) states that the Lok Sabha secretariat has cancelled the membership of Lok Sabha MP from Lakshadweep, Mohammad Faizal, who was recently found guilty in an attempt to murder case. As per a notification issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat, Faizal was found

guilty by a Sessions court. This decision was taken under Article 102 (1) (E) and under Section 8 of Representation of People's Act, 1951. Following this court judgment, he is no more a Lok Sabha member. It is to be noted that a court in Lakshadweep had awarded 10 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh each

to four persons including Faizal after it found them guilty in a case of attempt to murder. They have been accused of attempting to murder the son-in-law of former Union minister P M Sayeed, Mohammad Salih.

Anti-Conversion law questioned in Supreme Court



Inqilab (January 7) states that the Jamiat Ulema has questioned the Constitutional validity of the anti-conversion law enacted in five states before the Supreme Court. In a petition filed in the court, it is being said that this law was being created to harass those who had done inter-religious marriage. This has affected their personal freedom. The public interest petition filed at the behest of Jamiat Ulema was prepared by senior lawyer Ejaz Maqbool.

This petition was filed on behalf of the chairman of the legal aid committee of Jamiat Ulema, Gulzar Azmi, on the directions of the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani. In this petition, while questioning the Constitutional validity of the anti-conversion bill in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, it was claimed that the purpose of the law was to stop inter-religious marriages which is a violation of the religious and personal freedom given to people by the Constitution.

It is to be noted that the high court had cancelled Section 10 of the anti-conversion bill passed by the Madhya Pradesh government. Later, the decision of the high court was questioned in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court refused to stay the decision of the high court and said that under this law, nobody can be forced to seek permission from the district magistrate 60 days in advance if one wants to convert his religion and

neither any legal action can be taken against any person for violating this rule. The Supreme Court said that all conversion cases cannot be described as illegal.

It is said in the petition filed by Jamiat Ulema that the religious and individual freedom guaranteed in the Constitution have been violated in the laws enacted by the state governments. Hence the Supreme Court needs to

intervene in this matter and stop the states from making such laws, and in states where such laws have been made, those should be cancelled. In the petition, it has also been alleged that these laws were made so that inter-religious marriages could be stopped. On the pretext of these laws, a large number of Muslims were arrested and this situation continues now.

It has been mentioned in these laws that the relatives of those who had converted could also register complaints with police. Due to this, fake cases are being registered against people belonging to a particular religion. It is very important to stop this activity. The petition filed by Jamiat Ulema has also alleged violation of Article 19 and 20 of the Constitution and said claimed taking prior permission from the district magistrate for conversion is a wrong step.

Inqilab (January 3) states that last month, in Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission took notice of three cases registered under the conversion law and sought the entire details of the cases from the deputy commissioner. In Badapur police station in Bijnor, three cases were registered under the anti-conversion law in which it had been alleged that pressure had been exerted on the followers of Hindu and Sikh religions to convert to Christianity and when they refused to convert, they were attacked. The turban of a man named

Gurpreet Singh was forcibly removed, his hair was cut and threatened to kill him. According to Bijnor police, a case has been registered against ten persons including a padri named Manoj Kumar. However, only two persons have been arrested so far. Member of Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission Sardar Parvinder Singh said police delayed in taking action. Those who conducted forceful conversions shall be arrested immediately so that the atmosphere is not spoiled in the state.

Siasat (January 10) in its editorial said the conversion issue is becoming a sensitive matter. This is because some people are trying to take political mileage out of it and some political parties are using

it to polarise the votes. However, as far as the issue of religion is concerned, it is an individual issue. As per Indian Constitution, any individual can adopt any religion depending on his interest and wish. But some communal elements are trying to make political benefits out of it. They are distorting this issue for their own benefits. It is true that nobody shall be forced to convert his religion. It is legally wrong to force somebody to convert his religion using force or allurements in the country. It is necessary for the states to be alert and cautious while making laws in this connection so that people are not treated in an improper manner on the pretext of such laws.

Reports of discrimination against Muslims rejected



Inquilab (January 8) states that former Union minister and veteran journalist M J Akbar, while giving an interview to the editor of **Inquilab** Wadood Sajid, rejected the claim that Muslims face any kind of discrimination under Modi government. He said that the government has two duties. First, to take care of the poor and second, maintain peace. Rest are all politics. I can tell you with conviction that the Modi government has not done any kind of discrimination to any Muslim.

When Akbar was asked to cite an example in this connection, he said that in the different people's welfare projects launched by Modi government like the Jan

Dhan Yojana, free gas connection, free ration and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, there is no such incident where there is any kind of discrimination on the basis of religion. All these projects are for the welfare of the poor and were started to provide relief to the poor. However,

unfortunately, the statistics indicate that Muslims are the poorest in the country. Hence Muslims have become the largest beneficiary of these schemes. One will not be able to show a single incident where any Muslim is discriminated during their implementation or for being a beneficiary of these schemes.

In reply to another question, he said that as far as the issue of peace is concerned, no riots took place under Modi government. Even if some small incidents had taken place, the government had taken action on them. However, no such incident has taken place anywhere where unilateral action has been taken against Muslims.

However, I am not saying that everyone is happy on this, there are different opinions. This is a big country. There are people of different opinions, different organisations. I have given my analysis by keeping the Prime Minister in the mind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to bring out everyone, without any discrimination, from the clutches of poverty.

Akbar told the editor of **Inquilab** that now he wants to ask a question to him as well. From the time of Atal Bihari Vajpayee till Narendra Modi, the BJP was in power for 15 years only. However, for 60 years those people were in power whom the Muslims used to give their votes. Why the poverty of Muslims not mitigated during their time? Secondly, why such a question was not raised before them? Why the Muslims do not ask among themselves, where did the governments, formed at our behest in 60 years and whom we had voted for, had taken us? Just take the case of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alone. There, everybody's situation has changed. But why the financial condition of only Muslims is going from bad to worse? On a wider spectrum, these are two states where people got into some sentiments and voted for one party. However, they had ignored the interests of Muslims.

Sajid asked, according to you, what should the Muslims do now? On this, Akbar said the focus of Muslims should be on their future. If any government sees the poor through one frame and do not discriminate them on the basis of the religion, then the results will not be bad, instead good also. In a democracy, no one can be brought under pressure. People will vote as per their wishes and it should be like that only. You give vote to whom you feel good. I want Muslims to get justice in governance and administration and the present administration has met the criteria in this respect.

Sajid asked Akbar that you talk about peace but under the present regime, incidents of mob lynching took place and what do you want to say about it? Akbar said that yes, small incidents did take place.

But when other parties were in power, didn't such incidents occur? Didn't any riots take place? During the regime of Manmohan Singh, people were killed in mob lynching especially in Western Uttar Pradesh. People were killed in knife attacks and bomb blasts. Many became victims of terrorism. This is wrong. It should be condemned. But in case such incidents take place under the present regime, I do not have any hesitation in condemning it. We need to strengthen our laws and need to fix accountability for such incidents.

The editor of **Inquilab** asked Akbar that the Prime Minister has raised the issue of Pasmada Muslims. Do you feel that the Muslims will now get attracted to BJP? On this, Akbar said that I don't have the data and to give a reply to this question, a data of the survey is very important. However, what I want to say is that the way the BJP has got unprecedented success in Gujarat, that cannot happen with the votes of the followers of just one religion. The system of Muslims voting in a one-sided manner has ended. There is a change in the opinion of the people about the Prime Minister.

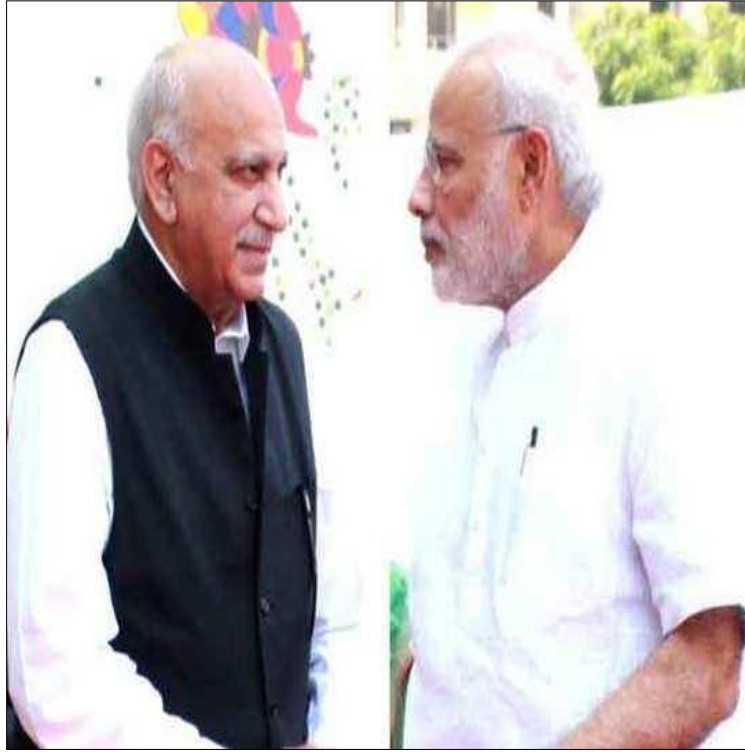
Sajid asked Akbar that didn't he feel that the Prime Minister's stand about Muslims is a different one? Hasn't this government become a Muslim-free government? As of now, the BJP has no Muslim MP in the Parliament nor there is anyone in the Union government. Is this quite natural? On this, Akbar replied that what is the point if the community doesn't benefit by making a Muslim as minister. In the past 60 years, how many Muslims had become ministers, and still the Muslims always remained backward. What is the use of such ministers who have become big in the name of the community but kept the community weak. Akbar asked hasn't the Muslims become tired of the old administrative model? Now we need to see whether the government that has been formed for a purpose, whether that work is happening or not. We need the government for food, employment and peace. From this point of view, if you sit with an account book and make a calculation, you will

realise that this government is not a failure but a success. I just want to tell you one thing about Muslims. After the 90s, Muslims have made an unprecedented progress in the field of education. In general, Muslims had given lot of emphasis on the education of girls. This educational revolution will take them ahead. Educated Muslims are getting new employment opportunities in private sector and in multinational companies. In employment, capitalism is the norm, not communalism.

The editor of **Inquilab** asked Akbar that this government had stopped the scholarships of minority students. Doesn't this give a negative message to the Muslims against the government? Akbar said that he believes that religion cannot be the basis for granting scholarships. Instead, economic backwardness should be the criterion for the same. The correct way is to financially uplift those who are economically backward. The creamy layer gets the benefits of majority of the welfare schemes. Now this stand is changing.

Sajid told Akbar that from your replies I got this impression that you trust Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If leaders of Muslims approach Modi to find solution to their problems, will the outcome be favourable? Akbar said that Muslim leaders should meet the Prime Minister. He is the Prime Minister of this country. If Muslim leaders meet him, then it will definitely be beneficial to Muslims. You tell him your things and he will listen to your talk. This way, the mutual discord will end.

Akbar said that he wants to tell his own experience. The Muslims were upset



with the Chief Minister of West Bengal Buddhadeb Bhattacharya. A delegation of Muslims went to meet him. I was also part of it. We went to talk about the community. But we handed over files related to our personal things. People go for community's problems and instead ask for personal work. This is open bargaining.

Akbar said that under Prime Minister Modi's rule, there is lot of improvement in India's relationship with Arab nations. Our relationship with Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh also improved. Did anyone think that electricity will be supplied from Northeast India to Bangladesh? There is improvement in the trade between the two countries. The tension between the two countries ended and a fresh atmosphere of trust has come into being. Our relationship with Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has improved and due to my efforts, after 51 years, the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj got an opportunity to speak from the platform of OIC. However, it is unfortunate that this system is closed now.

Tension in Pakistan - Afghanistan relationship



Pakistan's Urdu newspaper **Jung** (January 9) reports that Pakistan's interior minister Rana Sanaullah has held Afghanistan as responsible for the recent increase in incidents of terrorist activities in his country. He said that Afghanistan is giving refuge to terrorists. It is to be noted that banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan had announced its decision to cancel the ceasefire agreement it has signed with Pakistan government and step up attacks on Pakistani Army.

Inqilab (January 11) states that the Pakistan government has decided to unleash a nationwide drive against terrorist organisations and directed the military and security agencies to step up their campaign to uproot terrorism.

Roznama Sahara (January 15) states that three policemen were killed in a terrorist attack that took place in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkwa province in Pakistan. One among them was a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Senior Superintendent of Police of operations, Kashif Aftab Abbasi, told media persons that terrorists had attacked Sarband police station in Peshawar. Three policemen were killed in this attack. He said that the attackers were carrying modern weapons

and they attacked the police station in a pre-planned manner. He claimed that efforts have been intensified to trace the terrorists.

Inqilab (January 7) states that at least 12 terrorists were killed in a campaign launched against terrorists by Pakistan's security forces in Waziristan's Wanna town. The killed included the commander of the terrorists, Hafizullah. The forces seized huge cache of most modern weapons from the base of the terrorists.

Roznama Sahara (January 8) states that two terrorists who had threatened to attack the Parliament of Pakistan have been arrested. The police are questioning them. Inspector General of Islamabad police Dr Akbar Nazir Khan said the terrorists wanted to disturb peace and create bloodshed in the country.

Siasat (January 5) states that the spokesperson of Afghan Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid alleged that though the Taliban government in Afghanistan wants good relationship with all neighbouring countries including Pakistan, some ministers in Pakistan are destroying such relationship by issuing provocative and baseless charges. Earlier, the National Security Council of Pakistan had warned the Taliban



government in Afghanistan not to give shelter to terrorists, otherwise Pakistan will have to take strong action. Similarly, Pakistan's defence minister Khwaja Mohammad Asif had issued a statement that Afghanistan's land was being regularly used to spread terrorism in Pakistan. However, Taliban had assured during the Doha agreement that they would not allow their land to be used to spread terrorism. Khwaja Asif had rejected this claim of Afghan government that it was not giving protection to the terrorists of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. He said that terrorists are infiltrating Pakistan from Afghanistan in order to spark the flames of terrorism in his country.

As per another report, a spokesperson of US State Department said that terrorism is being promoted in Pakistan at the behest of Afghanistan and the Pakistani people have to suffer huge losses due to terror incidents. A correspondent asked him whether Afghanistan's land is being used to promote terrorism in Pakistan? In such a situation, has Pakistan got the right to take action against Afghanistan? In reply to this, the US spokesperson said that Pakistan is totally free to take any kind of step against terrorism and the US fully agrees with the

statement issued by Pakistan's security council in this connection.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 6) reports that the US government has condemned the threat issued at the behest of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan to kill Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Affairs Minister Bilawal Bhutto. The US government has demanded the Taliban government in Afghanistan to fulfil its promise on not to allow its land to be used to shelter terrorists and take stringent action against terrorists.

Inquilab (January 2) reports that the Afghanistan embassy in Islamabad had demanded the Pakistan government to immediately release those Afghan citizens who are lodged in Pakistani jails. The Afghan embassy said the Pakistan government had promised that the Afghan citizens who are lodged in Pakistani jails would be released immediately. However, they were not released till now. The Pakistani officials had confirmed that hundreds of Afghan citizens who were caught on charges of illegally entering Pakistan are lodged in Pakistani jails.

Inquilab (January 13) reports that the Pakistan government has announced that efforts have begun to evict those Afghan citizens who are illegally staying in Pakistan and send them back to Afghanistan. According to United Nations, currently 14 lakh Afghan refugees are staying in Pakistan. The Pakistan government has given stringent directions to security forces to stop Afghan citizens who are entering Pakistan in an illegal manner and take stringent action against them.

Pathetic condition of minorities in Bangladesh

As per a report published in **Avadhnama** (January 8), the minorities are not safe in Bangladesh. In the past one year, incidents of rape took place with 39 women of

minority community. Among them, 27 women were gang raped while 14 women were killed after being raped. The women who were raped included both Hindus and



Adivasis. In a press conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot claimed that the minorities are not safe in Bangladesh. General Secretary of the organisation Govinda Chandra Pramanik claimed in a press conference that in the past one year, 424 minorities were killed and 62 people had gone missing. Nearly 849 people were given death threats. Nearly 953 people were attacked and 360 injured were admitted to hospital.

As per the reports from different police stations, 53 minorities became targets of violence last year and 127 people were kidnapped. Nearly 445 families of minorities had to leave Bangladesh due to harassment of majority community and nearly their one lakh acre land have been forcibly occupied. The houses of 3,694 people were seized and they were evicted.

Pramanik has alleged that the Adivasis have been threatened to be evicted from their land. The number of those who were threatened with eviction is more than 35,000 and their 6,500 acre land have been forcibly occupied. Nearly 2,500 acre land of Hindus in plains have been forcibly occupied and nearly 15,000 families have

been threatened with eviction. He also alleged that the land of 51 temples have been forcibly seized. Nearly 128 temples were attacked and inflicted damages. The murtis in nearly 72 temples were stolen. He claimed that till now the minorities have suffered damages to the tune of Rs 2.2 billion.

This report is based on the news published in various media organisations in Bangladesh between

January 2022 and December 2022 and on the data provided by minority organisations. During this period, 152 people have been forced to undergo conversion. Nearly 179 religious places have been damaged and cases have been registered in different police stations to stop 129 religious functions. The National Hindu Mahajot has alleged in the press conference that the democratic sentiments in the country is declining and a sense of intolerance and bigotry is being unleashed against minorities.

The organisation claimed that in one year, 127 cases were registered in different police stations on charges of hurting religious sentiments and 791 minorities were arrested on fake charges. Govinda Chandra Pramanik also claimed that though Bangladesh had attained freedom, the Hindus in the country are yet to get freedom. He also demanded that the harassment of minorities shall be stopped and reserved seats shall be re-assigned for Hindus in the National Parliament. A special ministry shall be formed for the welfare of minorities and the post of Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister shall be reserved for the minorities.

Drive against illegal infiltration in the US

Siasat (January 7) reports that the US government has announced stringent measures to stop illegal infiltration in the country. The government said the policy is being eased for those who want to come to US through legal means. As of now, a nationwide campaign will be launched to evict those foreign citizens who illegally stay in the country and they will not be allowed to enter the country for the next five years.

A spokesperson of White House said that there is a need to improve the immigration system, hence the security arrangements on the border regions have been tightened. Specific directions have been issued to security agencies in order to tighten the security system in the southern border. The



spokesperson said that the US government will take strong and effective steps to stop illegal infiltration in the country.

Chinese companies loot Balochistan's resources



Hamara Samaj (January 8) states that Chinese companies are exploiting the mineral resources of Balochistan. Recently, the Pakistan government had given the contract to mine gold, silver and copper in Balochistan to a large number of Chinese companies. As per a report, a Chinese company, Metallurgical

Construction Corporation, has been given the contract to extract the mineral wealth in Balochistan. From this, it got a profit of 75 million US dollar in 2021. In 1970, a Pakistani company started a search for gold and copper deposits. However, in 1995, it was given to Chinese companies on a lease for 10 years. The interesting

thing is that at one level, the Chinese companies are making huge profits by exploiting the natural resources of Balochistan. At another level, the financial condition of the people of Balochistan is going from bad to worse. The Chinese companies had flatly refused to recruit local residents as labourers and instead the labourers are also brought from China. The interesting thing is that 53% of the income generated from the lease given to Chinese companies, goes to Pakistan's central government, while the Balochistan government is given just 5% of the income.

Baloch Liberation Front has claimed that the Pakistan government, in

a recent report, had claimed that the Chinese companies are providing free electricity and water in Balochistan. However, this is a fraud. As per a report published in Dawn, a journalist named Akbar Notezai, after interviewing Balochis in Chagai region, has claimed that the Pakistan government had given China the licence to openly loot the natural resources of Balochistan. This is the reason why a section of Balochistan people are waging an armed struggle for independent Balochistan. On the other hand, the Pakistan government is suppressing those demanding an independent Balochistan using its military strength.

Blast in Kabul



Siasat (January 2) reports that a massive blast took place outside a military airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, in which dozens of people were killed. According to foreign news agencies, a spokesperson of Afghan's interior ministry Abdul Nafi Takor, though confirmed that a blast took place, refused to provide any details. It is being said that ISIS is behind the blast. The security agencies have intensified a search operation to trace the accused behind the blast.

Roznama Sahara (January 2) reports that the airport was targeted by suicide bombers. In this attack, at least 10 people were killed and 20 were injured. Just two days ago, blasts occurred in three

places in Afghanistan, in which two dozen people were killed. According to Khama Press, this blast took place in a government office. Earlier, in a blast that took place at Badakhshan province, four police officers were killed. Recently, an attack took place at the Prime Minister's office in Afghanistan, which was

foiled by the security agencies. The government has claimed that the Afghan soldiers had shot dead six terrorists.

Siasat (January 12) reports that a suicide attack took place at the foreign ministry in Afghanistan, in which at least 20 people were killed. An injured person, Jamsed Karimi told the correspondent of AFP that some terrorists tried to enter the office of the foreign affairs ministry. These terrorists were wearing jackets filled with ammunition. They triggered a suicide blast and inflicted serious damages to the building. In this attack, 20 people including four terrorists were killed. Spokesperson of Kabul police, Khalid Zadaran said that Islamic State was behind the blast.

Iran's former Minister for Defence hanged on charges of spying

Etemaad (January 15) states that the Iran government has hanged to death Iran's former Deputy Minister for Defence Ali Raza Akbari on charges of spying for Britain. The Iran government claimed that some countries had exerted pressure that this spy shall not be hanged to death.



However, the foreign pressure has been ignored in the interest of the nation. The person who has been hanged, had two citizenships. He was considered close to a former President of Iran. According to the Iranian news agency, the British citizen of Iranian origin Ali Raza Akbari was hanged to death at an undisclosed location on Friday morning. He was accused of spying for British intelligence wing, and the charge was upheld by the court.

The government news agency claimed that the country's national security was severely compromised due to the information handed over to foreign intelligence agencies by Akbari. The news agency claimed that it was clear how important Akbari was to Britain from the way the British government put pressure on Iran government to save him. He was trained by British intelligence agency MI-6 and he established several fake companies in order to sabotage the working of Iranian intelligence agencies. Akbari used to meet

British spies in Australia, United Arab Emirates and many other countries and he used to provide vital information about Iran to them. As a reward for the treachery done in his own country, Britain had even provided him with citizenship. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that it was a cowardly act of a callous government, which does not care about the rights of its own citizens. It is a cowardly action. The British Foreign Minister also condemned the death sentence awarded to Akbari.

Etemaad (January 12) states that Iran President Syed Ebrahim Raisi had said that foreign powers were interfering in the internal affairs of Iran. However, like in the past, this time also the enemies of Iran had to suffer defeat. He said that the enemies of Islamic democracy of Iran wants to ruin our nation like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen. But we will never allow them to fulfill their dream. The enlightened people of Iran has spilled cold water on the intentions of enemy.

Resolution in UN General Assembly against Israel

Inqilab (January 2) states that the UN General Assembly had passed a resolution condemning Israeli occupation of

Palestinian areas. Eighty-seven nations voted in favour of this resolution while 26 opposed it and 53 did not take part in



voting. In the United Nations, Palestinian representative Riyad Mansour, while expressing gratitude to the countries which opposed the harassment of Palestinians at the hands of Jewish government, said that due to this resolution, hardliner prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has to reconsider his nefarious intentions. He said that Israel and its supporting nations had put pressure on different nations in the world not to extend their support to the resolution, but they did not succumb to this pressure. The UN General Assembly had appealed to the International Court of Justice to provide its legal opinion on the Israeli occupation of Palestinian area. Palestine has welcomed this appeal. According to news agency Reuters, the resolution will be a trouble for the new Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. His alliance includes such extremist organisations which are in favour of merging West Bank with Israel.

The UN General Assembly has told the International Court of Justice to give

legal advice on issues like the occupation of Palestinian regions by Israel, status of the holy city of Jerusalem etc. Secondly, the International Court of Justice has no power to implement its decision on any government. It is worth mentioning that Israel had seized West Bank, Gaza Strip and Eastern Jerusalem during the war in 1967. Before that, these

were part of Palestine. In 2014, talks began between Israel and Palestine in order to resolve the dispute, but it failed. Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas said that time has come to bring Israel to the dock and give them punishment for the atrocities being conducted on the people of Palestine. Commenting on this resolution, the Israeli Ambassador said the resolution was totally wrong. The international court of justice has no right to give its opinion on this.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while commenting on this resolution, said that in the past also the United Nations General Assembly had passed hundreds of such resolutions and we do not care about them. This is because these resolutions are not based on facts. Palestine belongs to Jews. Hence how can it be accused of seizing its own land? We are adamant on our decision to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel and we don't care about any international laws. We will continue with our fight for the truth.

Saudi Crown Prince declared most powerful person in Arab world

Mumbai Urdu News (January 12) states that Russian television has declared the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman, as the most powerful figure in Arab world. According to Arab media reports, Russian television channel 'Russia

Today' which is broadcast in Arabic language, has conducted a survey in this connection in which the Crown Prince has emerged as the most powerful figure in the Arab world. According to Russian television, the President of United Arab



Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has been identified as the second

most powerful person in the Arab world.

In this survey, the opinion of 1,18,77,546 people were taken, in which the Saudi Crown Prince got 73,99,451 votes. Nearly 62 per cent people who took part in the survey supported Mohammad Bin Salman. Whereas the President of United Arab Emirates Mohammad Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan got 29,50,543 votes in his favour. Egypt President Abdel Fattah

El-Sisi has been declared as the third most powerful person in the Arab world.

Sudan military not to get involved in politics



Avadhnama (January 10) states that the chief of Sudanese Army, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, has announced that the military will not interfere in any political issues and elections will be held under the supervision of public leaders. We hope for a people's

democratic government to come to power which can satisfy the expectations of the Sudanese people with regard to freedom, peace and justice. For the past one year, there has been a confrontation between the leaders of the country and the military. In

order to resolve this conflict, a series of talks were initiated which were proved successful.

It is to be noted that the people of Sudan had organized mass protests against price rise. Following this, the 30-year-old regime of Omar Al-Bashir government collapsed on April 11, 2019. Later, the leaders and the military took over the control of the nation. But due to internal strife, this arrangement did not last for many days. The Sudanese military overthrew the people's government through

a coup and captured power on October 25, 2021. An Emergency was declared in the country and hundreds of leaders including the Prime Minister were taken into custody. Later, the people intensified their massive protests against the government. The military tried to suppress the citizens using force in which hundreds of people were killed. After this, talks started between the leaders and the military for an agreement. As a result of these talks, the military has declared its intention to remain neutral during the elections.

Israeli attack on Damascus airport



Avadhnama (January 3) states that four persons were killed as the Israeli military attacked the international airport in Syrian capital Damascus using missiles. They victims include two soldiers. Following this, the airport was closed for an indefinite period. In the past also Israel had attacked this airport twice. According to Syria's government news agency SANA, this attack took place around 2 at night and it caused serious damages to the airport. The airport and the nearby arms depot were targeted during the attack.

It is to be noted that the Damascus airport was closed on June 10 last year also following an Israeli attack. Israel has been continuously

targeting different airports of Syria and it has carried out attacks on Syria several times. Israel claimed their target were the camps of Iran-supported terrorist organization, Hezbollah. This is because Hezbollah is continuously carrying out attacks on Israel and a number of Israeli citizens were killed in such attacks.

It is to be noted that a civil war is on in Syria for the past 11 years. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has the support of Iran. Whereas Israel has described the presence of Iranian soldiers near its eastern border as a threat to it. The Syrian President had never admitted that the Iranian military is extending help to him.

Women awarded punishment in Tunisia on charges of terrorism



Inquilab (January 14) reports that a court in Tunisia has awarded nine women 25 years in jail on charges of setting up terrorist organization and for conspiring to

kill the then interior minister Hedi Majdoub. This terrorist organization was set up by women. Whereas seven other women were given jail terms ranging from 3 years to 14 years. It is being said that this terrorist organization is linked to Al Qaida and its affiliated organization, Al Shabab, which want to overthrow the Tunisian government.

Saudi Arabia appoints woman Ambassador to European Union



Roznama Sahara (January 15) states that a woman, Haifa Al-Jedea, has been named as ambassador and head of the Saudi mission

to the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community. Haifa had done PhD in international relations from Columbia University and she also obtained a degree in journalism from a foreign university. Earlier, she was holding important positions for the past several years at the Saudi Embassy in US. Before taking over the new responsibility, Haifa met King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz.

Honesty of Indian citizen in Dubai



Siasat (January 12) states that an Indian citizen staying in United Arab Emirates, Upendra Nath Chaturvedi, had displayed a

shining example of honesty. He found 1,34,930 Dirham on road, which he handed over to police. The director of the police department in UAE Colonel Omar Mohammed Bin Hammad praised this Indian citizen for honesty. He said that the money has been handed over to its real owner.

Divorced Muslim woman has right to get alimony for life

Siasat (January 6) reports that the Allahabad High Court, in an important judgment, said that a divorced Muslim woman, whether she has married again or not, can claim alimony for life from her first husband. It is to be noted that in the Shariah system, the woman is entitled to alimony from her former husband once the period of waiting is over. The waiting period is generally three months. This judgment was delivered by the high court while admitting an appeal filed by Zahida Khatun.

Earlier, the family court in Ghazipur had directed that Zahida Khatun would be entitled to alimony from her former



husband until her three periods. The high court had directed the former husband of Zahida that he hands over Rs 5,000 every month to his divorced wife as alimony.

It is to be noted that the marriage of Zahida Khatun and Noorul Haq Khan took place on May 21, 1989. After the marriage, her husband got a government job and in year 2000, he issued talaq to his wife and married for a second time. The district judge of Ghazipur directed her former husband to give Zahida Khatun Rs 1,500 per month till the waiting period or till three months and 13 days. Zahida Khatun questioned this verdict in the high court.


Quran in Braille for the blind

Siasat (January 10) states that the Saudi government has made available 65 copies of Quran in Braille script for visually impaired at the library of Masjid-e-Nabwi. In the books of Quran

majeed based on Braille, the verses are in electronic form. These copies were specially made abroad on the directions of King Fahad Complex.

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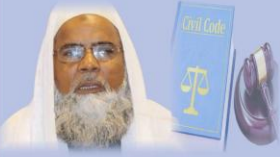
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