

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

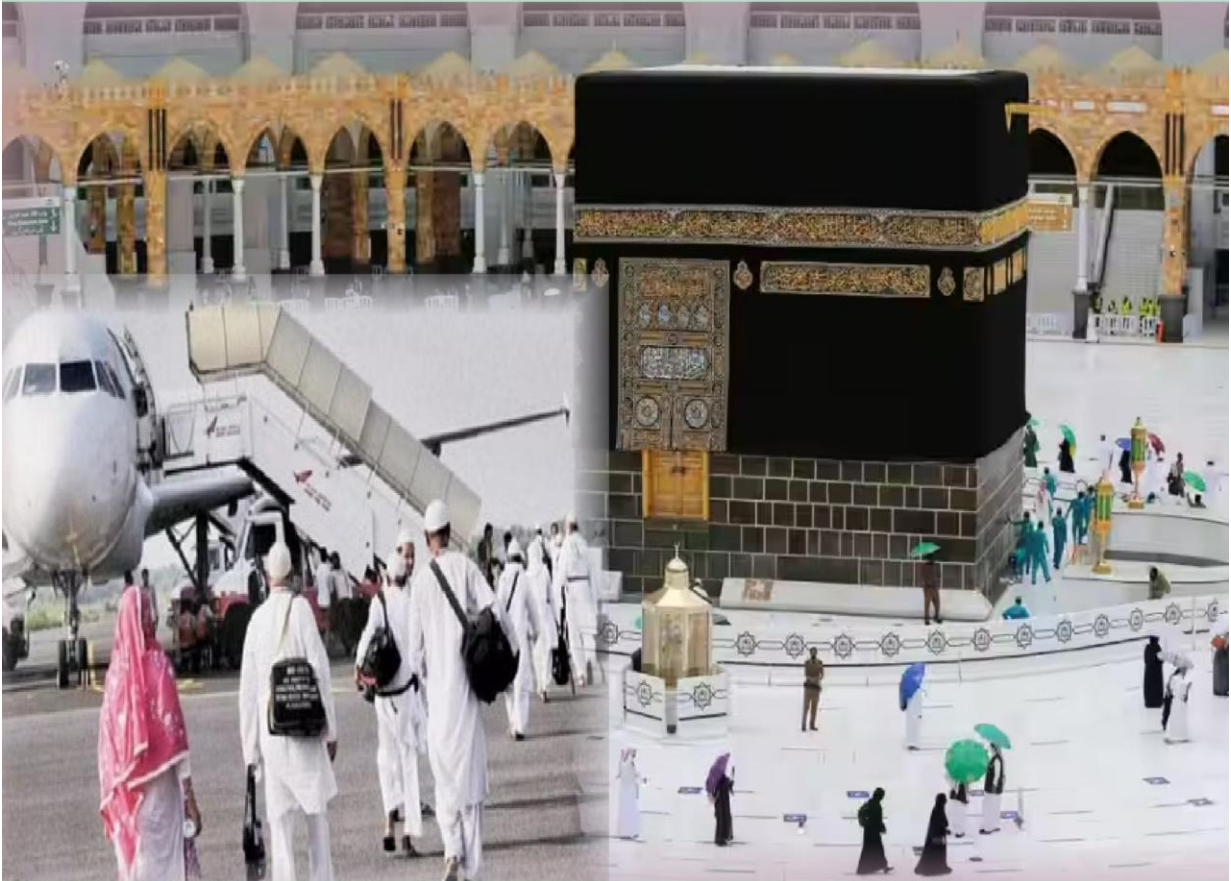
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Hajjis Relieved over Government's New Haj Policy



- Uproar over campaign against child marriage in Assam
- Thousands died in earthquake in Turkiye and Syria
- State of Emergency extended in Myanmar
- Women not banned from offering namaz in masjids

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

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Summary

The attempts being made at the behest of RSS to enhance rapport with Muslim community and to create an atmosphere of harmony are likely to continue. In this connection, two meetings have taken place so far and preparations are on for the third meeting. This apart, BJP's minority morcha has also given the indication to launch a four-month-long mass outreach programme to attract Muslim voters towards BJP.

National president of minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui said that special attention will be given to those Lok Sabha constituencies in the country where Muslims play a major role in ensuring the victory of the candidate of any political party. He also said that they have prepared a list of 5,000 prominent Muslim representatives which includes religious leaders, thinkers, intellectuals, traders and industrialists of different Muslim organisations. They will cooperate with us in creating an atmosphere in favour of BJP. We are establishing contact with imams of masjids at village, city and district levels and also with influential Muslims of different organisations.

At one level, while the Sangh Parivar is making efforts to maintain harmony in the country, at another level, some fundamentalists are not liking these efforts. Recently, a special meeting of Muslim Personal Law Board was held in Lucknow in which a decision was taken to launch a joint struggle with Adivasis, other minorities and Dalits against the Uniform Civil Code. In the meeting, a concern has also been expressed on the claim of some people over the places of worship of Muslims. The government has been urged that the law regarding protection of places of worship shall be implemented strictly. The meeting also mentioned about the drive launched by Assam government against child marriage, saying that the Assam government has been running this campaign in order to deliberately harass Muslims. On the other hand, the chief minister of Assam has clarified that the campaign was not against any particular community or religion.

The Urdu newspapers are also trying to create an atmosphere against Modi government on the pretext of the slashed allocations made for the Ministry of Minority Affairs in the budget presented for the financial year 2023-24.

In the massive earthquake that hit Turkiye and Syria, it has been indicated that the death toll may cross 24,000. In this difficult time, the Indian government also sent special teams to Turkiye and Syria along with equipment to extend help to the victims of the earthquake.

The Taliban government in Afghanistan has also welcomed the annual budget presented by Indian government recently. The budget has allocated Rs 200 crore aid to Afghanistan government. Earlier, the Indian government had sent 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan. Commenting on the latest budget of India, Taliban government spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said that the relationship between the two countries will get strengthened due to this step.

Hajis relieved over the new Haj policy



Inquilab (February 9) reports that the Saudi government has given permission to 1.75 lakh Indian Muslims to arrive for Haj pilgrimage this year. Before this, such a large number of Indian Muslims was never given granted permission for Haj. From this quota, 80% Hajis will be sent to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee while 20% Hajis will be sent through private tour operators.

The Ministry for Minority Affairs has officially announced the Haj policy for 2023. As per this policy, the Hajis will get application forms free of cost this time. Earlier, they had to pay a fee of Rs 300 to get this form. This apart, it has also been decided that this year, Rs 50,000 less will be deducted from Hajis for the expenses. Till now, Hajis had to purchase suitcase, bag, umbrella etc from the Haj committee. Now this condition has also been lifted. As far as the issue of women going for Haj, they have been given permission to go in a group of four or more persons if their age is more than 45 years if they do not have any 'Mahram' (close male relative). This apart, if any woman wants to go for Haj all alone, then permission will be granted for the

same. A separate arrangement has been made for the stay of such persons in Jeddah.

This time, arrangements have been made to send Hajis to Saudi Arabia from 25 airports in the country. The health check-up of Haj yatris will be done at government centres free of cost. Those who had gone to Haj through the Haj committee will not get permission to go again. Women above 70 years of age will be given permission to go for Haj with an extra fee. The most important decision that the government has taken is that the government quota for Haj pilgrims has been stopped from this year.

Announcing the new Haj policy, Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani said the government policy is that the Haj Yatris get more and more facilities. She said that earlier the Hajis used to go to Jeddah from 19 airports. Now its number has been increased to 25. Special arrangements have been made to look after children if they accompany women.

Salat (February 10) states that as per the new Haj policy, from this year, every Haj yatri can take along two children with



rank of director from every state will also be sent to look after the Hajjis from the state concerned. Those who want to go for Haj, they can submit their application online. This apart, they are also allowed to personally submit their application. As per the new Haj policy, priority will be given to the quota of those above 70

years of age, women and physically handicapped. them. The Haj period has been fixed for around 30-40 days. The 65-year age limit for Haj has also been removed. Children who are above the age of 2 years have to pay the full amount for the air travel. The government quota has been ended as per the new Haj policy. Before this, a specific quota had been allocated for those going to Haj from the quota of the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Minister for Minority Affairs and from the quota of Haj Committee of India. The Haj yatris need to get a medical certificate from the civil surgeon of their respective district. This apart, they have also been given the facility to do free RTPCR test from government laboratory.

years of age, women and physically handicapped.

Roznama Sahara (February 9) reports that scholars from different Islamic sects held talks with Uttar Pradesh's Minister for Minorities Welfare Dharmpal Singh and Minister of State Danish Azad Ansari in order to improve the facilities for Haj, Waqf and religious madrasas. It has been discussed at the meeting that there is a possibility that the quota being allocated for Haj yatris from Uttar Pradesh this year may not be filled. Hence the government needs to make provisions so that those interested in again going for Haj could be allotted the vacant seats. The 2,000 Riyals extra fee which is extracted from such people should be stopped. This apart, the number of staff at Haj House shall be increased.

The newspaper said that for every 300 Haj yatris, apart from the appointment of a Khadim-ul-Hujjaj, an official of the

Budget cut for Ministry of Minority Welfare criticised

Salar (February 2) states that in the general budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, there has been a huge reduction in the allocations made for Ministry of Minority Welfare. In the budget for financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 5,020 crore was allocated for the ministry, which has been reduced to Rs 3,097 crore this time. The finance minister said that since the allocated budget for the minority welfare ministry was not spent last year, it has been reduced this time. As per government data,



the minority welfare ministry had spent Rs 2,612 crore last year. Now, due to the slashed budget, the plan for modernisation of madrasas has fallen into despair.

This apart, a huge reduction has been made in the scholarships being given to the students of minority communities. The Pre-Metric scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship have been stopped. The budget for the programme for skill development of Muslims has been reduced to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 235 crore. Whereas the budget for

‘Nayi Manzil’ yojana has also been reduced to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 46 crore. The budget of Maulana Azad Education Foundation has also been reduced to Rs 10 lakh. This apart, the budget for Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram was also reduced to Rs 600 crore from Rs 1,650 crore.

According to the newspaper, due to the new budget proposals, nearly 50,000 teachers of madrasas are likely to be rendered unemployed because the budget for madrasa modernisation has been reduced to Rs 10 crore from Rs 160 crore. Due to this decision, the possibility of madrasa teachers in Uttar Pradesh becoming unemployed has increased.

Siasat (February 5) reports that the general secretary of All India Milli Council Dr Mohammad Asghar Chulbul has alleged that the real face of Modi government has come to the fore. The animosity of the BJP government at the Centre towards the minorities and Narendra Modi’s ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ have been exposed. The budget has ignored the educational programmes of minorities.

In an article published in **Salar** (February 3), Dr Salim Ahmad has claimed that the budget presented by Modi government for next year is a betrayal for Muslims. This budget of the government is anti-minority and this decision had been taken because Muslims do not vote for BJP. Prime Minister Modi had declared that his government was for fall. It would also ensure development of those who did not vote for it and win their trust. The Muslims felt happy over this claim.

Inquilab (February 2) states that the Welfare Party of India has described the budget for the coming year as a mirage and said that the way the Prime Minister has been misleading people through his rhetoric and empty slogans, the Finance Minister has just followed that path. This budget has hugely upset the minorities and other deprived classes.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 2) said in its editorial that this budget is anti-

people and it will benefit only the rich people. This budget has made a 40% cut in the allocations for the minorities. Due to this policy of the government, the poor Muslim will become poorer.

Siasat (February 3) said in its editorial that before coming to power at the Centre, the BJP had given the slogan ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.’ When it came to power for the second time, it had tricked people into believing that it was working for the development of all communities in the society. However, if we make an analysis of the past eight years, it becomes clear that this slogan was just on paper and people have been misled on the pretext of it. The development programmes for the minorities have been stopped in a well-planned manner by the Central government. In the budget, only Rs 3,000 crore has been allocated for a population of 20 - 22 crore Muslims in India. From this, it is clear that the government even denies the existence of Muslims. The scholarship programme for minority candidates appearing for UPSC exams has been stopped. It means that the government wants to keep Muslims away from the administrative set up of the country. The bitter truth behind the mirage that has been shown to Muslims in the name of modernisation of madrasas has also come to the fore. Now this programme has also been stopped. Another thing is that the government, which claims to be taking steps to win the trust of Muslims, is holding meetings with the representatives of Muslims only as a show-off. Secondly, the government is cheating the minorities and is doing injustice to them. This stand of the government is quite unfortunate.

Inquilab (February 11) states that while taking part in the debate on the President’s address in Lok Sabha, the chief of All India Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, and the MP of Bahujan Samaj Party, Kunwar Danish Ali, demanded an increase in the budgetary provisions for minorities and to reinstate their old welfare schemes.

Uproar over campaign against child marriage in Assam



Inquilab (February 11) has claimed that due to the manner in which the Assam government has been arresting the husbands and fathers of minor girls, no woman is willing to go to hospitals for delivery. Recently, a 16-year-old pregnant Muslim girl died in Bongaigaon district. Later the police arrested her husband Shahinoor Ali and her father Ayanal Haq.

The newspaper said that the BJP has been in power in Assam from 2016. However, till recently they haven't taken any step to stop child marriages. Now the state government, instead of stopping such marriages, is taking action against couples who had married in the past. In a tweet, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that till now, 2,089 people have been arrested and action is still being taken in this connection. He also claimed that action is being taken against all the accused as part of the campaign, and it is not that only Muslims are being targeted. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that even children who are being breast-fed are separated from their mothers and their family members and lodged in jail.

It is to be noted that as per Muslim Personal Law, there is no minimum age for the nikah of a Muslim girl. Her nikah could be conducted any time once her menstrual cycle begins. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has upheld the nikah of Muslim girls at the age of 15 years as valid which

has been questioned in the Supreme Court by Child Welfare Commission. Following this, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said that the decision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court shall not be cited as a precedent in any other case. The Supreme Court has neither held any hearing on the petitions against marriage among Muslims

below the age of 18 years, nor issued any other order in this connection. Despite this, the Assam government is targeting the Muslims.

Dainik Bhaskar (February 5) reports that 2,278 people have been arrested in the past few days in the campaign that has been launched against child marriage in Assam. These include the husbands of minor girls, father and the maulavis and pujaris who conducted the marriage. The police claim that they have a list of more than 4,000 people who will be arrested soon.

The newspaper said that the state cabinet took a decision on January 23 to arrest all the accused in this connection. According to the chief minister, this campaign against child marriage will continue till 2026. He claimed that as per National Family Health Survey, the mother-child mortality rate is very high and the reason for it is child marriage.

Inquilab (February 28) reports that a stadium has been temporarily converted into jail in order to keep the arrested persons in custody. In Dhubri city, the mother and her daughter-in-law of a man who was arrested on charges of child marriage were found begging on streets. The woman named Aisha told reporters that when the marriage of his 22-year-old son Lalchan Badshah was held last year,

then the bride-to-be was a minor. Now she has become 19 years old. However, the police have arrested both her husband and the son. The woman victims staged a protest at police station. The police have warned that if they continue with their protest, action will be taken against those arrested under Pocso Act.

Etemaad (February 7) in its editorial has condemned the campaign that has been unleashed in Assam and said the government is deliberately harassing Muslims. Asaduddin Owaisi said that it is a dictatorial decision by the government. If the Assam government is serious about stopping child marriage, then it has to first bring social awareness. The sole aim of the BJP government through this action is to harass Muslims. Hence the government has to stop the demolition of settled houses.

Salar (February 4) states that the chief of All India United Democratic Front, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal has accused the chief minister of deliberately harassing Muslims. Among those who have been arrested, 90% are Muslims. He said that the anti-Muslim policies of RSS and BJP are not hidden from anyone.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 10) states that protests are being held across the state against this campaign. In Assam, a woman has committed suicide out of the fear that her father would be arrested. The Opposition parties accused the state government that it is deliberately targeting Muslims.

Roznama Sahara (February 10) has published an article in its editorial page in

which it has been claimed that the Assam government, in order to harass Muslims, has been arresting people under Child Marriages Prevention Act and the law created to prevent sexual abuses of children. On the pretext of this, Himanta Biswa Sarma wants to polarise the votes of majority community. That is why he decided to continue this campaign till 2026 when the Assembly elections will be held in the state. The writer claimed that in Assam, only 3% such marriages take place where the age of woman is less than 18 years. Whereas in states like Gujarat, the ratio of such marriages are 5%. However, no other state government in the country has till now undertaken any such campaign.

This newspaper in the same edition had given a headline ‘Campaign against illegal husbands’ for an editorial. In the editorial it was alleged that the poor Muslims are on the target of the Assam government and more than 2,500 husbands have been arrested. Since there is no space to keep them in police stations and jails, temporary jails are being created for them. Those who have been caught are very poor and are the sole bread-winners of their family. The point is that majority of those who have been arrested are Muslims. Following the arrest, the stoves in hundreds of houses have been extinguished. Those who have been harassed, protested outside the police station. However, neither the government is feeling pity about their helplessness, nor any social welfare organisation has come forward to help them.

Efforts to mislead Muslims on the pretext of Uniform Civil Code



Recently, the government of India announced that there is no plan to implement the Uniform Civil Code as of now, but despite this, the Muslim Personal Law Board has been making relentless



efforts to provoke the minorities against the government on this issue.

Etemaad (February 6) states that a meeting of Muslim Personal Law Board has concluded in Lucknow, in which the president of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, was also present. General Secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Saifullah Rahmani said that in the meeting it has been pointed out that if Uniform Civil Code is imposed on minorities, then it will have a bad effect on the country. This is because followers of different religions and castes stay in the country.

Roznama Sahara (February 6) reports that the Muslim Personal Law Board has appealed to the government to drop its intention to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country. In this connection, the board has passed a resolution and said that under Indian Constitution, every citizen in the country has been permitted to follow his religion, faith and customs. In such a situation, if the Uniform Civil Code is implemented in the country, it will be a violation of the Constitution. Hence the government should not make any kind of interference in the religious freedom of ordinary citizens. If the Uniform Civil Code is imposed on

them, then it will be undemocratic and will be against the Constitution.

The newspaper said that in this resolution, a concern has been expressed that the Central government formed a committee to discuss the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country. This apart, several states have also formed committees for its implementation. In view of this, the Muslim Personal Law Board has formed a committee to look into this issue, which will hold discussions with leaders of different political parties, Dalit and backward castes and intellectuals in order to find a solution to the problem by creating an atmosphere against it. This is because this issue is not limited to Muslims, instead its effect will be on other minorities, Adivasis etc. If the government digs its heels in, then the Muslim Personal Law Board will hold satyagrahas across the country with the cooperation of other minority and dalit organisations and take the issue to the court.

Roznama Sahara (February 5) reports that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the BJP had promised in its manifesto before the elections that it would implement the Uniform Civil Code in the state and a committee has also been formed to look

into the issue. This committee is preparing a draft of the Uniform Civil Code.

Inquilab (February 3) reports that Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told Rajya Sabha that no decision has been taken yet on implementing Uniform Civil Code in the country. In reply to a written question, he said that it has been urged to the 21st Law Commission that it submit its recommendations on Uniform Civil Code after holding consultations.

It is to be noted that the 21st Law Commission, in its recommendations on the Uniform Civil Code, said that there is no need to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country. This is because it may lead to new controversies. Hence, currently there is neither any need to implement the Uniform Civil Code, nor has it got any utility. This apart, the Commission has suggested modification of personal laws and appropriate amendments to tackle

inequality. It has also suggested that legal steps shall be taken to erase anomalies.

It is to be noted that the BJP has been using the issue of Uniform Civil Code to polarise votes. In Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, announcements have been made on implementation of Uniform Civil Code. The BJP government in Uttarakhand has formed a committee under the chairmanship of a retired judge. In this connection, a BJP member in Rajya Sabha, Kirorilal Meena, has also presented a private member bill in Rajya Sabha.

Interestingly, the Union government, through an affidavit in the Supreme Court, had opposed any decision regarding Uniform Civil Code and also demanded the rejection of petition filed by Ashwini Upadhyaya. The Supreme Court said that it cannot give any direction to the Centre to create any law because only the Parliament has the right to create law.

BJP campaign to bring minorities closer to the party



Siasat (February 2) in its editorial said that in order to bring minorities closer to the BJP in the next Lok Sabha elections, the party's minority morcha will launch a

public awareness campaign in 60 Lok Sabha seats in the country where the Muslims play a vital role in the victory of the candidate of any party. This campaign



will continue for four months. The purpose of this campaign is to make Muslims aware of the development initiatives of Modi government. Efforts will be taken to remove whatever misunderstandings are there among Muslims about BJP and the focus will be specially on attracting Pasmada Muslims closer to BJP. He also said that the BJP and RSS do not keep any enmity towards them, and instead want their development and happiness.

President of BJP's Minority Morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, said in an interview that BJP is a party that aims for the welfare and development of every community irrespective of religion and caste. The workers of minority morcha will keep its special focus on Muslim-majority areas. This programme will start from this month. In this connection, a list of 5,000 prominent persons of minority community has been prepared which includes religious scholars, intellectuals, traders and industrialists. They will also be given literature which gives details about Modi government's welfare programmes for minorities and they will be urged to do publicity for the same in their localities.

Along with it, the Lok Sabha constituencies where minorities are in a majority are being identified. So far, 13 regions in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in West Bengal and 10 in Kerala have been

identified. The minority morcha will also give more attention to Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha constituency Wayanad and will try to ensure that the vote bank of Congress get reduced and the minorities, especially Muslims, come closer to the BJP. In this connection, special campaigns

will be organised in five regions of Jammu and Kashmir namely Baramulla, Anantanag, Srinagar, Ladakh and Udhampur in favour of BJP and the propaganda being unleashed by opposition parties against BJP will be countered.

Salar (February 6) reports that the next meeting on the efforts being taken by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh for Hindu-Muslim unity, is likely to take place in April. So far, two meetings were held between Sangh and Muslim intellectuals. These efforts started in August last year. Following which, in January this year, another meeting was held in Delhi. Now, the next meeting is also likely to take place in Delhi.

The RSS is trying to create a sense of harmony and brotherhood between Hindus and Muslims, resolve differences and strengthen the relationship between the two sides. A senior office-bearer of Sangh said they were doing this not for any electoral benefits, instead were trying to reach out to all those people who want these two sections of society to come closer. Muslims also want harmony and brotherhood with Hindus. He said that as part of this initiative they were trying to reach out to imams, masjid committees, thinkers and traders at village, block and district levels and keep alive the atmosphere of discussions.

Emergency extended in Myanmar



Avadhnama (February 3) reports that the ruling military in Myanmar, apart from extending the incarceration of leader Aung San Suu Kyi by another six months, has sent a large number of leaders of different political parties to jail. After this, an announcement has also been made extending the state of Emergency in the country by another six months. The US has opposed this decision. A spokesperson of US State Department said the US condemns the way the military in Myanmar illegally captured power after ousting leaders of different political parties and that the US would continue to extend its support to the people of Myanmar.

It is to be noted that the Myanmar military had alleged in February 2021 that the general elections held in Myanmar was a fraud. Following this, on the pretext of conducting elections in a fair atmosphere, the military took power in its hands after detaining senior leaders of political parties. After this, the military declared Emergency in the country for one year. The people of Myanmar are fighting the military seeking restoration of democratic rights and so far at least 1,500 people have been killed in the clashes that took place between citizens and the soldiers and more than 13,000

people are detained in jails. Recently, a military court in Myanmar had announced death sentence to more than 150 political prisoners, including some children. The US and its allied nations have imposed several economic sanctions on Myanmar for curbing democratic rights.

In its report, a United Nations commission on Myanmar alleged that the military is making efforts to hold fake elections in order to obtain legal sanctity and capture power. In Myanmar, a censorship has been imposed on newspapers. The only aim of the military dictators, who recently formulated a law to take part in the elections, is to ensure that the political party opposed to the military should not be able to take part in the poll process. A US institution has claimed that ever since the Myanmar military had taken over power, 3,000 citizens have been killed so far and 20,000 to 22,000 people have been lodged in jails.

Etemaad (February 2) states that the US has imposed sanctions on six persons and three organisations linked to the military government in Myanmar. This apart, the US government expressed satisfaction that England, Australia and Canada have also imposed different kinds

of sanctions on Myanmar. A US spokesperson said that ever since the military took over power in Myanmar, his

country had imposed economic sanctions on 80 prominent persons and 30 institutions.

Taliban welcomes Indian budget



Hamara Samaj (February 4) states that the Taliban has welcomed the budget presented by Indian government and said that India's announcement extending financial aid to Afghanistan will help further strengthen the relationship between the two countries. According to Afghan media, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a financial aid of 25 million US dollar to Afghanistan. Ever since Taliban took over power in Afghanistan, India has been extending financial help regularly. When Taliban took over power in Afghanistan in 2021, the relationship between India and Afghanistan became tense and the development activities that had been undertaken in that country got stopped. Later, the relationship between the two countries improved and the development initiatives being undertaken in Afghanistan with Indian financial aid have been restarted. Recently, the Indian government sent 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan on humanitarian basis after seeing the food crisis in that country.

Etemaad (February 1) states that the United Nations had warned that due to the restrictions imposed on women by Afghanistan government, there will be serious consequences on the aid that it was

supposed to receive from the world on a humanitarian basis. The chief of the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance chief said they held talks with the foreign and finance ministers of Afghanistan and urged them to withdraw the restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan. However, till now, the government

there has not taken any tangible step in this connection. There girls are allowed only elementary education. If the restrictions imposed on women from taking up jobs or receiving higher education is not lifted, then it will have adverse impact on the development of Afghanistan.

Avadhnama (February 7) reports that Russia is eyeing the arms and ammunition left behind by the US military before it left Afghanistan. Russia wants to use these weapons in its war against Ukraine. According to US military experts, these weapons are valued at more than 7 billion dollars. According to US sources, when the US soldiers left Afghanistan, nearly 70% of its weapons were left behind which were seized by Afghan soldiers. Currently, the Afghanistan military has arms and ammunition worth 48 million dollars, which were left behind by the US military. Out of them, more than 35,000 are vehicles. However, US experts say that the technology of the most modern weapon system left behind by the US military in Afghanistan is too complex and there is no possibility of Afghanistan military using them. However, despite this, there is a possibility that they hand over these weapons to Russia.

Campaign against terrorists in Pakistan



Inquilab (February 1) reports that Pakistani military has intensified its nationwide drive against terrorist organisations. On the basis of intelligence information, the Pakistani Army raided several hideouts of terrorists in Swabi and Dera Ismail Khan districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in which at least four terrorists were killed. According to police chief in Swabi district Najamul Hasan, when the soldiers surrounded the terrorist hideouts from all the four sides, four terrorists blew themselves up, while two other terrorists were arrested. Some policemen were injured in this attack and they are being given treatment. In the clashes that took place between the Army and terrorists in Kulachi tehsil in Dera Ismail Khan, 12 terrorists were killed. Some policemen were also injured in this clash.

Roznama Sahara (February 10) reports that clashes took place between the police and terrorists in at least six places in Dera Ismail Khan. According to newspapers, terrorists carrying modern

weapons attacked two police stations, and after killing several policemen, looted the armoury. According to a spokesperson of Pakistan government, there is an increase in terrorist activities in Pakistan in the past few months. In the blast that took place in police line in Peshawar, there were reports of the death of 100

policemen. Now it is being claimed that the hands of banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan are behind the attack, but later the government claimed that some local terrorist gangs were behind the attack.

According to Pakistan government, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has close relationship with the Taliban which is in power in Afghanistan. Last year, more than 100 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan in which many people were killed. In November 2022, Tehreek-e-Taliban had vowed to end the ceasefire between Pakistan government and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Following this, there was a huge increase in terrorist attacks. In Bannu, a police superintendent and his four guards were killed in a terrorist attack. The Pakistani Army is carrying out a massive operation against terrorists in Waziristan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A spokesperson of Pakistan government said that in the past six months, the terrorists had killed 118 policemen while 117 policemen were injured.

Bangladesh gets \$4.75 billion loan



Roznama Sahara (February 2) states that in view of the financial crisis in Bangladesh, the International Monetary Fund has announced a loan of 4.75 billion dollars to the country, out of which 50 crore dollars will be given immediately. This apart, a loan of 1 billion and 40 crore dollars is also being delivered in view of the floods that had hit the country. It has become the first Asian country to get such a loan. The United Nations said that in the current financial year, Bangladesh's current account deficit has reached 19 billion dollars. Due to the increase in oil prices, the garment exports from Bangladesh declined. Due to the pressure from International Monetary Fund, Bangladesh had to increase the prices of electricity by 5% recently.

Roznama Sahara (February 4) states that Bangladesh has borrowed petrol from Saudi Arabia. The Bangladesh government had urged Saudi government

that in order to overcome its financial crisis, it shall be supplied with petrol on credit, which the Saudi government has accepted. Later, Bangladesh will pay the price in instalments. According to government sources, the financial condition of Bangladesh was stated to be strongest among Asian countries, but due to Russia-Ukraine war, Bangladesh had to face financial crisis following rising prices of grains and petrol.

The value of Bangladesh currency Taka, has slid by 25% compared to US dollar recently, due to which an energy crisis has arisen. In order to overcome this crisis, the government recently increased some taxes, which the people have opposed and mass protests took place across the country. According to a spokesperson of Bangladesh government, the foreign exchange reserve in January last month was 46 billion dollars, which has come down to 32 billion dollars.

No classified documents found at Biden's other residence



Etemaad (February 3) states that US investigation agency FBI has given an indication that it has not found any classified documents during its searches at the residence of US President Joe Biden. However, Biden's personal lawyer Bob Bauer claimed that the FBI agents have taken away some documents from the residence of the President for investigation. The lawyer said that the search was conducted at the official residence of the President for five hours. However, they did not find any important classified documents.

Earlier, during the searches at another private residence of the President last month, the FBI agents had come across some important documents. These documents belonged to the time when Biden was the Vice-President. The justice department has confirmed that the President was not informed in advance about these raids. Earlier on January 20, the FBI conducted a 13-hour search at the Wilmington-located bungalow of Biden. During this time, the FBI agents seized some classified documents and some handwritten notes of Biden. The FBI has confirmed that more than 20 classified documents were seized from the private

office and residence of the President and they are being investigated.

It is to be noted that earlier, the FBI had raided the Florida-situated residence of former President Donald Trump and seized 320 classified documents which are still being investigated. This apart, some classified documents were seized from the residence of Trump's then colleague and Vice-President Mike Pence. As per the law in United States, these three leaders (Biden, Trump and

Pence) were supposed to hand over all classified documents to the US National Archives before demitting their office, which they did not do.

Biden and his lawyers made it clear that he did not deliberately keep any documents with him. However, it is a fact that even after seizure of classified documents from Biden, he still got a political weapon which could be used against Trump in the next presidential elections. Commenting on the issue of classified documents being recovered from the residence of Trump, Biden said that it was an irresponsible action by Trump. He deliberately took away secret documents with him after demitting the office of President. Hence the government had to secure a warrant from the court to conduct a search at the residence of Trump.

The FBI agents claimed that approximately 400 secret documents were seized from the residence of Trump last year, which he did not return to the administration even after he demitted office. Trump has alleged that the current President Joe Biden has deliberately trapped him in this issue so that he could be prevented from taking part in the 2024 Presidential elections under its guise.

Thousands of people killed in earthquake in Turkey, Syria



There is a huge increase in the number of people who died in the massive earthquake that hit Turkiye and Syria recently. According to BBC, till now 22,000 people have been confirmed dead and more than one lakh people have been injured. There is a possibility of the number of those killed going up further.

Salar (February 8) reports that the relief teams are facing lot of difficulties in taking out those who got trapped in debris of buildings due to the harsh winter. The ground has cracked in several places. Due to this there are lot of difficulties in movement of traffic. Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared an Emergency for three months in the country. Aid teams are pouring in from different parts of the world for the earthquake victims. Turkiye's disaster management agency said nearly 25,000 relief and rescue team members have been deployed. Nearly 50,000 tents, 10,000 beds and three lakh blankets have been made available for earthquake victims. Turkiye's 10 provinces have been seriously affected by the earthquake. The government said that nearly 70 countries have offered help. In

Turkiye, the bodies are scattered all around and those trapped in debris could be heard crying for help.

Roznama Sahara (February 8) states that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured all possible help to Turkish government on earthquake and has sent special planes carrying relief teams which includes both men and women apart from trained dogs which could detect people trapped in debris, medical equipment and most modern drilling machines.

This apart, three medical teams from Army's Field Hospital located in Agra were also sent. These teams were carrying with them medical equipment, X-ray machines, ventilator, Oxygen generation plant etc. It is being said that till now more than 100 people have been sent to Turkiye and Syria and arrangements are being made to send 300 others.

It is to be noted that three earthquake tremors were felt in Turkiye, and their intensity was recorded 7.8, 7.6 and 6. Turkiye has declared a seven-day national mourning. Some damages took place in Israel and Lebanon as well. India has sent

two wide-bodied aircraft to Syria as well. This apart, a team of 60 Field Hospital was also sent to Syria. The Turkish Ambassador in India said that more than 1.5 crore people got affected in South East Turkiye due to earthquake. He thanked India for extending help to Turkiye in this difficult times. Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan visited the Delhi-located Turkish embassy and he assured all possible help to Syria.

Roznama Sahara (February 7) states Russia has also started sending aid to Turkiye and a 370-member team has left for Turkiye. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that the US will extend all possible help to Turkiye in this hour of crisis.

Inquilab (February 8) states that the Dubai ruler has extended an aid of 1.36 crore dollars to the victims of earthquake. A government spokesperson said the system of extending help will continue. Cyprus has also provided special help. The President of Uzbekistan has sent a team of 100 people who are specialists in relief work along with equipment and special

vehicles to Turkiye. Turkmenistan, Belarus, France, Germany, Japan, China, Mexico, Hungary and Pakistan have also send relief and rescue teams. The 12 nations in Middle-East have also announced help to Turkiye. Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, has assured the President of Turkey that Saudi Arabia stands with its brother and it will provide all kinds of help to the country.

Majority of Urdu newspapers in the country have urged citizens to come forward to help their Muslim brothers in this hour of crisis.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 8) states that the Prime Minister of Israel said that Syrian diplomats had sought the help of Israel over the earthquake disaster and afterwards Israel started sending the aid. However, Syria rejected this claim of Israel and said that the enemy's media at the behest of its prime minister is running a propaganda against the Arab nations. How can Syria seek help from a country which has been committing massacre of the people of Syria for decades, it asked. ■

Sudan to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel



Mumbai Urdu News (February 3) states that according to Israel's prominent newspaper Haaretz, a senior official of Israel has confirmed there is possibility of Israel establishing diplomatic relationship

with Sudan soon. For the past some time, high level talks are being held between the two countries at the behest of US, which are positive. Now there is this possibility that Sudan may also become part of the 'Abraham Accord.' It is to be noted that the beginning of 'Abraham Accord' was between Israel and some Arab nations with the cooperation of US. Later, Bahrain and UAE joined the accord.

Inquilab (February 5) reports that Hamas has condemned the indications given by Israel to include Sudan in the

‘Abraham Accord’ and said that it is against Islam. Hamas has asked the Sudan government not to become a puppet in the hands of US. This agreement will inflict damages to Muslim and Islamic unity. It is to be noted that the Israel’s foreign minister recently held talks with the chief of

sovereignty council in Sudan, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and during this meeting, it has been decided that Sudan will grant recognition to Israel and the relationship between the two countries on financial and tourism sectors will further be strengthened.

Iran announces amnesty to thousands of prisoners

Etemaad (February 7) reports that the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has announced a general amnesty for thousands of prisoners who took part in anti-government protests in the country. This amnesty will not be available to those prisoners who have dual citizenship. This apart, those who are behind bars on charges of corruption and robbery also will not get pardon. Recently, four senior officials of Iran were hanged to death in a secret jail on charges of corruption. Those who have been accused of creating disturbances in Iran at the behest of foreign powers will also not be released from jail. It is being said that Iran took this decision after pressure from different countries in the world. According to government sources, the largescale protests that broke out in the country after a Khurd woman, Mahsa Amini, died in police custody in September, has not subsided yet. Till now, more than 1,000 people have been killed in these protests including approximately 100 children. On the other hand, nearly 20,000 to 25,000 are currently lodged in jail. This apart, many people have been hanged to death.

Ayatollah Khamenei announced this general amnesty on the anniversary of Islamic revolution of 1979.

Etemaad (February 1) reports that the spokesperson of Iran’s foreign ministry has warned the United States that it better stop issuing threats to Iran or there will be serious consequences. The US government should know it well that Iran will not tolerate any kind of aggression against the country and its interests and will give



befitting reply to those who do such things. He said that the US and its allies are behind the mass protests that took place in Iran recently.

Etemaad (February 5) states that the spokesman of Iran’s foreign ministry has condemned the expulsion of a Muslim woman named Ilhan Omar from the committee on foreign affairs. He said that the US took this step to curb the voices of Muslims. It is to be noted that a few days ago, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution expelling woman MP Ilham Omar from the committee, who has been active against Israel.

Roznama Sahara (February 2) states that a court in Iran has awarded 10 years in jail as punishment to a couple who danced in front of Iran’s main monument, Azadi Tower.

According to the Shariah court, Astiaj Haghighi and her fiancé Amir Mohammad Ahmadi were doing an indecent dance. The woman was not wearing hijab on her body. It is to be noted that in Iran, women do not have permission to dance in public places. Their family

members alleged that they were deprived of their right to present their defence in the court and even lawyers were not provided to them. This apart, they were refused to be released on bail. This couple is being kept in the most notorious jail in Iran.

Roznama Sahara (February 6) reports that the Iran government has announced harsh punishment and fine on those women who go out of their homes without wearing hijab. According to government sources, they will be given warning before their arrest. Despite this, if they don't wear hijab, then their identity card will be seized and they will be deprived of all government facilities. The Iran government has announced implementation of a new law as per which it will be mandatory for



women to wear hijab in public places and those who violate this law will be sent to jail along with fine.

Model held for posting obscene content on social media

Inqilab (February 5) states that the Iraq government has arrested the country's well-known woman model Asal Hassam on charges of making an indecent photo viral on social media. Her arrest has caused an uproar in Iraq's social and political fields. A spokesperson of Iraq's security ministry said that this model had posted an indecent photo of her on social media. When her arrest warrant was



issued, she posted some offensive content against the military and security agencies on social media.

It is to be noted that nowadays, the Iraq government is running a campaign against indecent and anti-Islam content on social media. Recently, the interior ministry of Iraq established a special institution to stop the spread of material on social media which violates the Shariah. It is to be noted that Iraq is considered as the

most liberal among all Arab nations. Despite more than 700 masjids in Iraq capital Baghdad, women staying in majority of the cities do not use purdah or burqa. The main trend is the western dress. One could see girls and boys roaming around together in the parks and public places in Baghdad. However, in village areas even now majority of the women wear simple veils and there also burqa and hijab is not the trend.

Muslim majority nation Burkina Faso comes out of the clutches of France



Roznama Sahara (February 1) reports that in Muslim majority African nation Burkina Faso, the rebellion of Al-Qaida-led organization Al Shabab against a military officer operating at the behest of France, has assumed greater proportions. Nowadays, a civil war is going on in the country. Muslim countries are trying to liberate Burkina Faso from the clutches of France and establish an Islamic government there. This country is in central Africa. Two years ago, a military dictator, Lt Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, overthrew the elected government and seized power in the country with the help of France. Now this military dictator was overthrown by a Muslim military officer Ibrahim Traoré.

Due to the attacks by Islamic terrorists, a few days ago, the French foreign minister had announced that its Ambassador in Burkina Faso has been called to France so that a decision could be taken on withdrawing the French troops deployed in the country. The new Muslim ruler of Burkina Faso, Ibrahim Traore, has warned France that it stops interfering in the internal affairs of his country. This is because France is helping the deposed former President of the country. During his regime, this former President had urged

France that its military shall cooperate with the military campaign against Islamic jihadis who were active in the country. Following this, the French government sent 3,000 French soldiers, already deployed in neighbouring country Mali, to Burkina Faso. French soldiers are also deployed in central African countries Chad and Niger.

It is being said that the United Nations is also indirectly supporting France and they are also getting support from Russia. European nations claim that in Muslim majority nations in Africa, Al Qaida and its allied organisations Al Shabab and Al Nasir are spreading Islamic terrorism. In order to crush Islamic terrorism, Christian nations of West have deployed their military in these African countries. The African countries allege that the Western nations want to exploit the mineral wealth of these countries by making different tribal gangs fight among each other. The former dictator of Libya, Muamar Ghaddafi had also tried to be free from the Christian nations of the West but the US overthrew Ghaddafi by colluding with other Western nations and killed him. Islamic nations and Muslim terrorist organisations are trying to pack off Western countries from these African countries and establish Islamic rule there.

Case against Maulana for comments against Somnath temple



Maulana Sajid Rashidi said that Muslim invader Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked Somnath mandir not to spread Islam or loot the temple. He said that unethical activities used to take place in the temple and Mahmud Ghaznavi took such a decision to stop them. Maulana Rashidi made this claim while talking to different news channels. He claimed that since Somnath mandir had become the

Etemaad (February 10) states that a case has been registered against the chief of All India Imam Association, Maulana Sajid Rashidi, on the basis of a complaint filed by General Manager of Somnath Trust, Vijay Singh Chawda. As per the complaint,

main centre for unethical activities, and the pujari there was propagating wrongdoings in the name of religion, Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked this temple in order to stop such wrong things.

Maulana Abdul Qavi released

Mumbai Urdu News (February 1) states that the Gujarat High Court has released the renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Abdul Qavi. A case had been registered against him in a court in Ahmedabad and it has got rejected due to lack of evidence.



It is to be noted that on March 23, 2014, the Gujarat Police arrested the Maulana from Delhi airport when he reached Delhi from Hyderabad and on his

way to take part in a meeting in Deoband. Gujarat police had accused him of providing refuge to an accused in Haren Pandya murder case. In this connection, a case has been registered against Maulana

for treason and on charges under terrorism and UAPA Act. It is to be noted that in Haren Pandya murder case, 98 persons were made accused, out of which 56 people had been arrested. Later, 32 among them were released by the review committee.

No ban on women from offering namaz in masjids

Salar (February 9) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has filed an affidavit in Supreme Court in which it has been stated that women are not stopped

from entering any masjid in Islam. However, as per Islamic Shariah, men and women cannot offer namaz together. This is because it is against Islamic value



system. In this connection, the example mentioned by the petitioner regarding the

circumambulation in Mecca is misleading. Even in Ka'aba in Mecca, both men and women are not permitted to do namaz in same queue. In the same way, the management committee of the masjids can make separate arrangements for men and women to offer namaz.

Two non-Muslim women enter Masjid-e-Nabawi



Mumbai Urdu News (February 10) states that security personnel took into custody two non-Muslim foreign women who entered Masjid-e-Nabawi, located in

Medina. According to the management committee of Masjid-e-Nabawi, these women did not wear appropriate dress to enter this holy place. These European women entered the forecourt of Masjid-e-Nabawi by mistake. They did not know that it was a place of worship and it was mandatory to wear appropriate dress to enter it. Later they were sent back after a warning. Now arrangements are being made to ensure that such things do not happen in future.

Criticism against the new education policy of government

Mumbai Urdu News (February 10) states that General Secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, while addressing students at Madrasa Noorul Uloom in Darbhanga, said that the current rulers are forcefully imposing the new education policy on Muslims. In this way, they want to impose Hindu culture on the new generation of Muslims and make them Hindus. It is necessary for Muslims to keep themselves away from such activities. It is very much necessary that Muslim children are given correct information regarding Islamic history. The history of Muslims in

this country is quite old. In their 800-year rule, the Muslims did not impose their religion, history and culture on the followers of any religion. Every Muslim ruler gave respect to religious tolerance, places of worship, Hindu pujaris and Brahmins. Due to the goodwill and liberal religious approach of Muslim rulers, every Muslim who stay in this country proudly holds his head high. He stressed that more efforts should be made to bring non-Muslim scholars who believe in the secular way of thinking to the masjids, so that the misunderstandings in the name of Islam could be removed.

