

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 6

Issue : 6

March 16-31, 2023

₹ 20/-

Karnataka Scraps Muslim Reservation



RESERVATION FOR MUSLIMS

- Assam CM hints at plan to close down all madrasas
- Unprecedented political crisis in Israel
- Roza Iftar organised at the residence of British PM
- Four given death sentence acquitted

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

Printed and Published by
Manmohan Sharma on behalf of
India Policy Foundation published at
D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New
Delhi- 110016. Printed at Sai Printo
Pack Pvt. Ltd., A-102/4, Okhla
Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi
- 110020

Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Karnataka scraps Muslim reservation	04
Controversy over Zakir Naik's visit to Oman	06
Assam CM hints at plan to close down all madrasas	07
Bilkis Bano case to be heard by new bench of Supreme Court	08
Controversy erupts again over changing the name of Aurangabad	10
<u>World</u>	
Roza Iftar organised at the residence of British PM	13
Journalist arrested for report on high prices of food items	14
Quran burnt again in Denmark	14
Scared of Taliban, judge shuts herself in house for six months	15
Terrorists kill Brigadier in Pakistan	16
<u>West Asia</u>	
Unprecedented political crisis in Israel	17
Attack on the US base in Syria	18
Preparations on to welcome Hajis in Saudi Arabia	19
Two sentenced to death for attack on mazar in Iran	20
20 people killed in mishap in Saudi Arabia	21
<u>Others</u>	
Four given death sentence acquitted	22
Waqf properties worth billions allegedly sold cheaply in Bengaluru	22
Seven arrested for forcefully removing hijab	23
Five held for providing foreign funds to terrorists	23
Imam killed for not giving permission for azaan	23

Summary

The Karnataka government has announced scrapping of four percent reservation exclusively being given to the Muslims in the state. According to the government, this quota will now be distributed among Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities apart from backward class Muslims. This system of providing reservation to Muslims in Karnataka has been in force for the past 27 years. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that reservation cannot be given to any community on the basis of religion. Because it is against the spirit of the Constitution and hence the state government has decided to scrap this reservation system.

This decision of the state government has also been endorsed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He said that it is unconstitutional to provide reservation to any community on the basis of religion. Meanwhile, Congress and Muslim organisations have criticised this decision of the state government and described it as anti-Muslim. Karnataka Congress President D K Shivakumar declared that if Congress comes to power after Assembly elections in the state, then Muslim reservation will be restored.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while addressing a public meeting in Karnataka, declared that there is no need for Islamic madrasas to be maintained in new Hindustan. Hence the state government in Assam has converted more than 400 Islamic madrasas to ordinary schools. This step has been taken so that Muslim children also learn subjects like science and maths and join the mainstream. Till now, there is no provision to teach these subjects in madrasas. He said that we want development of Muslims and local Muslims have given their full support to our programmes.

One news from Britain was quite surprising. For the first time in the history of Britain, a Prime Minister has organized a 'Roza Iftar Party' at his official residence where not only Quran was read, even an azaan was also held before namaz. Muslim leaders residing in Britain were invited to this Roza Iftar Party. The interesting thing is that many prominent ministers of Britain supported the organisation of this party and said this will help improve social harmony.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has got trapped in another controversy. He has got a bill passed in Israel Parliament, as per which the Parliament has been given the power to stop the implementation of any court decision. Though it has been passed in the Parliament, people started strongly opposing the move. For the past 12 weeks, the people of Israel held massive protests to oppose the new law.

The fact is that among the Israeli cabinet also there are strong voices of opposition against this law. Seeing this, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu removed defence minister Yoav Gallant from his post. Due to this step, the stand of opposition and the protests by people further strengthened. Seeing the strong sentiments, Netanyahu declared that he will not turn it into a law for one month. However, Opposition did not feel happy about this announcement and they declared to continue with their agitation.

Muslim reservation scrapped in Karnataka



Salar (March 25) states that the BJP government in Karnataka has scrapped the four percent reservation being given to Muslims in government jobs and in education and distributed the same among the two politically powerful Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities in the state. However, the government announcement also stated that a certain percentage of the quota will be given to economically weaker sections among Muslims. However, no clarification has been given as to how much percentage of quota will be given to Muslims. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced this decision at a press conference soon after the cabinet meeting. He said that as per the latest decision of the government, the reservation that has been given to Muslims so far has now been stopped. He said that this quota will now be given to Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities apart from economically backward Muslims.

Following this decision of the government, the Vokkaliga community will now get a six percent quota instead of four percent and the Lingayat community will get seven percent quota instead of the five percent. The Chief Minister said that a decision has been taken to divide Dalit and

Adivasi communities into four sections and provide reservation to them on the basis of their population. He said that there is no reservation for religious minorities in seven states in the country and the state government has taken the decision on its basis.

Siasat (March 28) states that commenting on the scrapping of reservation for Muslims in Karnataka, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that there is no provision in the Constitution to provide reservation on the basis of religion. Addressing a rally in Bidar in Karnataka, he said that the process started by the erstwhile Congress government to provide reservation to Muslims was unconstitutional. He said that the Congress had started giving reservation to Muslims in order to polarize votes. The BJP has stopped this reservation and has decided to increase the quota for Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities.

Hamara Samaj (March 25) states that the chairman of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Mahmood Madani has strongly criticised this decision of the state government and said that this quota was in force for the past 27 years and its removal will be a serious setback for the development of the country.

He alleged that the government is adopting double standard. He said that at one level the country's prime minister claims to be a sympathiser of Pasmada Muslims. At another level, his government has ended Muslim reservation in Karnataka and distributed the same among the two politically powerful communities in the state in order to amass their votes. He said that the government data had confirmed several times that the Muslims are the most backward in the country and hence they are being given reservation benefits on the basis of economic backwardness. However, the BJP has been denying them the same by making it on the basis of religion.



Salar (March 28) reports that the Muslims in the state are planning to knock at the doors of the court against the decision of Karnataka government. In this connection, consultations are being held with legal luminaries. Former Union minister and Congress leader K Rahman Khan said that he held discussions with former Advocate General of Karnataka Ravi Varma Kumar, Nazir Ahmad and Abdul Jabbar. He said that the decision taken by the government is unconstitutional. In this connection, a meeting of Muslim leaders has also been called, where a discussion will be held on this issue.

Etemaad (March 27) states that the president of Congress party in Karnataka, D K Shivakumar, while condemning the decision, said that if Congress comes to power in the state, Muslim quota will be restored within one-and-a-half months.

Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is misleading people by issuing statements in this connection. He said that this reservation is being given to Muslims on the basis of Havanur Commission report due to their social and economic backwardness and not on the basis of religion.

Salar (March 26) states that the Amir-e-Shariat of Karnataka, Maulana

Sagir Ahmad Rashadi said that this decision of the state government is anti-Muslim and unconstitutional. He appealed to the Muslims in the state to remain calm and take their fight through legal means. Following a meeting of Muslim leaders, K Rahman Khan said the Muslims in Karnataka have suffered a huge setback due to this decision. The decision has also confirmed the anti-Muslim politics of BJP.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 26) states that the vice-chairperson of Jamiat Ulema, Uttar Pradesh, Maulana Aminul Haq Qasmi condemned this decision and said that this is proof of the double standard of BJP government.

Siasat (March 28) in its editorial, while criticising the decision to end Muslim reservation, said that due to this, the possibility of BJP returning to power in the Vidhan Sabha elections has also ended and there will be wave in favour of Congress.

Salar (March 30) has published a special article in which it has been stated that a firestorm has arisen in the state due to the decision of Bommai government to end Muslim reservation. The newspaper said that the reservation was provided on the recommendations of L G Havanur Commission which was formed in 1975 by the then Chief Minister Devraj Urs. In the same way, the then Ramkrishna Hegde government in Karnataka in 1983 had formed a second backward classes commission in the name of T Venkat Swami Commission, which had submitted a report in 1986 in which it had recommended that reservation shall be continued to Muslims on the basis of backwardness.

Controversy over Zakir Naik's visit to Oman



religions. The Indian government had even imposed a ban on Naik's organisation, Islamic Research Foundation. In July 2016, Zakir Naik went abroad and nearly a year later, the Indian government cancelled his passport and he was declared as an absconding accused.

In the same newspaper, a news was published on March 25, in which it has been claimed that while

Mumbai Urdu News (March 22) has indicated a possibility that the Oman government could take into custody controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik and hand him over to Indian government. India's intelligence agencies are in touch with Oman government in this connection. Zakir Naik is a wanted accused in India and Indian intelligence agencies are keeping a close watch on his activities. As per media reports, Zakir Naik was supposed to deliver a speech at a religious gathering in Oman on March 23 which was organized by Oman's ministry for Waqf and religious affairs. However, as per some media reports, Zakir Naik has now returned to Malaysia from Oman.

It is to be noted that last year, when Zakir Naik reached Qatar in connection with the World Cup football match, a controversy had erupted and later the Qatar government had cancelled his speech. Zakir Naik is accused of money laundering and creating animosity between communities and he has been hiding in Malaysia since 2017.

Aurangabad Times (March 22) reports that Zakir Naik has been a controversial person ever since videos of his several controversial speeches went viral on social media. After this, he was accused of spreading hatred towards other

delivering a speech in Oman, Zakir had made some offensive remarks against Indian government and RSS. Some people say that Zakir was invited to deliver a speech on Islam. Following which, he made an appeal to Muslims across the world that they come forward for the spread and propagation of Islam. He said that he wanted to invite Muslims and non-Muslims for a public debate on Quran. Later he started targeting India government, Prime Minister Modi and RSS. In this connection, he mentioned about harassment of Muslims in India. According to the newspaper, India government had urged Oman government not to allow Zakir Naik to enter the country. This is because he delivers anti-India speeches and there are several cases against him in this connection.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 27) states that while delivering a speech at the 'Meeting and Exhibition Centre' in Oman on the topic 'Quran is a necessity of world,' Zakir Naik said that the Hindus in India love him. He claimed that nearly 20% among the lakhs of people who come to hear his speeches are non-Muslims. He also claimed that a Sikh judge had stopped the Enforcement Directorate from seizing his property.

Assam Chief Minister indicates closing down all madrasas



Inquilab (March 18) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that there was no need for Islamic madrasas in the new Bharat and hence he will close down all these madrasas in his state. Sarma was addressing a public meeting in Belagavi in Karnataka. He said that in new Hindustan, there is no need for madrasas and instead, only schools, colleges and universities are required. He said he had closed down 600 Islamic madrasas in his state and now wants to close down all the madrasas.

The newspaper alleged that the stand adopted by Sarma right from the beginning was of anti-Islam. Many Islamic madrasas have been razed in the state using bulldozers, alleging them to be the base of terrorists and the state government took control of more than 400 madrasas in the name of converting them as modern schools. In this connection, some petitions are also pending before the Supreme Court.

In a news published in **Roznama Sahara** (March 18), Himanta Biswa Sarma, while addressing a public meeting in Karnataka, said that his government had already closed down 600 Islamic madrasas. We are not in favour of running any madrasa at all. He said that in Assam, currently there are more than 3,000 registered and unregistered madrasas,

which will be converted as ordinary schools. We want to give modern education to Muslim children. Hence we will also specifically teach them science and maths.

In an editorial published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (March 21), Suhail Anjum said that for the past one year, the chief minister of Assam has surpassed all on the matter of Muslim enmity. We can't even compare him to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister. The Yogi Adityanath government had ordered an investigation into all registered and non-registered aided and unaided Islamic madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. Later an investigation has been done into the sources of income of madrasas located on Indo-Nepal border. Since the government has not found any incriminating evidence till now, no action has been taken against any madrasa.

On the other hand, Himanta Biswa Sarma is determined to erase the identity of madrasas from his state. His government had closed down several madrasas last year, claiming them to be the bases of terrorist activities. When it was opposed, it was claimed that these madrasas were built in an illegal manner and hence they had been razed. In Assam, a few people have also been arrested on charges of terrorism, who used to impart education in these madrasas. However, no charges have been

proved against them till now. The truth is that they are against the madrasas because Islam is being taught in these madrasas and also due to the efforts being made to make children soldiers of Islam.

Hamara Samaj (March 19) in its editorial has condemned the statement of Himanta Biswa Sarma. Meanwhile, the BJP has launched the 'Modi Mitra' campaign to attract Muslims towards the party. This apart, in order to amass the votes of another section of Muslims, a 'Sufi Samvad Karyakram' has also been launched. The newspaper said that after all, one does not understand what kind of game is being played in the country. At another level, the Modi government has made it clear that it doesn't care about Muslims. Then why efforts are being made to woo them for the 2024 general elections?

The newspaper said that there are no two opinions that it will be difficult for BJP to win 2024 elections compared to the one in 2019. Whether there will be an opposition alliance or not, the public sentiments that have come to the fore in the country against Modi government will seriously damage BJP. According to observers, there will be a decrease of 70 to 80 seats from the total number of seats that the BJP and its allies are expected to get in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Hence, seeing the likely defeat, the BJP has launched a campaign to attract Muslims towards it. A decision has been taken to seek the help of so-called intellectuals,

educationists and social activists in order to attract Muslims towards BJP.

The newspaper said that in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in order to ensure its victory, the BJP has decided to field 5,000 'Modi Mitras' belonging to the minority community in Muslim-majority districts in the country who will work towards bringing Muslims closer to BJP in their respective areas.

Etemaad (March 30) in its editorial said that Islamic madrasas are the 'forts of Islam'. Muslim scholars had built these madrasas with their blood. It is thanks to these religious madrasas that Islam is still alive in Bharat. The BJP has started targeting these madrasas after understanding this truth. Meanwhile, in Assam, bulldozers are being used against these madrasas. Whereas, the Uttar Pradesh government is also planning to shut them down. In Assam, the population of Muslims is approximately 33 percent. Hence the Assam government is preparing to marginalise Muslims in one way or another. This is the reason why the Chief Minister of Assam is planning to close down the madrasas. The communal mindset of BJP is clear from the way Islamic madrasas are being clamped down in Assam and Uttar Pradesh. There is this possibility that this campaign against Islamic madrasas will not be limited to Uttar Pradesh and Assam, instead it will be unleashed in the entire country. Muslims need to remain alert on this.

Bilkis Bano case to be heard by new bench of Supreme Court

Roznama Sahara (March 28) states that a hearing took place in Supreme Court in the Bilkis Bano case and in this connection, the court has issued a notice to the Union and Gujarat governments. Before this, on March 22, on the initiative of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, an assurance has been given to constitute a three-judge bench to hear a petition filed by Bilkis Bano.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 23) states that the Supreme Court had said that it would constitute a new bench to hear a petition questioning the early release of 11 convicted persons in the gang-rape case. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud agreed to hear a petition filed by Bilkis Bano's lawyer Shobha Gupta seeking immediate hearing and has given the indication of constituting a new bench.

In the past also, the Supreme Court had formed a special bench but Justice Bela M Trivedi had recused from the bench stating that she was made Deputy Secretary by the Gujarat government in the 2004 – 2006 period. On August 15, the Gujarat government had released 11 accused who were sentenced to life-term in jail. The government's claim was that they were released on the basis of the prison amnesty policy of Gujarat. The Supreme Court had dismissed a review petition filed by Bilkis Bano on December 13 and said in its comment that as per our opinion there is no error in the decision of the Gujarat government on May 13, 2022, so as to review the decision.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 23) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court to constitute a special bench to hear the Bilkis Bano issue. The newspaper said that we welcome this decision because this is not just the issue of gang rape of a helpless woman and the murder of her family members, but the matter is also that of a particular community. We do not want to criticise the judiciary, but just want to say that there is less possibility of getting justice in Bilkis case because the BJP stands behind the 11 accused who were released. They enjoy the support of Gujarat government. The judiciary's stand towards BJP in the past few years is a soft one. One clear example of this is the decision on Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case. However, despite this, the conscience of the judiciary wakes up and when a judge sits on the chair of justice, a judgment is delivered which is against the wishes of the government. Nowadays, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud also take some such decisions.

The newspaper said that the decision to constitute a special bench to conduct a review in the Bilkis Bano case itself is one such decision. Regrettably, the thing is that when these accused were released from the jail, they were welcomed with garlands of flowers and sweets were distributed to celebrate the occasion. Now one could see



the possibility of Bilkis Bano getting justice after a long struggle and legal battle. Everyone knows that the Gujarat government released the accused in the Bilkis Bano case on the pretext of good conduct on the occasion of Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav on August 15. However, very few people know that this decision was not only of Gujarat government but permission was taken from the Union Home Ministry as well. The role played by the Central government came to the fore in the affidavits filed in the court by officials of Gujarat government and the Central government. Those who were released, were used politically in the Gujarat Assembly elections.

Background: Following the Godhra riots in Gujarat in 2002, an enraged crowd entered the house of Bilkis Bano and killed her family members and gangraped her. Bilkis has fought a lengthy legal battle to get justice. The accused were given life-term, but the Gujarat government released them before completing their term in jail.

A special CBI court in Mumbai had sentenced 11 accused in this case to life-term in jail on January 21, 2008. Later, the Bombay High Court had upheld the sentence. The accused spent more than 15 years in jail. Later, one of the accused approached the Supreme Court even before the time for his release. Chairperson of the committee constituted to look into their amnesty and Panchmahal district collector Sujal Maitra said the Supreme Court had directed the Gujarat government to look into the issue of release of the accused. Hence a committee was formed. According to Maitra, the committee had taken the decision to release all the 11 accused related to the case with consensus and the state government had accepted the recommendation. ■

Controversy erupts again over changing the name of Aurangabad



The controversy over the decision taken by the Maharashtra government to change the name of Aurangabad as Sambhajanagar is yet to lie down.

Inquilab (March 25) states that the Supreme Court has refused to hear a petition filed against changing the name of Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar by stating that the issue has been pending before the Bombay High Court right from the beginning. In the Supreme Court, the issue came up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice P S Narasimha and Justice J B Pardiwala. The petition questioned the approval of the divisional commissioner of Aurangabad, state government and Central government, where it has been proposed that the name of Aurangabad is changed to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. In this connection, lawyer Umar Kamal Farooqi has filed a petition before the court.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 20) has published a news in the front page and claimed that protests have begun in

Maharashtra against and in favour of changing the name of Aurangabad as Sambhajanagar. According to the newspaper, a protest march was held at the behest of Sakal Hindu Samaj in Aurangabad, in which people belonging to Hindu society took part in large numbers, who were shouting the slogan of 'Jai Bhawani, Jai Shivaji.' Those who took part in the rally damaged the places wherever they saw 'Aurangabad' written. Many Hindu organisations formed the Sakal Hindu Samaj and decided to take out a rally seeking to change the name of Aurangabad as Sambhajanagar.

In this protest, along with a minister of Maharashtra government, the activists of BJP, RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad took part in large numbers and demanded that why should we keep the name of our city in the name of a Mughal king who soiled his hand with Chhatrapati Sambhaji's blood. Secondly, a new Muslim organisation, 'Muslim Numainda Council' held a protest against this decision of the government and staged a dharna. The dharna was



change the history of the country. Their efforts will not succeed. After the dharna, a delegation met the divisional commissioner and demanded that no change shall be made in the name of Aurangabad.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 9) states that Umar Kamal

inaugurated by Maulana Sharif Nizami by reciting the Holy Quran. The former chairman of municipal council said the enmity between Sambhaji and Aurangzeb was not religious but was political. He said that Aurangabad has a 400-year-old history and we will not allow it to be erased at any cost.

Mushtaq Ahmad, while talking about the repeat of the 1995 case, said such activities have been done in the past as well. However, majority of the people are not in favour of changing the name of Aurangabad. But some communal people are raking up this issue again and again due to vote bank politics. The plans of communal elements were foiled in 1995 due to the joint efforts of the residents of Aurangabad. The district president of Bahujan Samaj Party said Aurangabad's name will remain as long as the world exists. State president of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, Rekha Thakur said that some people are deliberately raking up the issue so that they could reap political benefits by creating hatred between two communities. Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji were not enemies of Islam. Neither Aurangzeb was an enemy of Hindu dharma. Had he been an enemy then his army would not have the highest number of Hindu commanders.

Hafiz Iqbal Ansari said that Aurangabad is our identity and we will fight till the end to keep it alive. Member of Parliament Imtiaz Jaleel said that he belonged to Aurangabad, and will remain so. Some communal elements want to

Farooqi has told reporters he has requested the Chief Justice of India to intervene in the process of changing the historical names in the country, not just of Aurangabad and Osmanabad, but wherever the historical places have been changed, or set to change.

Aurangabad Times (March 7) states that the chief of Congress party in Maharashtra, Nana Patole has opposed changing the name of Aurangabad and Osmanabad and said that due to this communal tension has increased and by creating a Hindu-Muslim controversy the social unity is being destroyed due to political reasons. He said that in order to put pressure on the Opposition and to polarize votes, the Gujarat pattern has been initiated in Maharashtra. It is necessary for people to remain alert in this connection.

Etemaad (March 1) in its editorial has claimed that those who play politics by changing the names have got a huge setback from the Supreme Court and the demand made by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya to set up a commission to change the names of ancient, cultural and religious places to their original names, has been rejected by the Supreme Court. Justice K M Joseph and Justice B V Nagaratna said that keeping such issues alive will create tension in society.

Salar (March 13) in its editorial said that the renaming frenzy should stop now, because it may lead to tension in society.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 14) states that a petition on behalf of the royal Mughal family of India has been filed at



the office of the commissioner on the issue of changing the name of Aurangabad. This petition has been filed by the Waris of Mughal family settled in Hyderabad, H R H Prince Yaqoob Tacy. In this petition, he has demanded that the government withdraw its decision.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 14) in its editorial has stressed that the Supreme Court shall intervene in this matter. The same way it had done nearly 28 years ago. The newspaper has asked the residents of Aurangabad that they register their objection to changing the name at the office of the divisional commissioner. The newspaper said that the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government in 1995 had also taken the decision to change the name of Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar. This decision was questioned in the high court by the chairman of the Action Committee Mushtaq Ahmad, which rejected the claim and upheld the decision of the government. Following this, Mushtaq Ahmad approached the Supreme Court and the matter came up before a bench of the then

Chief Justice, A M Ahmadi. This petition was argued by Kapil Sibal. Mushtaq Ahmad won in the Supreme Court and the court cancelled the decision of the Manohar Joshi government to change the name of Aurangabad. In year 2000, the Congress-NCP government came to power and the then chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh cancelled this decision of Joshi government. Now this matter has been raked up again.

Salar (March 7) states that Shiv Sena legislator Sanjay Shirsat has demanded that the tomb of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb shall be shifted from Aurangabad to Hyderabad. Maharashtra state president of AIMIM has demanded that the names of Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Kolhapur and Malegaon shall also be changed. He demanded that the name of Mumbai shall be changed as Shivaji Raje Mahanagar, Pune's name as Savitribai Phule Nagar, Nagpur's name as B R Ambedkar Nagar, Kolhapur's name as Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Nagar and Malegaon's name as Maulana Azad Nagar.

Roza Iftar organized at the residence of British Prime Minister



Inquilab (March 31) reports that for the first time in the history of Britain, a Roza Iftar party was organized at the residence of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10, Downing Street, where the Holy Quran was recited and arrangements were made for azaan. An Iftar dinner was also organized at the official residence of British Foreign Secretary at Lancaster House. In both these places, prominent Muslims staying in Britain were invited.

Chairman of Conservative Party Greg Hands said the purpose of organizing these events was to convey that the British government respects the religious sentiments of Muslims staying in the country and acknowledges their importance to the contribution of the development of Britain. He said that Islam is a religion of peace and security. Ramzan has now become a part of Britain's religious and social culture.

In the Iftar party organized at Lancaster House, the British Foreign Secretary and Trade Secretary addressed the guests and said they want to develop London as the centre of Islamic finance

in the world. The chief imam of Islamic world's biggest religious university, Jamia Al Azhar, Sheikh Hani Saad Mahmoud, was the chief guest at Iftar party. He recited the Quran at the Iftar party. In both these functions, the guests were specially served Pakistani food.

As per another news, Roza Iftar and namaz were organized at the government residence of Scotland government's newly elected head of Pakistani origin, Humza Yousaf. According to news agency, AFP, the Scotland Parliament has elected Humza Yousaf as the first minister, who has become the first Muslim head of government in any European nation. The British King has confirmed his appointment. Later, he took oath of office on March 28. It is to be noted that Humza Yousaf has been elected as Member of Parliament from Glasgow region. He is 37 years old and he is the first Muslim head of Scotland. In the past, he had also served as Minister for Health. He was elected as a Member of Scotland Parliament at the age of 26.

Journalist arrested for report on high food prices

Inquilab (March 31) states that the Bangladesh government has arrested a journalist for publishing a news related to huge increase in the prices of food items in the country. As per media report, a journalist associated with a popular newspaper in Bangladesh, Shamsuzzaman Shams, in his report has held the government responsible for the huge increase in food items in the country. The police arrested him from his residence in Dhaka during midnight. Confirming the arrest, Home Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan said that Shams was arrested under Digital Security Act. The news he had given was wrong, misleading and imaginary.



It is to be noted that any person arrested under this law in Bangladesh could get a jail term up to 14 years. Till now, 138 journalists have been arrested in Bangladesh under this law. An organisation named 'Media Freedom Coalition' in Bangladesh has alleged that the government is creating hurdles in the freedom of press and journalists are being

arrested on fake charges in order to suppress truth. A spokesperson of this organisation said that recently several journalists were arrested for publishing the news of elections in Supreme Court Bar Association. In London, when a Bengali journalist published a news critical of the government, his brother was attacked in Dhaka and later he was arrested on fake charges. In the same manner, the photographer of Tribune and several journalists associated with another newspaper 'Prothom Alo' were also arrested by Bangladesh government on fake charges. ■

Quran burnt again in Denmark

Siasat (March 28) states that many Muslim nations including Saudi Arabia have condemned the burning of Quran and the flag of Turkiye by anti-Islam extremists in Denmark. Recently, during Ramzan, a right-wing group in Denmark, 'Patrioterne Gar' has made a video viral which showed the burning of Quran and the flag of Turkiye in front of Turkish embassy in Copenhagen. Turkish newspaper 'Daily Sabah' has condemned this incident and said that on the pretext of freedom of expression such incidents which hurt the sentiments of billions of Muslims in the

world cannot be tolerated under any circumstance.

The Turkish government has urged the Denmark government to take action against the accused persons immediately so that social harmony and peace is maintained in the world. A spokesperson of Jordan's foreign ministry Sinan Majali said that the ruling parties in Europe and in some other parts of the world are deliberately promoting hatred against Islam. No Muslim will tolerate this and there will be serious consequences for it. The Kuwait foreign ministry also



condemned this incident and said that such anti-Islam incidents are regularly taking place in Denmark and the government there have so far failed to stop them.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 28) states that an anti-Islam right wing group in Denmark capital Copenhagen has burnt Holy Quran and the national flag of Turkiye. In a video that went viral in this connection, some protesters were seen holding anti-Islam banner and raising objectionable slogans against Quran and the Prophet. It is to be noted that in the past also, during January this year, an anti-Islam extremist leader Rasmus Paludan burnt Quran in front of a masjid in Copenhagen. Later he once again burnt Quran in front of

Turkish embassy amid police security. The newspaper has written that the Denmark government has so far failed to take any strong action against such mischievous elements.

Roznama Sahara (March 23) states that the British government has imposed a ban on Rasmus Paludan, who burnt Quran in Copenhagen, from entering Britain. It is to be noted that this man had announced that he would burn Quran in Wakefield city in Britain during Ramzan. When this issue was raised in British Parliament 'House of Commons' the then British Minister of State for Security Tom Tugendhat assured the House that this person will not be allowed to enter Britain.

Scared of Taliban, judge shuts herself in house for six months

Roznama Sahara (March 22) states that a former woman judge in Afghanistan, after her application for political refuge in Britain was rejected, said that she has not stepped out of her house for the past six months due to fear of Taliban and has shut herself in house. The woman named Kadisa (name changed) made this allegation during an interview to a newspaper named 'Independent Arabia' from an undisclosed

location. The original name of this woman has been kept a secret due to security concerns.

The judge said that she musters courage to step into the garden of her house only at night. This is because she fears that she will be killed. This woman used to hear cases against crimes committed against woman and her age is nearly 46 years. She said that she wanted to take refuge in



Taliban seized power in Kabul she managed to escape from there. Five months ago, her brother told her that officials of intelligence wing of Taliban government enquired about her. This woman judge said that even Britain, which claims to be the biggest protector of human rights, is not ready to give refuge to her. Ever

Britain in order to save her life but the British government has rejected her application. This woman also said that after

since her application was rejected, she has been very upset.

Terrorists kill Brigadier in Pakistan



relations department has confirmed the death of Barqi.

As per a press release issued by the agency, more than a dozen Pakistani officials were injured in this attack, among which the condition of two were stated to be serious. In another attack near Afghanistan border, Islamist terrorists attacked an outpost of Pakistan Army in which several people

Roznama Sahara (March 23) states that at least five Pakistani soldiers including a Brigadier were killed in an attack by Islamic terrorists in southern Waziristan region. According to British news agency 'Reuters,' terrorists of banned terrorist organisation 'Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan' clashed with a contingent of Pakistani Army in which a Brigadier of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, Mustafa Kamal Barqi, was killed. Pakistan Army's public

were killed. The government has not revealed the number of Pakistani soldiers killed in this attack. Earlier, in a clash that took place between Pakistan Army and Islamic terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan, six Pakistani military officials were killed and in the retaliatory attack by the Army, four terrorists were shot dead. Pakistan government has admitted that there is an increase in incidents of attack on Pakistani Army recently.

Unprecedented political crisis in Israel



Mumbai Urdu News (March 28) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sacked Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant. As per media reports, he has been opposing the legal reforms bill being presented by the Prime Minister. Before sacking the defence minister, the Prime Minister also held a meeting with him.

Roznama Sahara (March 29) states that seeing the protests against the bill related to legal reforms in the country, Prime Minister Netanyahu has delayed the process of according legal sanctity to the bill till next month. According to the newspaper, the sacking of the defence minister has added fuel to the fire amid massive protests that have been taking place in the country against the controversial bill. Due to the nation-wide hartal called by Israel's largest trade union, 'National Labour Union' the entire public life came to a standstill. No aircraft took off from the airports, neither any plane landed there. This apart, the operations in all the ports, banks, hospitals and markets remained suspended. Israel's President

Isaac Herzog had also advised the government not to make any effort to accord legal sanctity to this controversial bill.

It is to be noted that the bill grants Parliament the power to stop the implementation of any decision taken by any court. However, Netanyahu has stopped the process of giving the bill legal sanctity. Despite this, the leaders of the protesters announced that they will continue their protest against the issue. They also said that the Prime Minister may have halted the process of giving legal sanctity to the bill. However, unless the government fully withdraws the bill, the protests of Israeli people would continue. Clashes have been taking place against Israeli police and right-wing protesters.

On the other hand, the opposition leaders of Israel's Parliament supported the decision of the Prime Minister not to give legal sanctity to the bill. However, they also demanded that the Prime Minister reinstate the defence minister in his post and discussions shall be held on the controversial bill in the country. Former

Prime Minister Yair Lapid said that the Opposition should ensure that Netanyahu does not cheat the country and sincerely announce the withdrawal of this controversial bill.

In a statement, the office of Israeli President said that he had held lengthy talks with the Prime Minister, Opposition leader and the former defence minister so that a way could be found out of this deadlock. His effort is to constitute teams to hold talks to reach an agreement at the political level. It is to be noted that massive protests are taking place in Israel for the past 12 weeks against this controversial law.

Inquilab (March 30) states that US President Joe Biden said that Israel will not be able to walk for a long time on the track that it has chosen. He clearly stated that he has not extended any invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to visit the US. The US President told reporters that he is hopeful that Israel Prime Minister will not make any effort to forcefully implement this controversial bill on people.

Following this statement of the US President, Israeli Prime Minister



Netanyahu said that Israel is an independent and sovereign nation. It adopts its policies and take decisions related to it on the basis of public good and it has never taken any decision due to foreign pressure. He said that the relationship between Israel and the US is quite an old one. Sometimes differences also occur and they are resolved. While mentioning about the comments made by US President that the Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu is inflicting damages on Israel's democracy, he said that the Israel government's policy is to maintain balance between Executive, Judiciary and the Legislature and to strengthen the democratic system in the country. He said that they always stick to this policy. ■

Attack on the US base in Syria

Hamara Samaj (March 26) states that in retaliation to the US attack in eastern Syria, in which 11 prominent Iran-supported fighters were killed, the Iran-supported militia attacked the US base located on Al Omar oil field using missiles and inflicted severe damages on the lives and properties of the US. Director of Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Rami Abdulrahman told a French news agency that a group of Iran-supported militia attacked the US base using rockets. In retaliation to it, the US once again attacked the bases of Iran-supported militia using aircraft and drones in which several persons were injured. The

US warplanes also targeted the ammunition depot of Iran-supported fighters and destroyed them. In this attack, more than 51 Iran-supported fighters were killed.

Abdulrahman also claimed that in this oil-rich region, more than 15,000 Iran-supported armed Iraqi, Afghani and Pakistani fighters are present. They have set up their base on the Iran-Syria border region. On the other hand, the US has recently deployed more than 1,000 US soldiers in the Kurd-controlled region in Syria. The chief of US Central Command, General Michael Erik Kurilla said that in the past two years, the Iran-supported

rebels had attacked the US Army at least 78 times. However, the US suffered only little damages in these attacks.

The US has been supporting democratic forces in Syria since 2010, who are fighting the ISIS. The US defence ministry said that it will continue to attack Iran-supported militia to protect its own interests. According to Arab News, bloody clashes



erupted recently when an Iran-made suicide drone targeted an anti-ISIS alliance, in which a number of Americans were killed. Recently, the US President Joe Biden had directed the US military to target the groups linked to Iran's Pasdaran-e-Inqilab in aerial attacks.

The US defence secretary said that these attacks have been carried out in retaliation to the attacks launched by Pasdaran-e-Inqilab on the US military. He said that in these recent attacks, more than 14 people were killed, including some Syrian soldiers. The National Security spokesperson of White House has confirmed that the fighters of Iran-supported Pasdaran-e-Inqilab have been attacking the US bases. However, the US did not suffer any damages in these attacks. He said that we will take every step to protect our military and will give them a reply at our own choice of place and time.

Etemaad (March 27) states that the spokesperson of Iranian National Security Council has declared that it would give a befitting reply to the US attacks on Iranian

bases in Syria. He said that at least 19 people were killed in the clashes that took place between the US and Iran-supported militia recently. He said that if the US attacks the Iranian centres, which were built in Syria on a request from the Syrian government in order to deal with terrorism and Khilafat in Syria, then it will be given a befitting reply. He said that the Iranian military and its supporters are present there on a request from the Syrian government. In our view, the US has made illegal occupation there.

Meanwhile, the US has declared that it will not tolerate any Iranian attack and its entire strength will be used to protect the US interests. It is to be noted that Iran has been extending support to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for the past 12 years and different terrorist organisations linked to Iran, including Hezbollah and the Iran-supported militia, have established their bases in different regions of Syria. Israel has been regularly targeting these bases through aerial attacks. The US took part in these attacks for the first time. ■

Preparations to welcome Hajis in Saudi Arabia

Siasat (March 20) states that the Saudi government has announced that all the doors of Medina-located Masjid-e-Nabawi have been opened to welcome the faithfuls during Ramzan. The head of the security

system in the masjid said that there are more than 100 doors on all the four sides of the masjid which have been opened so that those who come to visit the masjid shall not face any kind of troubles. Special



announced that no one will be permitted to do more than one Umrah during Ramzan. This decision was taken so that more and more people get the opportunity to do Umrah.

Etemaad (March 22) states that the director of public security in Saudi Arabia, Lt General Mohammad bin Abdullah Al-Bassami said that special arrangements have

arrangements have been made in the masjid for Roza Iftar. Some special doors have been designated to carry iftar items inside the masjid, so that the faithfuls do not face any difficulties.

Aurangabad Times (March 26) states that a spokesperson on Haj affairs in Saudi Arabia said that there is a possibility of more than 20 lakh Muslims doing namaz at Masjid Ka'aba and the Umrah during Ramzan. Saudi government's special spokesperson Sultan Al Salami told Al Arabia News that 12,000 workers have been appointed to facilitate the pilgrims. A special arrangement has been made to provide information to pilgrims in 50 languages from the country and abroad. In order to enter Ka'aba, 14 special routes have been created. Nearly 9,000 vehicles have been arranged to carry those who arrive for Umrah.

As per another news, the Haj and Umrah ministry of Saudi Arabia has

been made for security on the occasion of Ramzan and special traffic plans have been devised for it. The doors of Ka'aba and Masjid-e-Nabawi will remain opened for pilgrims and namazis round-the-clock. This apart, special arrangements have been made to offer namaz on the roof-top of the masjid and carpets are also laid in huge numbers there.

Special arrangements have also been made to provide Quran and Aab-e-zamzam to the namazis who arrive for the pilgrimage. Some doors are designated specially for women Rozedars. In the Roza of Hazrat Mohammad, special arrangements were made for the entry of believers and those believers who wanted to do prayers for Roza, have to take special permit for the same. Women can offer namaz during day time. Whereas, men are not permitted to offer namaz during day time. A special hall has been built for the namaz of men. ■

Two accused of attacking mazar in Iran get death sentence

Mumbai Urdu News (March 20) states that a court in Iran has awarded death sentence to two men who were accused of launching an attack on a prominent Shia mazar. In this attack, at least 15 faithfuls were killed. Fundamentalist organisation ISIS has taken responsibility for the attack. The government lawyer in Fars province said the two accused were found guilty of sparking violence and destroying internal

security. He said that as per a news broadcast on government television, one of the accused hid a rifle in a bag and entered the renowned dargah Shah Cheragh in Shiraz city. As soon as he entered the dargah, he opened indiscriminate firing on the believers.

The accused belonged to Tajikistan and was injured in the attack. Later he died in the hospital. When the Iranian



the attack. The other accused belonged to Afghanistan and he was a member of ISIS there. He organised the attack. According to the spokesperson, three other persons involved in the case have been awarded 25 years each in jail. It is to be noted that Sunni terrorist organisations have

intelligence wing conducted an investigation into the helpers of the attacker, the two were found involved in

launched dozens of bloody attacks on Shias in which hundreds of people were killed.

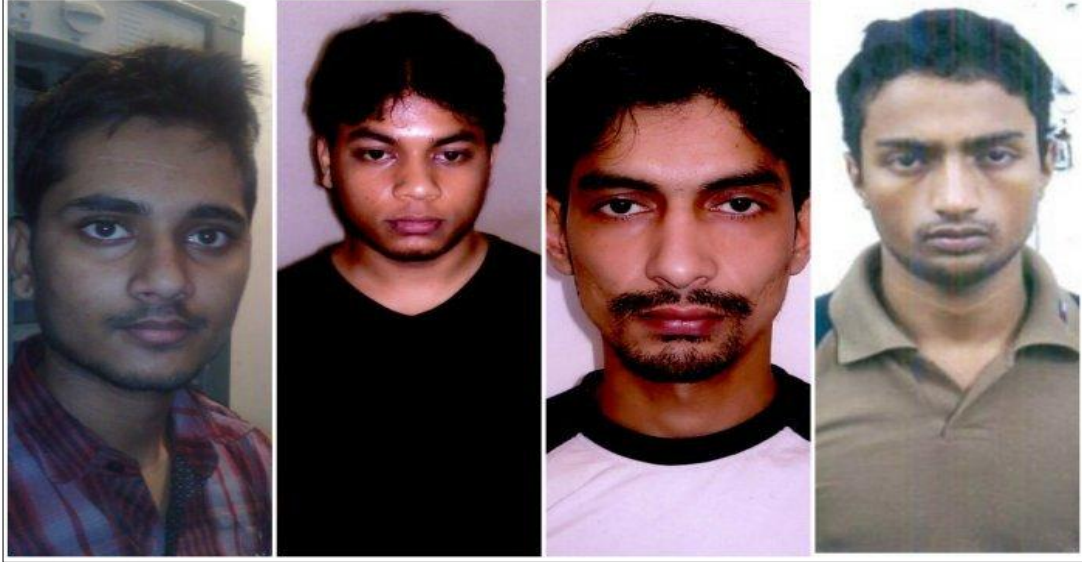
20 killed in accident in Saudi Arabia



Etemaad (March 29) states that a bus carrying pilgrims to Mecca for the Umrah fell off from a bridge in Saudi Arabia. Following this, the bus caught fire. At least 20 passengers died in the fire and more than two dozen others were injured. This accident took place in a city near Asir, between Mecca and Medina.

Currently, lakhs of people have arrived in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. According to government TV channel 'Al Ekhbariya,' those who died belonged to different countries. The Saudi government has announced a high-level inquiry into the mishap.

Four men on death sentence acquitted



Mumbai Urdu News (March 30) states that in the serial blasts that took place in Jaipur on May 13, 2008, nearly 78 people were killed. In this case, four persons were found guilty by a sessions court in Jaipur and were given death sentence. The men were accused of being members of banned terrorist organisation Indian Mujahideen and this bomb explosion was carried out by them. Later this decision

was questioned in the high court. Now the high court has acquitted the four accused and said that the investigation agency has failed to produce proof against them. The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, described it as a victory of justice. According to newspapers, the state government is planning to file an appeal in the Supreme Court against this decision.

Waqf properties worth billions allegedly sold for cheap prices in Bengaluru



Salar (March 13) states that leader of Karnataka Congress Mohammad Abidullah

Sharif has alleged that a 10 acre Waqf land in Wardhur region in Bengaluru, whose market value is one billion rupees, was sold to a builder for just Rs 19 crore. He alleged that the person who was made the mutawalli (trustee) of the Waqf, was a fraudster. He alleged that efforts are being made by the Waqf board to suppress the issue due to political reasons.

Seven arrested for forcefully removing hijab



Siasat (March 31) states that the Tamil Nadu police has arrested seven persons on charges of forcefully removing the hijab of a woman on Vellore Fort premises. This

included one youth and a few Muslims, who were auto drivers. According to police, when this woman, who was wearing a hijab, reached the fort premises with a friend, these people forced her to remove her hijab. When a video went viral on social media in this connection, the police immediately took action and arrested the accused. The Vellore police chief said that no one who harasses women will be spared and stringent action will be taken against them.

Five held on charges of delivering foreign funds to terrorists

Mumbai Urdu News (March 8) states that the National Investigation Agency has arrested five hawala traders from Kerala and Karnataka in connection with an investigation in to a module of Popular Front of India in Phulwari Sharif in Bihar. The investigation agency claimed that these hawala traders have dispatched foreign currency received from United

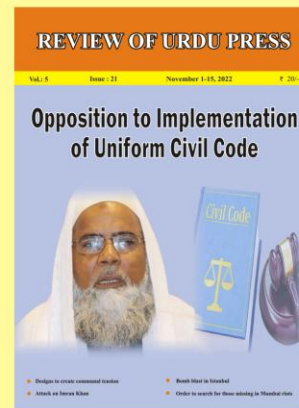
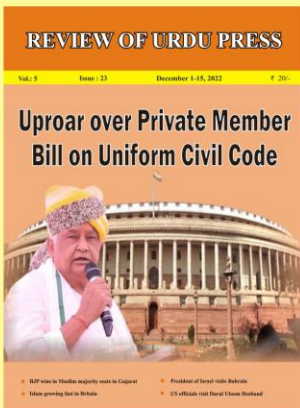
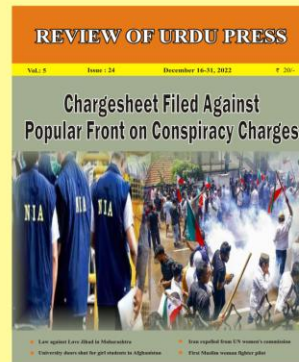
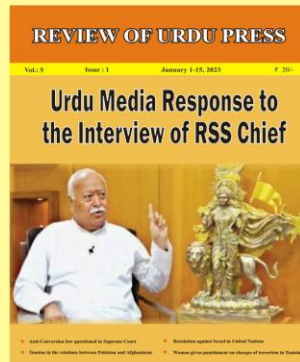
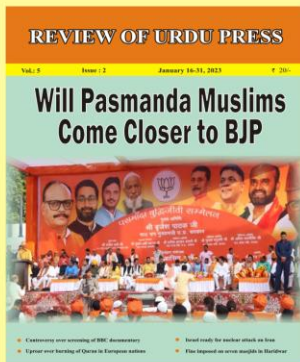
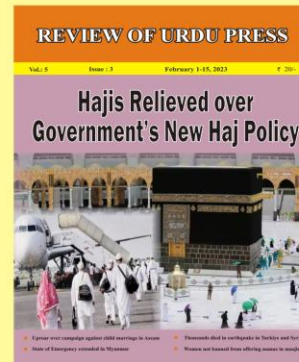
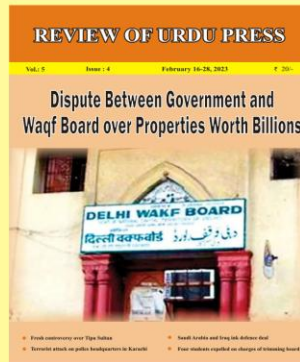


Arab Emirates to the Popular Front. This money has been handed over to the leaders and cadre of Popular Front in Bihar in order to spark violence in the country. In this connection, seven persons linked to this module were arrested earlier itself against whom the National Investigation Agency is conducting an inquiry.

Imam killed for not permitting azaan

Avadhnama (March 28) states that in Egyptian capital Cairo, an imam was brutally stabbed to death using a knife by a person. According to Al Arabia News, this incident took place in Alexandria. It is being said that the father of the murderer had sought permission from the

imam for azaan before the namaz. However, imam refused to give him permission. Provoked by this, the person's son killed the imam in the masjid itself. The murderer said that the imam had insulted his father, for which he took revenge.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान
India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
 Tel : 011-26524018
 E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolity@gmail.com
 Website : www.ipf.org.in