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Dispute Between Government and Waqf Board over Properties Worth Billions



- Fresh controversy over Tipu Sultan
- Saudi Arabia and Iraq ink defence deal
- Terrorist attack on police headquarters in Karachi
- Four students expelled on charges of trimming beard

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Summary

The dispute over the ownership of 123 invaluable properties in national capital Delhi is once again heating up. According to Urdu newspapers, the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs, after taking into consideration the report of a two-member committee, decided to evict Delhi Waqf Board from these properties and the board has also been intimated in this connection. Chairman of Delhi Waqf Board Amanatullah Khan described this decision as anti-Muslim and unconstitutional and said that these properties are owned by Muslims and they mostly comprise masjids, dargahs and Kabristan, which have been under the supervision of Waqf board for decades.

It is to be noted that this controversy started just before the announcement of Lok Sabha elections in 2014 when the then UPA government at the Centre decided that the ownership of 123 immovable properties under the control of Land & Development Officer shall be handed over to Waqf board. The Congress took this decision with the aim of amassing Muslim votes. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad had questioned this decision in the high court, which the court later handed over to the Central government directing that the issue shall be resolved after talking to different sides. The Central government had formed a two-member committee which has now recommended that these immovable properties shall be under the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs.

The interesting thing is that when Delhi was made the national capital of the country in 1911, the then British government had acquired these 123 immovable properties. Majority of these properties are in the form of masjids, dargahs, kabristans and the land adjacent to them. Since all these properties are located on New Delhi's most posh and expensive areas, their value is calculated to be thousands of crores in current market rate.

Some fundamentalist organisations are deliberately trying to create communal tension in the country so that they could reap political dividends in the forthcoming elections. Recently, two youths from Rajasthan were burnt to death in a vehicle in Bhiwadi in Haryana. Due to pressure from the family members of these youths, the Rajasthan police registered a case and started an investigation to find out under what circumstances these Muslim youths died. Muslim organisations allege that some people belonging to Bajrang Dal were behind the murder of these youths. They alleged that these youths were beaten up initially, suspecting them to be cattle smugglers, and were later killed by setting fire to their vehicle. Whereas local people claim that when these two youths tried to flee in their vehicle, they collided with an autorickshaw, due to which the vehicle overturned and caught fire and they were burnt to death inside the vehicle. Muslim fundamentalist organisations are trying to give communal colour to the incident and make it an issue for a nationwide protest. In Mewat, the administration has imposed restrictions on social media and internet due to disturbance of peace.

The Bhasmasur of terrorism created by Pakistan has now become a headache for that country. Banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has intensified its violent activities against Pakistani Army and the police. Recently, more than 100 policemen were killed in a blast that took place in a masjid in police line in Peshawar. After this, these terrorists carried out an attack at the police headquarters in Karachi and killed many policemen there. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has threatened that it would continue with its targeted attack on Pakistani police and military because they are killing Muslims, describing them as terrorists.

Dispute between Government and Waqf board over assets worth billions



A dispute has arisen between the Centre and the Waqf board due to the Muslim appeasement politics played by the then UPA government at the Centre to secure Muslim votes ahead of the general elections in 2014.

Inqilab (February 18) states that in 2014, the then UPA government at the Centre decided to hand over 123 immovable assets worth trillions of rupees, which was under the control of Land and Development Officer (L&TO), to the Waqf board. This decision was questioned in the high court by Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The high court, while handing over the issue to the Central government, directed that it should resolve the issue after holding talks with different sides. In this connection, the newspaper, while carrying a report on its front page, alleged that the Modi government wants to bring back these properties worth billions of rupees under its control.

Inqilab (February 21) states that the chairman of the Waqf board, Amanatullah Khan, while commenting on the decision of the two-member committee to remove Waqf board from the control of 123 properties, said all these properties belong to Delhi Waqf Board and they are

being managed by the Waqf board itself. Nobody can take them away from us. And no one has the power to take them away from the Waqf board. Addressing a press conference, he said these Waqf properties include masjids, kabristan and dargahs. These properties belong to the Waqf board and the Muslims and nobody can take them away from them.

Amanatullah Khan admitted that on February 8 this year, the L&TO had sent a letter to the chairman of Delhi Waqf Board in which it had been stated that the Waqf board do not hold any right on them. However, this office has no right to issue such a letter. This is because this matter is currently under the consideration of the high court. He also admitted that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had once again approached the court against this decision of the then UPA government at the Centre and the court had directed the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs to take a decision in this connection. Following this, the ministry had formed a committee, which had presented its report. However, no information had been given to the Waqf board regarding this report. Later, the present government had formed a two-member committee, against which the

Waqf board has approached the high court. Now this issue is under the consideration of the high court.

It is to be noted that in 1911, when Delhi was declared as the national capital, the then British government had issued a notification and took control of all these properties. They included dargahs, masjids and kabristans. This controversy had continued. Initially, these were under the control of the government. Later these were handed over to L&TO. In 1970, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had formed a committee under an IAS officer Muzaffar Hussain Burney. In 1980, the Congress government, instead of returning these 123 Waqf properties back to Delhi Waqf Board, issued a notification to give it on an annual lease of Re 1 to the Waqf board. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad had questioned this decision in the court and the court issued a stay on the matter.

Roznama Sahara (February 22) reports that the Central government has taken over 123 disputed properties. The Waqf board has approached the high court

against this decision of the Union government. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri said the Waqf board has to file a fresh petition to question the Central government's letter dated February 8. It is to be noted that the Land and Development Officer under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had decided to take over these 123 properties on the basis of the report of the two-member committee.

Inquilab (February 18) states that these disputed properties are located in those areas where land is very valuable. These areas include Connaught Place, Mathura Road, Lodhi Road, Man Singh Road, Pandara Road, Ashoka Road, Janpath, Karol Bagh, Sadar Bazar and Daryaganj.

Inquilab (February 24) has also published a special article in this connection in which it has been alleged that the Central government has come out with a well-planned conspiracy to seize Waqf properties and this decision is unconstitutional and anti-Muslim. ■

Centre's nod to change names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad



Mumbai Urdu News (February 25) reports that the Central government has granted permission to change the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad. Now, Aurangabad will be known as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad will be known as Dharashiv. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis thanked Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in this connection.

It is to be noted that in 1988, the then chief of Shiv Sena, Bal Thackeray, had vowed to change the name of Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar. Whereas several Hindu organisations had demanded that Osmanabad's name shall be changed to

Dharashiv. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Raje was beheaded on the orders of Aurangzeb. In 1995, the Aurangabad municipality had accepted the proposal to change the name and sent it to the state government. That time, the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government had also issued a notification in this connection which was questioned in

Bombay High Court in 1996 by Mushtaq Ahmad, a corporator of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation. In 1999, following the pulling down of the government, the plan to change the name was put on the back burner. On June 29, 2022, the then Uddhav Thackeray government decided to change the name of Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv, which was described by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in July 14, 2022 as illegal and promised to issue a fresh notification in this connection. Now, on February 24, 2023, the Central government approved the proposal to change the name of Aurangabad and Osmanabad.



Aurangabad Times (February 25) states that Mushtaq Ahmad, who had filed a petition in the high court against the decision to change the name of Aurangabad and Osmanabad, said the decision of the state government and the Central government is illegal and unconstitutional. This is because the issue of changing the name is still under the consideration of the high court, and the court's decision has not come yet. He said we are hopeful of justice from the court. Our legal fight against changing the name will continue. Member of Parliament from Aurangabad, Imtiaz Jaleel, also criticised this decision of the Central government and said the government is flaring up emotional issues to distract the attention of people from their problems.

Roznama Sahara (February 15) states that Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that we are not trying to remove the history of Mughals. The BJP doesn't want to remove the role of anyone from history. We have not changed the name of even one city. We have just brought back its old identity. It is to be noted that the BJP government has changed the names of several cities and railway stations. In Uttar Pradesh, Faizabad's name was changed to Ayodhya, whereas Allahabad's name was changed to Prayagraj. Now efforts are being made to change the name of Lucknow.

Roznama Sahara (February 28) states that the Supreme Court has rejected a demand to form a commission to look into the issue of changing the names of cities. The court said the country cannot be prisoner of history. Secular Hindustan is for all. It is to be noted that lawyer Ashwini Upadhyaya in his petition said that foreign invaders had changed the names of many places in the country. Hence it is necessary to form a commission to look into the issue of changing the old names of cities. The court however, rejected his petition. ■

Uproar over death of two Muslim youths in Haryana

The attempts being made over the past few days to mislead public sentiments on the death of two Muslim youths have taken a serious turn.

Hamara Samaj (February 20) reports that the families of two youths, Junaid and Nasir, belonging to Bharatpur in Rajasthan, had staged a protest on the issue

of burning them alive and demanded that the accused should be arrested. In this connection, the Rajasthan Police registered a case and took eight persons into custody and their interrogation is currently on. The police said that they would investigate the role of Haryana Police as well, who allegedly beat up the alleged cattle



smugglers. The newspaper said that the two youths in Bharatpur district in Rajasthan were beaten up in Bhiwadi in Haryana on charges of smuggling of cows and they were burnt alive by setting fire to their vehicle.

The Rajasthan Police said that it is holding an investigation in this connection with the cooperation of Haryana police. However, a Muslim delegation met Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot and alleged that the stand of Haryana police is one-sided and they are not doing the investigation in a fair manner and are trying to save the accused.

Etemaad (February 19) states that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said that the Rajasthan government has tried to overlook the issue. Two persons were kidnapped in Bharatpur district. Later their burnt bodies were found in a car. He said the people involved in this incident belong to the organisations affiliated to Sangh and that is why the Haryana government is trying to save them.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 22) states that a Mahapanchayat was organized in Manesar in Haryana in support of the accused during which an open threat was issued to Rajasthan Police that if they raid the residence of Monu Manesar, then policemen will not go back alive. During this Mahapanchayat, a drive was launched to collect funds to fight the case filed against Monu and other accused.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 19) reports that the two victims were buried in

Kabristan. However, their family members and villagers started an indefinite protest at the Kabristan and they demanded that a ban shall be imposed on Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other Hinduvadi organisations. Chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, condemned the incident and demanded the Central government that cases shall be registered against the accused

under UAPA.

Siasat (February 25) claimed that the vehicle from where Junaid and Nasir were kidnapped belongs to Haryana government. The newspaper claimed that several videos had gone viral which showed the victims being beaten up.

Siasat (February 22) states that Samajwadi Party leader Asif Siddiqui has alleged that the ruling dispensation is not taking any action to stop mob lynching of innocent people. This is because the mobs have the support of ruling party.

Inquilab (February 22) states that internet services were suspended in Nuh in Haryana. The government claimed that this step had been taken to maintain peace in the region. Recently, a huge protest took place in Mewat region, where a demand had been made to award death sentence to the killers of Nasir and Junaid and it was said that if the main accused were not arrested, then the situation will turn dangerous. The protesters demanded immediate suspension of the SHO of Firozpur Jhirka and other police officers.

The newspaper alleged that Monu Manesar is associated with Bajrang Dal, whom the state government is trying to protect. The newspaper also alleged that Rajasthan Police removed the name of Monu from the list of the accused due to pressure.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 25) reports that the main accused Monu Manesar has claimed that when Junaid and Nasir were trying to flee in their vehicle,

they collided with an autorickshaw, due to which their vehicle caught fire and they were burnt to death.

The newspaper also said that the Rajasthan Muslim Forum has formed a united front of 17 Muslim organisations, so that a nationwide campaign could be

organized to ensure stringent action against the killers. Rajasthan Muslim Forum alleged that the police are deliberately not taking any action against the accused. For Muslims in the country, it is a prestigious issue to stop the killing of innocent Muslim youths at the hands of fundamentalists.

Row over government not providing Saudi Riyals to Hajis



Riyals with them for their expenses in Saudi Arabia.

It is to be noted that the government used to give an amount of 2,100 Saudi Riyals to every Haj yatri for the past several years so that they could spend some money in Mecca and Medina. As per the new Haj policy, the period of stay for Hajis in Saudi Arabia has been reduced to 30 days from 40. This apart, henceforth the Hajis

themselves have to arrange for the 800 Riyals which were given to them earlier for Kurban. Till now, the Haj Committee of India has not calculated the expenses of the Hajis but it is assumed that this year every Haji will have to spend Rs 4 to 5 lakh. For this, the Hajis have to deposit Rs 1.7 lakh as first installment in the month of March. The rest of the amount shall be deposited before departing for Haj.

Siasat (February 20) states that former member of Central Haj Committee, Naushad Ahmad Azmi, in a letter to Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani, said that till now the government used to give 2,100 Riyals to Hajis before departing for Haj, which has been stopped now. This will create lot of troubles for the Hajis. Hence the Central government has to go back to the old system.

Inquilab (February 28) states that different Muslim organisations have demanded restoration of the old policy.

Inquilab (February 25) reports that the Haj Committee of India has announced that henceforth the government will not provide 2,100 Riyals to Haj yatri, instead they need to buy it from the market. Following this announcement of Haj committee, protests began against it across the country.

Siasat (February 23) states that the government has decided that the expenses incurred on Haj yatra shall be cut down this year. However, the fact is that instead of cut, the expenses have gone up. As per the new Haj policy, the government has refused to issue 2,100 Riyals on its behalf to the Haj yatri. This apart, whatever items were made available to them earlier have also been stopped. This will increase the expenses of Haj yatra. A senior official of Haj committee, Mohammad Yakoob Sheikh, has confirmed that the Haj committees of all states have been told that the 2,100 Riyals given to Hajis earlier will not be given in future. The Hajis have also been advised that they keep 1,500 Saudi

Fresh controversy over Tipu Sultan



Those who love Tipu Sultan should not stay here. It is to be noted that in another controversial statement, he had said that the next elections in the state would be contested in the name of Tipu Versus Savarkar.

Inquilab (February 18) states that Vidhan Sabha elections are scheduled in Karnataka this year and hence the

Roznama Sahara (February 28) reports that a fresh controversy has erupted in the name of Tipu Sultan in Karnataka. In Yadgir district in Karnataka, a circle has been renamed after Tipu Sultan which was being opposed by several Hindu organisations. They demanded that Tipu Sultan's name should be removed and the circle should be named after Veer Savarkar. If this is not done, they will launch massive state-wide protests. In view of the communal tension, Assistant Commissioner of Police Shalum Hussain imposed Section 144 in the entire area and policemen were called from neighbouring regions and deployed in the district to maintain peace. Hindu organisation Shivaji Sena opposed the naming of the circle after Tipu Sultan and said that if the name is not changed, then they will hold state-wide protests. They said that the circle was named as Maulana Abul Kalam Circle in 1996. In 2010, the municipal corporation changed it and named it after Tipu Sultan.

Inquilab (February 16) states that BJP's Karnataka president Nalin Kumar Kateel has issued a controversial statement and said that we will not tolerate those who take the name of Tipu Sultan and will not rest till they are driven out of their place. Addressing a public gathering, he said that we are bhakts of Bhagwan Ram and Hanuman, and not children of Tipu Sultan. Hence we will send the children of Tipu Sultan to the place where they came from.

BJP has once again raised a controversy over Tipu Sultan in order to win the elections like last time. Questioning the statement of BJP's state president, Bahujan Samaj Party MP Kunwar Danish Ali reached the mazar of Tipu Sultan in Srirangapatnam and said that we are ready to fight the opponents of Tipu Sultan. Later he told reporters that we are followers of Tipu Sultan. This is because he is such a great freedom fighter who sacrificed his life to liberate this country from the British. He said that we will oppose the ideology of Nathuram Godse till the last breath.

Etemaad (February 21) states that in Karnataka, elections will be held soon and hence the BJP has started playing the communal card in order to win the elections. They have started raising the name of Tipu Sultan in order to polarize the voters of majority community. Condemning the statement of Karnataka BJP president, chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi asked the Prime Minister whether he agrees with the statement of Karnataka BJP president? The newspaper claimed that Tipu Sultan was a secular ruler. However, communal forces are now presenting him as an enemy of Hindus. However, he had fought the British for the freedom of the country. The newspaper urged BJP not to make any effort to boost communal tension. This is because it can become a threat to national unity.

Terrorist attack in police headquarters in Karachi



Roznama Sahara (February 19) states that Islamic terrorists attacked the police headquarters in Karachi. In this attack, at least 10 persons were killed, out of which seven were employees of police or paramilitary forces. Three terrorists were killed on the spot in police firing. At least 19 others were injured in this attack. Confirming the attack, a spokesperson of Sindh Rangers said that three attackers came in a car to the police headquarters. Among them, one suicide bomber, after entering the police headquarters, blew himself up. Seven policemen died on the spot in the blast and nearly two dozen were injured. Later, the police shot dead the two other terrorists also. Following this attack, an Emergency was declared in Karachi. DIG Irfan Baloch said that the attackers came well-prepared and they targeted the police. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed grief over the incident.

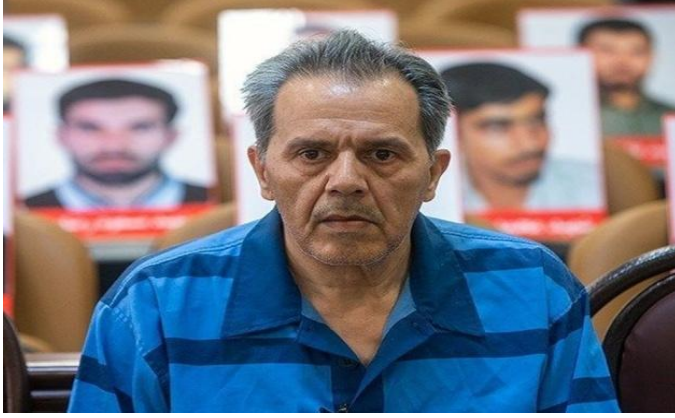
Inqilab (February 15) reports that a special team of Pakistani Army killed four terrorists belonging to banned Islamic organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in an encounter in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while nearly a dozen terrorists fled from the spot taking advantage of darkness.

Roznama Sahara (February 27) states that four persons were killed and a dozen others were injured in a blast triggered by the terrorists in Barkhan district in Balochistan. Deputy Commissioner of Police Abdullah Khosa said that the terrorists had planted a bomb in a motorcycle, which they triggered through remote control. All those who died were policemen.

Siasat (February 19) states that banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has threatened that they have stepped up attacks on Pakistani Army. In a statement, they said that the police should not mess with us. Our target is Pakistan's slave Army. They alleged that the Pakistani Army is killing people through fake encounters. We will not tolerate this and will give them a befitting reply.

Roznama Sahara (February 21) states that Pakistan's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto has alleged that unless the Taliban government in Afghanistan take stringent steps to stop its land from being used against Pakistan, it will not be possible to eliminate terrorists from Pakistan.

Germany expels Iranian Ambassador



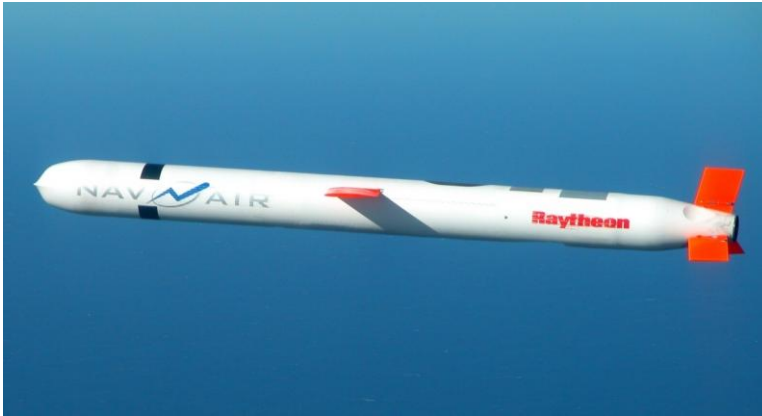
Inqilab (February 23) states that Germany has launched a protest against a court in Teheran awarding death sentence to a German citizen and expelled the Iranian Ambassador from the country. According to media reports, an Iranian court awarded death sentence to a German origin citizen staying in US, Jamshed Sharmahd, in connection with a blast that took place in a masjid in 2008. At least eight namazis were killed in this blast. The

Iranian government alleged that Jamshed Sharmahd belonged to a secret organisation which wanted to bring back to power the Iranian royal family staying in the US after overthrowing the Islamic government. The Iran government also alleged that this organisation has the cooperation and support of the US government. This organisation does radio broadcast in New York and Los Angeles through which Iranian

people are instigated against the government.

It is to be noted that Iran had confirmed the arrest of Jamshed Sharmahd in August 2020. On the other hand, the family members of Jamshed said that the Iranian intelligence agencies kidnapped Jamshed in Dubai and took him to Iran secretly where a case was registered against him and he was awarded death sentence.

Japan to buy missiles from the US



Roznama Sahara (February 28) states that the Japan government is buying 400 Tomahawk cruise missile from the US. In this connection, the Japan government has signed an agreement with the US

government. It is to be noted that Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met US President Joe Biden during his visit to US in January. During the meeting, an agreement has been signed as per which the US would supply military equipment to Japan so that it could successfully face the aggressive activities of

China. As per the reports of Japanese media, the missiles being brought by Japan could target North Korea nearly 1,600 kilometres away and also China.

China to give Rs 58,000 crore loan to Pakistan



foreign exchange reserve. While confirming the loan being extended to Pakistan by China, Pakistan's finance minister Ishaq Dar said that this will help Pakistan to overcome its financial crisis.

According to British newspaper 'The Guardian,' Pakistan is under a debt of 83 lakh crore. According to foreign sources, the 70 crore dollar loan extended by China is less than 1% of the total loan of Pakistan. China has also announced to charge less interest on the loan extended to Pakistan. Even

Roznama Sahara (February 27) reports that in order to save Pakistan from becoming pauper, China has announced a loan of 70 crore dollar or Rs 58,000 crore to Pakistan. It is to be noted that the US and International Monetary Fund (IMF) had refused to grant loan to Pakistan. Due to loan extended to Pakistan by China, there is a 20% increase in Pakistan's

now Pakistan has a debt of 9 billion dollars given by West Asian Bank. Those who provided the loan include Bank of China, ICBC and China Development Bank. In the financial year 2021-22, Pakistan had to pay Rs 13,000 crore as interest to the loan taken from China. The year before that, Pakistan had to pay Rs 995 crore as interest to China. ■

US grants 450 million USD aid to Ukraine

Qaumi Tanzeem (February 22) states that the US has announced an aid of 450 million dollars to Ukraine. As per a statement issued through the US State Department, a year has passed since Russia launched attack on Ukraine and even now Russia has not succeeded in turning



Ukraine as its slave country. According to President Biden, the US has been supplying arms and ammunition to Ukraine ever since August 2021. The US President made this announcement for aid during his recent visit to Ukraine. The US has also

announced supply of rockets and modern guns to Ukraine. The US President said that nearly 50 nations in the world have openly come out in support of Ukraine. We will support Ukraine under any circumstances, irrespective of the results. ■

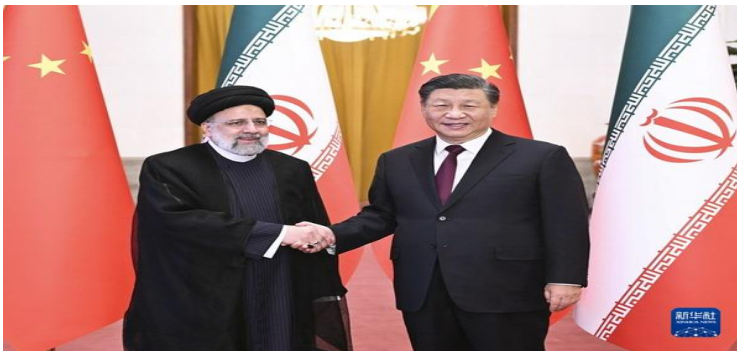
Saudi Arabia, Iraq sign defence agreement



Inqilab (February 22) reports that a defence agreement has been signed by Saudi Arabia and Iraq. According to Iraq's government news agency 'INA,' Saudi Arabia's interior minister Abdul Aziz bin Saud and Iraq's interior minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari signed a security agreement in Riyadh. After 1983, this was the first time the two countries had signed a security agreement. As per this agreement, Saudi Arabia will extend financial aid to

Iraq to strengthen the country from the military point of view, so that it could equip its military with most modern weapon systems. This apart, both the countries will exchange information related to security issues. According to Saudi Arabia's government agency 'SPA,' the agreement will lead to a new era of cooperation between the two nations and the Arab unity will get strengthened further.

Agreement between Iran and China



Etemaad (February 16) states that recently Iran President Ebrahim Raisi made a surprise visit to China. Later the two

countries signed 20 agreements. The Chinese government announced that China will extend all kinds of help to strengthen the defence mechanism of Iran, so that it could defend itself from the aggressive actions of Western nations. According to Chinese news agency, the agreements signed with Iran include on issues like international trade, medicine,

tourism, IT etc. As per these agreements, China will extend cooperation to Iran on the development of airports and railway. There is also a plan to run a high-speed train between Teheran and Mashhad. Besides, China will also extend cooperation to develop a port in Makran coast. In Teheran, China will make huge investments in the modernization of Imam Khomeini Airport.

It is to be noted that earlier Chinese President Xi Jinping had welcomed Iran President Ebrahim Raisi and he was given a 21-gun salute. The high-level delegation

that accompanied Iran President during his visit to China included Iran's Finance Minister, Foreign Minister, Industry Minister, Petroleum Minister and Agriculture Minister apart from the chief of the Iran's central bank. Ebrahim Raisi told Chinese news agency that Iran and China have decided to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries. Iran President also held talks with the chairman of Chinese parliament and expressed hope that due to the cooperation between Iran and China, there will be a new era in the history of Asia.

US worried over Iran's increasing nuclear capability



Inqilab (February 27) states that as per a report of International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran is upgrading its capacity to enrich Uranium to 60% purity. After receiving this report, concerns have been expressed in US circles about the increasing nuclear capability of Iran. According to US intelligence agency 'CIA', Iran's aim is to enrich Uranium to 90% purity.

This apart, Iran is fully involved in the development of a ballistic missile programme. Hence the US has to change its

policy towards Iran. Secondly, Iran's militia Pasdaran Inqilab's aerospace force commander claimed that they would be able to target US planes nearly 2,000 kilometres away. Commander of Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, while taking part in an Iranian television programme, gave a detailed account of the aerospace capability of Iran. He said that Iran doesn't want a war. But if war is forced on it, then it is

in a position to totally eliminate US.

Another top military official of Iran, General Hossein Salami said that Iran is fast developing supersonic cruise missile, so that we would be able to defend ourselves. He said that Iran would not succumb to the pressures of US and its allies and neither would it tolerate the disturbances being spread in Iran at its behest. He said that those who create disturbances in Iran would be strongly crushed.

Israel's missile attack on Syria



to Syria by Iran. The number of those killed in this attack could be even more. In this connection, the spokesperson of Israeli military has refused to make any comments. However, Israel has confirmed the attack and said the step has been taken in order to destroy the huge quantity of arms and ammunition being supplied by Iran to Syria recently.

Syrian government said it was a residential

Inquilab (February 20) reports that Israel has targeted Syrian capital Damascus with rockets in which at least 15 people were killed and 10 others were injured. It is being said that the building which was targeted by Israel was a rocket facility. This facility had a collection of rockets supplied

area which was deliberately targeted by Israel. Majority of those killed were citizens. The Israeli newspapers have confirmed that Israel has stepped up its attack on airports and military stations in Syria in order to destroy the arms and ammunition supplied to Syria by Iran. ■

Iran rewards man who attacked Salman Rushdie

Aurangabad Times (February 22) states that an organisation linked to Imam Khomeini in Iran has announced one thousand square metres of land as reward to a 24-year-old youth who launched a murderous assault on writer Salman Rushdie. Secretary of this organization, Mohammad Ismail Zarai has announced this land to 24-year-old US-origin Shia youth Hadi Matar. He said this youth attacked Salman Rushdie for the sake of the honour of Islam and the Prophet and rendered him disabled for life. Now his condition is worse than dead. He has become a walking corpse. One of his eyes and the arm had to be removed. Hence this youth is entitled to



receive the reward announced by Imam Khomeini.

It is to be noted that last year, this youth attacked Salman Rushdie with a knife. After the attack, the security personnel got hold of him and the case against him is being heard in the court. The secretary of the Irani Foundation said that since Hadi is in custody, any of his family members could receive this reward. It is to be noted that nearly 34 years ago, Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had issued a 'fatwa' to kill Salman Rushdie in connection with his controversial book 'Satanic Verses' in which he had been accused of insulting the Prophet. He said that those who kill Rushdie would be given one crore Riyal as reward. ■

Four students expelled on charges of trimming beard



Mumbai Urdu News (February 21) states that Darul Uloom Deoband has expelled four students from the institution on charges of trimming their beard. The managers of Darul Uloom Deoband said that if any student does not have beard, he will not be allowed to enter this institution. Education manager of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Hussain Ahmad

Haridwari announced that only those students who adopt Islamic dress or system will be admitted to Darul Uloom Deoband or allowed to receive education. Keeping beard is an integral part of Islam and if anyone trims his beard or shave it off, then it will be 'haram' as per Islam which cannot be tolerated and they will be immediately expelled from the institution.

1,480 metre-long chadar on the tomb of Shahjahan

Inquilab (February 20) states that the 368th Urs of Mughal ruler Shahjahan was observed at Taj Mahal. On this occasion, a 1,480-metre long chadar was laid on the maqbara of the badshah. More than one lakh people visited Taj Mahal as the entry was free on the occasion of Urs. According to Urs committee, the chadar was of seven colours and it was presented by different people. On the occasion of Urs, the Kabars of Shahjahan and Mumtaz Mahal were opened for visitors. The government had



made tight security arrangements on the occasion.

Obese people banned from Haj

Roznama Sahara (February 17) states that the Egyptian government has banned obese people from undertaking Haj. A spokesperson of Egypt's health ministry said that those who suffer from heart

diseases, or suffering from cancer, lung or kidney diseases are also not permitted from undertaking Haj. The Egypt government also imposed a ban on pregnant women from undertaking Haj.

Grants for madrasas stopped in Bihar



Inquilab (February 16) states that the Patna high court has accepted a period of four months to submit the inquiry report on 2,459 madrasas in the state. This apart, grants for 609 madrasas in the state have

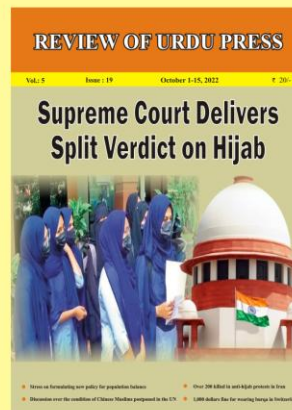
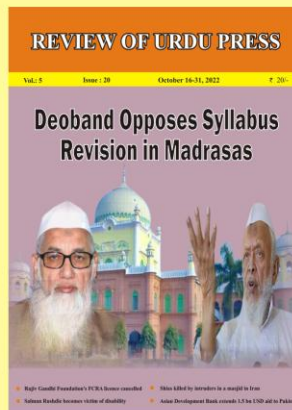
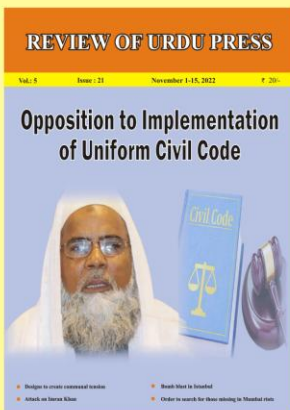
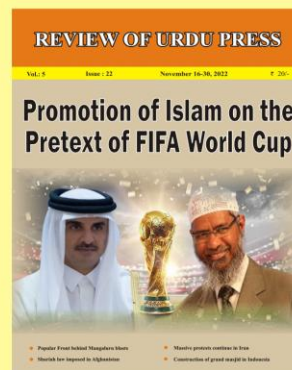
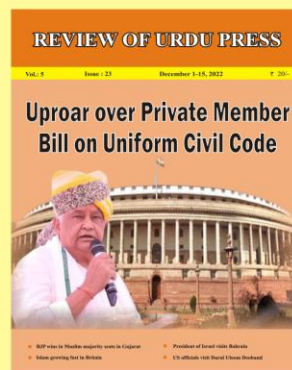
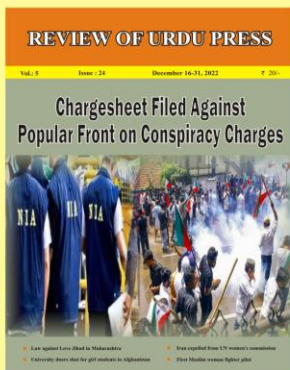
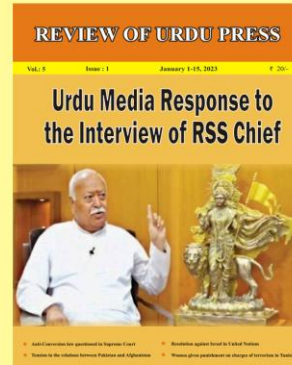
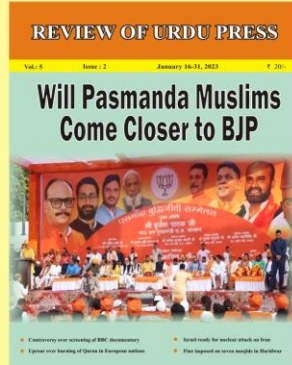
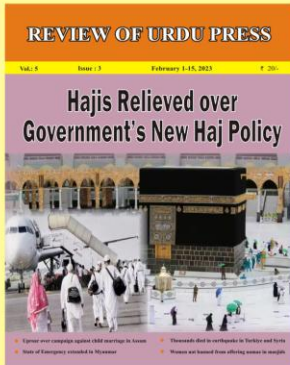
been stopped until the inquiry report comes. It is to be noted that on the basis of a petition filed by a man named Alauddin Bismil, the Patna high court in January imposed restrictions on issuing grants to madrasas which were obtaining them on the basis of fake documents. Acting Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, while hearing the petition on this issue, said that until the CID's inquiry report on these madrasas come, government grants shall not be issued to them.

Kerala Chief Minister supports triple talaq

Mumbai Urdu News (February 22) states that Kerala Chief Minister P Vijayan, while criticizing the ban imposed on triple talaq, said that the Central government is deliberately targeting Muslims. As per Indian Constitution, every person has the right to practice his own religion or faith. In such a situation, the government has no right to create a law against triple talaq. He said that in other religions, divorce is considered as a civil matter. However, in 2017, the Central government imposed a



ban on triple talaq among Muslims and the next year, the President even congratulated the law as per which triple talaq has been made a criminal issue and a provision for fine and rigorous imprisonment for three years has been made. He said that it is not correct to make such discrimination among the different communities of minorities. Hence his government will not implement this in the state.



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