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Twist in World Politics with Iran-Saudi Arabia Agreement



- More than one lakh Love Jihad cases in Maharashtra
- Eight killed in firing by Islamic terrorists in Germany church
- Israel's largest ever demonstration against Netanyahu
- Yoga to be taught in universities in Saudi Arabia

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Summary

The Chinese tactfulness has destroyed the US strategy in the West Asia. The way two old enemy nations, Saudi Arabia and Iran, announced re-establishment of diplomatic relationship from Chinese capital Beijing, it has changed the course of Muslim politics in the world. The enmity between Saudi Arabia and Iran is quite old. Its root cause is that the ruling family of Saudi Arabia belongs to the Wahabi ideology of Sunni sect, whereas Iran is a hardcore Shia state. There is strong animosity between these two sects of Muslims right from the beginning. The Shias allege that their nine imams were murdered by Sunni Khalifas. However, the two sects agree on Prophet and Quran. But there are fundamental differences in the Kalima (basic beliefs of Islam) of the two sects. This apart, the Shias do not recognize the first three Khalifas of Islam. They claim the Prophet of Islam had directed in his 'Wasiyat' to make his son-in-law Hazrat Ali as his successor, his father-in-law Abu Bakr did not obey it and declared himself as the Khalifa. The Islamic world also is divided into Shia and Sunni groups right from the beginning.

Former President of US Donald Trump had formulated the 'Abraham Accord' in order to improve his hold among Muslim nations and to establish Israel in the Arab world. Under this deal, seven Arab nations granted recognition to Israel. The US and Britain used to dominate the Arab world right from the beginning. However, recently China destroyed this domination using secret diplomacy. Due to the increasing domination of China in the Arab world even India could face commercial and political hurdles.

Keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the BJP has started a nationwide programme to attract Muslim voters towards the party. National president of BJP's minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, has claimed that a nationwide programme will be launched from April 25 in order to attract Muslims towards BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. As per this plan, 'Modi Mitra' will be appointed in 65 Muslim majority districts in the country who will contact Muslims through house-to-house visits and create awareness about the welfare programmes of the Prime Minister meant for minorities. He said that the popularity of BJP among Muslims is increasing day-by-day.

A case has been registered against Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan of Barelvi Muslim sect in a police station in Moradabad. A few days ago, Raza had said that if the demand for Khalistan is wrong, then the demand for Hindu Rashtra is also wrong. The action that has been taken against those demanding Khalistan shall also be taken against those demanding Hindu Rashtra and cases shall be registered against them on charges of treason. If Muslims also stand up and demand for Muslim nation, what will happen? This apart, he has demanded a ban on Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal. Hinduvadi leader Sadhvi Prachi opposed his demands and sought registration of case against Raza for treason.

Recently, there has been a huge increase in the activities of Sunni Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS in Afghanistan. Terrorists of this organisation killed the Governor of Balkh province in Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Dawood Muzammil. It is to be noted that ever since Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, the ISIS has got into an open war with it. Recently, the Afghan military killed the chief of the Khorasan chapter of this organisation and his colleagues. Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid alleged that foreign powers are conspiring to overthrow the Taliban government by using ISIS as a tool.

Review of Urdu Press ☆ March 1-15, 2023



National

More than one lakh Love Jihad cases in Maharashtra



Roznama Sahara (March 10) states that Maharashtra's Minister for Women and Child Development Mangal Prabhat Lodha had informed the Vidhan Sabha that more than one lakh cases related to Love Jihad had come to the fore in the state. He said that people held massive protests in different parts of the state against growing incidents of Love Jihad so that Shraddha Walkar kind of issue shall not happen in future. In this connection, the responsibility to take appropriate action rests with the state government and hence inter-religious marriage committees have been formed.

It is to be noted that in December last year, the Maharashtra government had announced that it had formed a committee to collect information regarding the marriages in different religions and castes. In this connection, a notification was also issued, in which it had been stated that marriages between followers of different religions and castes shall be held under the supervision of Parivar Samanvaya Samiti.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 11) states that a huge uproar took place on this issue in Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha. Legislator of Nationalist Congress Party Jitendra Awhad alleged that the data was fake. He said that the BJP wants to do

politics by spreading such fake information. Playing Hindu-Muslim politics is an old game of BJP. He claimed that the data that he received was of 4,600 inter-religious marriages. This data is not about the marriages that took place between Hindus and Muslims but about the marriages that took place between different religions and held as per the wishes of the boys and the girls. There is no Love Jihad aspect in this. BJP legislators Yogesh Sagar, Ashish Shelar, Jaykumar Rawal and Gulab Rao Patil raised objections to his statement. They alleged that the place from where Awhad was elected, is a Muslimmajority region and hence he is deliberately suppressing facts.

Legislators of Samajwadi Party said that since Lodha has misled the House, he needs to apologise. BJP leader Ashish Shelar urged the state government to create a law to stop incidents of Love Jihad. The newspaper also claimed that a legislator of Samajwadi Party, Rais Sheikh, filed a petition before the Bombay High Court in which he had questioned the data presented by Lodha. Sheikh told journalists that the minister had misled the House and hence he had to approach the high court to clear the stand.

Aurangabad Times (March 11) states that a huge uproar took place in Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha over Love Jihad when Samajwadi Party leader Abu Asim Azmi alleged that the minister had given wrong information to the House on the issue related to Love Jihad and hence he has to tender apology to the House. He alleged that there is no issue related to Love Jihad in Maharashtra. The BJP government is inciting communal sentiments due to political reasons. Interrupting Azmi, BJP's Ashish Shelar asked why should the minister tender an apology? There is no need for us to offer apology in order to protect Hindu daughters and sisters. Legislators of BJP and Azmi clashed over this. Azmi alleged such issues are being kicked up to create hatred in society though it has nothing to do with truth.

Earlier, Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha had claimed that nearly one lakh cases of Love Jihad have come to the fore in the state. Soon, heated exchanges took place between BJP and Opposition leaders on the issue. A legislator of Samajwadi Party, Rais Sheikh, questioned the decision of the state government to form Parivar Samanvaya Samiti in the high court and claimed that this committee has been formed to target the members of a particular religious faith, which is against constitutional principles.

In his petition, Rais Sheikh claimed that this committee has been formed to discourage inter-religious marriages and its aim is to present a bill in the Vidhan Sabha against Love Jihad. Sheikh said that this committee could intervene in issues related to any marriage on the basis of a request by any person, which is an interference in the private matters of couples. There is a clear provision in the Constitution that two adult persons could marry on mutual consent.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 14) states that Rais Khan has given a notice for breach of privilege in the Vidhan Sabha against Minister for Women and Child Development. He said that one lakh cases

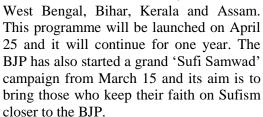
of Love Jihad mentioned by the minister in the Vidhan Sabha is not based on facts. Lot of confusion has arisen due to this wrong reply. In his notice, he claimed that the minister has misled the House by giving wrong information. This has put a question mark on the credibility of the house and has hurt the sentiments of some communities in the state.

Aurangabad Times (March 18) states that a Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and two other judges heard a petition filed against the law on love jihad and religious conversion. Lawyer Indira Jaising told the court that during the last hearing, the court directed all states to provide information regarding the laws created against conversion. However, till now, only the Himachal Pradesh government has provided any information. Till now, no other state in the country has given information in this connection. The lawyers demanded in the court that a stay order shall be immediately issued on the Love Jihad law. However, the court refused to accept this demand and said that it will soon hear the matter in this connection.

In the court, senior lawyer C U Singh said that so far 10 state governments have formed laws against Love Jihad while some other states are also thinking about creating laws in this connection. In Maharashtra, statewide protests have been taking place seeking a similar law. Hence, taking into consideration the seriousness of the case, the court needs to immediately issue a stay order in this connection, so that other states could be stopped from creating similar laws. The Chief Justice said that only after considering this matter that the court will take any decision on issuing a stay order. On behalf of Jamiat Ulema. lawyer Shahid Nadeem, Saif Zia and Mujahid Ahmad and others were present in the court. It is to be noted that some Muslim organisations including Jamiat Ulema have questioned in court the laws formulated against Love Jihad in different states.

'Modi Mitra' to bring Muslims closer to BJP

Siasat (March 17) reports that the BJP has come up with a special plan to bring Muslims closer to the BJP in order to ensure its victory in the next Lok Sabha elections. The BJP will deploy 5,000 Muslims as 'Modi Mitras' in 65 Muslimmajority districts in country, who will make efforts to connect Muslim voters with BJP. These Muslim-majority include districts in Uttar Pradesh,



According to sources in BJP, every Muslim voter will be contacted at his or her home through Modi Mitras in their respective places. Initially this campaign will be held at district level and later at block level. In this way, a strategy has been formed to take the minorities welfare programmes and the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people and connect them to BJP. These Muslimmajority districts include Kairana, Rampur, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Nagina, Moradabad and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. In the same way are included Bashirghat, Krishnanagar, Murshidabad. Barhampur. Diamond Harbour and Jangipur in West Bengal. Also are included Wayanad, Kasargod, Kottayam, Malappuram and other districts in Kerala. Meanwhile, apart from the five districts in Jammu and Kashmir, a special strategy has been adopted to bring Muslim voters closer to the BJP in Ladakh as well.

The BJP has directed its workers that they improve their contacts with Muslim and Christian families in Kerala. As per this strategy, BJP workers will invite Muslims to special programmes during

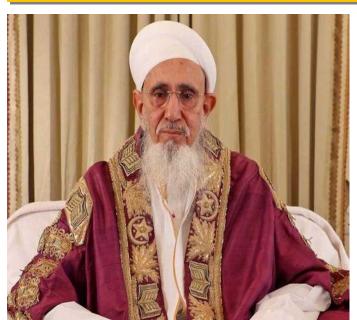


Muslim festivals. National president of BJP's minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, said that since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special attention for the welfare of minorities, every community in the society has got attracted to BJP and they include Muslims as well. In the recently held by-elections to Lok Sabha, the huge victory secured by BJP candidates in Muslim-majority seats like Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, is a clear indication of this strategy. We want to go to Muslim voters make them aware about development programmes of Central government and the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister himself has stated that now the BJP workers should reach out to those voters who do not vote for BJP. It has to be ensured that there is no such house in the country which has not been contacted by BJP workers. Jamal Siddiqui said that in every Muslim-majority Lok Sabha constituency, the organisation of Muslim office-bearers will be strengthened at block and district level. Every activist is expected to bring at least 10 Muslim votes to BJP in the next elections. Following the success of the efforts made by the party in this direction during the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, a decision has been taken to take this campaign at national level.

Siasat (March 11) states that after BJP's major success in North-East India, the party hopes that it would be able to retain power in Karnataka elections and they would also be able to seize power

from YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu too, the party's eyes are on capturing power. However, observers say that it is not easy for BJP to seize power in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. This is because in both these states, the regional parties are very strong and their popularity among the people are also high. The governments of Jagan Mohan Reddy and M K Stalin have won the hearts of people. BJP Telangana state president Bandy Sanjay Kumar had taken a very aggressive stand. However, the BJP's plans suffered a jolt after the victory of BRS in the by-polls held to Munugode Assembly seat. Hence the BJP now needs to focus more on the Karnataka Assembly elections. Whereas in Telangana, they have to struggle a lot to win the elections. It will neither be easy for BRS to step outside Telangana. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is a ray of hope for an anti-BJP platform. Whereas in south, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been presented as a leader who could be a hurdle for the saffron party. In the 2019 elections, the BJP had won 25 seats out of the total 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka. Whereas it has four MPs from Telangana. However, last time no BJP candidate could win in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In Kerala, till now, the contests were always between CPI(M) alias LDF and Congress alias UDF. Till now, no other party was able to make any impact there.

New Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia



Inquilab (March 14) states that in a meeting of Jamia Milia Islamia Anjuman (court), Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin has been elected as the new Chancellor (Amire-Jamia) of Jamia Milia Islamia for five years. There are a total of 45 members in Jamia court, which includes three MPs. It is to be noted that before this, Dr Najma Heptullah was the Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia and her five-year tenure had come to an end recently. Now her position

will be taken over by Dr Mufaddal Saifuddin. Dr Mufaddal the chief of is Dawoodi Bohra community from 2014. It is being said about him that he maintains special attention on programmes meant education, environment, social and financial upliftment. He has got several awards as well. He is being counted among the 500 most influential Muslims of the world. He received his education from Jamia Al-Azhar and Cairo University.

It is worth mentioning that on February 10, 2023, Mufaddal Saifuddin had specially invited Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the new premises of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah. At this function, Modi had mentioned about his old relationship with the Syedna family. Saifuddin had launched a special programme in Yemen for spread of education. He also writes poems in Urdu and Arabic.

Roznama Sahara (March 14) states that Lok Sabha MP Kunwar Danish Ali has

welcomed the election of Syedna as the Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia and said that it is welcome decision to elect Dr Syedna from among the most influential Muslims of the world. This will provide great help for the promotion of education among Muslims. In another news, the same

newspaper said that Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin was also a student of the historic Dawoodi Bohra educational institution Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah. He had written many books on Islam. He is also running different projects for the upliftment of Muslim across the world.

Case registered against Maulana on charges of spreading communal hatred



Inquilab (March 14) states that a case has been registered against the chief of Ittehade-Millat Council Maulana Taugeer Raza Khan at Nagphani police station in Moradabad. In a press conference organised at Madrasa Jamia Ashrafia a few days ago, the Maulana had demanded that treason charges shall be filed against those who are demanding Hindu Rashtra. This is because this demand is against the Constitution. He said that it should not happen that Muslim youths also take inspiration from such a demand and start demanding a Muslim nation. If it is correct to make a demand for Hindu Rashtra, then why treason charges are applied on those who are demanding Khalistan.? He said that he considers Muslims as part of this nation. But there are some Hindu organisations who have become so blind due to their Muslim enmity that they are involved in bringing damages to Hindu religion. Is the bulldozer meant only for Muslims? Why the bulldozer is not sent to the houses of the killers, irrespective of the religion they belong to? Why this double policy? We will not tolerate this policy of the government at any cost.

The newspaper said that many TV channels had made the statement of Maulana viral by claiming it has hurt religious sentiments. Following this, the police took action and a case has been registered against Maulana under sections 153A. 295A 505. Islamic and organisations in the

condemned the action of police and while describing it as an attack on the freedom of speech, demanded from Uttar Pradesh government that the case shall immediately withdrawn. After registration of the case, Maulana Taugeer Raza Khan said in a press conference that they had demanded stringent action against the attackers and a case has been registered against us as well. Whereas no case has been registered against the killers. If there is anything wrong with my statement, then I should be arrested. Then action shall be taken against me under provisions of treason and UAPA.

It is to be noted that earlier the Maulana, while expressing anger over the murder of two Muslim youths in Haryana, had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to impose a blanket ban on Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal.

Addressing a press meeting in Bareilly, Hinduvadi leader Sadhvi Prachi had described Tauqeer Raza as a traitor in the country. Sadhvi said that this Maulana



is the main accused in the 2010 riots and bulldozer should be run over his house. Hindustan was Hindu Rashtra and it will remain so. However, when Pakistan was created in 1947, some people stayed back in the country just to drink our blood.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 16) states that Ahmednagar police has registered a case against suspended MLA of Telangana BJP, T Raja Singh. As per this case, Raja Singh was invited to attend a function to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on March 10. It is being said that his speech at this programme was anti-Muslim. Following

this, some Muslims filed a complaint against him in Ahmednagar district. Incharge inspector of Srirampur police station, Harshwardhan Gavli said that a case has been registered against Raja Singh under sections 295, 504 and 506 of Indian Penal Code.

It is to be noted that earlier a similar case was registered against Raja Singh in Latur district in Maharashtra in February. In August 2022, he was arrested by Telangana police on charges of making comments against the Prophet and Islam. Following his arrest, he was expelled by BJP from its primary membership.

Construction of mosque in Ayodhya to begin after Ramzan



9) Siasat (March states that the construction work on the land being allotted by the government at Dhannipur village near Ayodhya for a new mosque in place of Babri Masjid is likely to start after Ramzan month. The Ayodhya Development Authority has approved the map for the masjid in Dhannipur village. District magistrate and the chief of Ayodhya Development Authority Nitish Kumar has confirmed this. He said that the plan related to the construction of the masjid, which is pending before the Authority, will be given approval. After necessary government action, the approved map will be handed over to Sunni Central Waqf Board.

Waqf Board said that after the passing of Ramzan month, the Waqf Board will take a decision on starting the construction work on the plot. Athar Hussain Siddiqui, secretary of Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, a trust formed by the Waqf Board for construction of the masjid in Dhannipur, said that they will call a

meeting of the foundation after Ramzan where final approval will be given on the plan to start the construction work.

It is to be noted that the holy month of Ramzan will be from March 22 to April 21. On November 9, 2019, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court

had allowed construction of Ram Mandir on the disputed site and also directed the government to allot a five-acre plot in Ayodhya district in lieu of the Babri Masjid land. Following this, the state government allotted a plot of land to Sunni Waqf Board for the construction of a new mosque. The Waqf Board said that it doesn't want the new masjid to be related to the old Babri Masjid which was pulled down on December 6, 1992. The name of the masjid premises being built in Dhannipur will not be named after any Mughal king, instead the premises and the name of the masjid will be named after freedom fighter of 1857, Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah Faizabadi. On the premises, there will be a masjid, hospital, community centre and a museum. Some fundamentalist Muslim organisations like Muslim Personal Law Board are not happy with this decision. General Secretary of Personal Law Board, Khalid Saifullah Rahmani had claimed a few days ago that as per Shariah, no plot of land could be accepted in lieu of a masjid.



World

Governor assassinated in Afghanistan



Salar (March 10) reports that the terrorists of ISIS had assassinated the Governor of Balkh province in northern Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Dawood Muzammil in a suicide attack. A few officials of Afghanistan government also died along with him. A spokesperson of Taliban government said that a suicide attacker of ISIS triggered the blast when the Governor was addressing a meeting of senior officials. According to the spokesperson, Dawood Muzammil was among the top military officials of Taliban and he had strong relations with Pasdaran-e-Inquilab of Iran.

Earlier, Dawood Muzammil was a Deputy Interior Minister and later he was appointed as the Governor of Balkh. In the past, he had also functioned as the Governor of Nangarhar province. The accepted Taliban spokesperson played Dawood Muzammil had significant role in the campaign unleashed against the terrorists of ISIS in Afghanistan and he was also holding the command of the nationwide drive against the terrorists of ISIS. Ever since Taliban took control of reins in the Afghanistan, terrorist organisation ISIS had launched a violent campaign against it. Recently, the Afghan government claimed that it had killed 11 terrorists of ISIS. So far, the ISIS has killed more than 1,100 people in Afghanistan and their terrorists are specifically targeting masjids and Shia-majority regions. In January, a suicide bomber of ISIS intruded into Afghan foreign affairs ministry and blew himself up. Some 10 officials of foreign ministry were killed in this incident.

Roznama Sahara (March 1) states that the Taliban government has claimed that the Afghanistan military has killed the chief of the Khorasan chapter of ISIS, Ejaz Ahmad Ahangar, along with his three other colleagues. His two other associates were also killed including Oari Fateh, who was the operational commander of Islamic State. It is to be noted that the Khorasan chapter of ISIS includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said that Ahangar used to run the violent activities of this Islamic terrorist organisation and the blast that took place at the gurdwara in Kabul a few days ago was also planned by this man. He expressed hope that after the death of this terrorist, there would be decrease in violence taking place in Afghanistan.

Etemaad (March 6) states that Islamic terrorists killed one Governor and four top officials in Philippines. In this connection, four suspected persons have been arrested who were said to belong to an Islamic terrorist organisation. The President of Philippines condemned the incident and said that they will not forgive any terrorist.

According to a government spokesperson, Islamic terrorists entered the bungalow of the Governor when he was meeting visitors. As soon as the terrorists arrived, they started indiscriminate firing in which several people including the Governor were killed. After the attack the terrorists managed to escape in a vehicle. The police soon swung into action and arrested three suspected



persons. They included two former military personnel as well. One among the attackers was killed in a clash with soldiers. The government spokesperson did not say to which Islamic terrorist organisation the attacker belonged to. In Philippines, Muslim terrorists are active for a long time and they have been involved in several violent activities.

Blast in police truck in Balochistan



Avadhnama (March 7) states that a blast took place in a truck belonging to Balochistan police in Bolan district in which at least 10 police personnel were killed and 13 were injured. Police chief in Bolan district said the blast was carried out by suicide attackers of Balochistan Liberation Army. Two persons belonging to this organisation arrived on a motorcycle

and as soon as they approached the truck, they blew themselves up using explosives in which at least 10 people were killed.

According to Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn,' the number of those who were killed was said to be 15. Condemning the attack, Balochistan's interior minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that an Emergency has been declared in Balochistan and he has sought the help of

paramilitary forces from the federal government in order to crush the terrorists. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that foreign powers were behind this attack, who want to keep the people of Balochistan remain backward and keep Pakistan divided. He admitted that a new wave of Islamic terror has started in Pakistan recently. In majority of



these incidents, banned Islamic organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan had a role.

It is to be noted that in the past one month, at least 22 people were killed in the attacks carried out by this jihadi organisation in Balochistan, and the victims belonged either to the military or the police. Government sources confirmed that some unidentified armed assailants had carried out an attack on a check-post of

Frontier Force in Bolan district. Three police officers were killed in this attack and the attackers snatched away several weapons. Last month, the terrorists had carried out an attack on Pakistani Army in Panjgur district on Iranian border in which 14 Pakistani soldiers were killed. After this attack, the terrorists fled and took refuge in Iran. The Pakistan government had urged Iran to take stringent action against these terrorists.

Corruption charges against former prime minister of Malaysia

Etemaad (March 10) reports that an inquiry commission has found former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin guilty of corruption worth crores of rupees. His punishment will be announced later. Muhyiddin remained the Prime Minister of Malaysia for 17 months during 2020-21. In the elections held in November last year, he was defeated by Anwar Ibrahim. Later new Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had directed the anticorruption wing to probe the accounts of the government projects worth billions of dollars, sanctioned during the period of Muhyiddin Yassin. He was accused of embezzling government funds and siphoning crores of dollars into the accounts of his colleagues.

Rejecting the allegations, Muhyiddin said that he was being trapped in fake cases by political opponents due to political vendetta. On the other hand, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the allegations of Muhyiddin were totally false. His two former colleagues have unravelled



his corruption before the inquiry commission. Following this, the issue has been examined. Apart from Muhyiddin, all the bank accounts of his colleagues and relatives have also been frozen. Observers feel that the case is likely to influence the elections which are scheduled to be held in six states in Malaysia in the middle of this year. Chief of Malaysia's anti-corruption commission Azam Baki said that when Muhyiddin will be punished, the scams committed by him will also be exposed.

Eight killed in firing by Islamic terrorist in Germany Church

Inquilab (March 11) states that an armed attacker opened indiscriminate firing in a church during prayers at Hamburg city in Germany. In the firing, eight persons

including the attacker were killed and nearly a dozen people were injured. The condition of majority of those injured were stated to be serious. A spokesperson of police expressed suspicion that Islamic terrorists could be behind the attack. German intelligence wing is trying to trace the accused behind the attack. The police have refused to provide any kind of information regarding the suspected attackers to the media and said that it would create hurdles in the investigation.

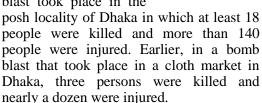
German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has condemned the incident and expressed suspicion that Islamic terrorists could be behind the incident. He expressed condolences to the families of those who died in the blast. He said that until the German police unravel the entire plot behind the attack and trace all those linked to this incident, he will not be able to make any comment. The German government is trying to tighten the laws regarding purchase of weapons. According to German newspapers, those who have been killed belong to a Christian group called



Jehovah's Witness. It is being said that there are 2 lakh people in Germany who belong to this sect. This organisation is linked to the US. It is a peaceful organisation and believes in preaching and propagation of Christianity in a peaceful manner. It is to be noted that there are many Islamic organisations active in Germany and more than a dozen violent activities have taken place in the past two years.

28 killed in blast in Bangladesh

Roznama Sahara (March 10) states that in the past one week, at least 28 people were killed in three blasts that took place in Bangladesh and more than 200 people were injured. The biggest blast took place in the



One day before this, seven persons were killed in a blast that took place in a factory in Sitakhund and at least 25 were injured. Bangladesh government has not yet clarified who were behind this blast. A police spokesperson has confirmed that there is an increase in the activities of terrorists in Bangladesh. The intelligence wing is trying to find out those behind the blast. Till now, no clear information has been received in this connection.



Siasat (March 7) states that 12,000 jhuggis were destroyed and 23,000 to 24,000 people were rendered homeless as fire broke out in a refugee camp of Rohingyas in Bangladesh. As per media reports, Refugee Commissioner of Bangladesh Mizanur Rahman said the fire

broke out in the biggest refugee camp in the world. Due to the fire, 35 masjids and 51 madrasas were destroyed. He said that till now, there is no information on the death of any person.

It is to be noted that nearly 12 lakh Rohingya Muslims who fled from Myanmar are staying in Bangladesh. Majority of them had fled from the Rakhine province of Myanmar and reached Bangladesh during a military action in 2017. As per a report of the Bangladesh defence ministry, there were 222 incidents of fire breakout in these refugee camps last year in which 150 people were killed and nearly one lakh people were rendered homeless.



West Asia

Iran-Saudi Arabia deal gives a new turn to world politics



The world politics has now taken a new turn. Due to the efforts of China, two prominent Muslim nations of the world announced establishment of diplomatic relationship after forgetting their past enmity. According to observers, China has outplayed the United States and Israel through secret diplomacy. The efforts of the US to plant Israel in the Muslim world has bitten the dust. The interesting thing is that the intelligence agency of the world's most powerful nation namely the United States has completely failed to get any indication about the development.

Almost every newspaper in Urdu published this news with lot of importance and even wrote editorials on it.

Etemaad (March 11) states that a declaration has made formal been announcing the start of diplomatic relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This agreement took place following the secret talks held in Chinese Beijing. According government media in Iran and Saudi Arabia, both the countries have mutually agreed to open their embassies once again in the two countries within two months. Both Iranian government news agency IRNA and Saudi Arabia's news agency 'Saudi Press Agency' have also confirmed the news. Both published the details of the agreement, in which it has been stated that the two countries will respect each other's sovereignty and both will not interfere in the internal affairs of each other.

The Chinese government media did not immediately announce this agreement. Instead, they published a photo in which the Secretary of Iran's National Security Council Ali Shamkhani was seen meeting Saudi Arabia's National Security Adviser Musaad bin Mohammed al-Aiban and senior Chinese diplomat and former foreign affairs minister Wang Yi. China has welcomed the agreement signed between the two countries. It is to be noted that recently Iran President Ebrahim Raisi visited China and before that Chinese President Xi Jinping had visited Saudi Arabia in December. It is being said that China had played a special role in bringing the two nations closer.

Avadhnama (March 11) states that Al Jazeera reporter Ali Hashim has claimed that secret talks had been taking place in

Baghdad for the past two years between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Now the meeting that took place in China proved to be a decisive one in this connection. It is to be noted that Saudi Arabia had awarded death sentence to Shia scholar Nimr al-Nimr in 2016, and as a retort, protesters in Iran attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy and set fire to it. Following this, the diplomatic relationship between the two countries got snapped.

Etemaad (March 12) states that Chinese hand is visible behind the starting of friendly relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and there will be a new turn in world politics due to this development. According to the newspaper, secret talks took place between Iran and Saudi Arabia in China from March 6 to 10. Saudi's Foreign Affairs Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said that it is an important step towards Islamic unity. According to Chinese diplomat Wang Yi, China has played the role of a good guest and a trusted friend.

According to the newspaper, there was a cold war between Saudi Arabia and Iran in the past five decades for supremacy in Islamic world. Following the US attack on Iraq in 2003, this got further increased. Saudi Arabia and the US want to remove Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from his post. Whereas Iran has risen up to protect him. The enmity between the two nations is also behind the raging civil war in Yemen. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said that the agreement has paved the way for a chapter in Islamic unity. spokesperson of US State Department said this will help reduce tension in the world. Hence we welcome this development. European Union has also welcomed this agreement. Palestine's Islamic terrorist organization Hamas said the agreement will help resolve the Palestinian issue.

Israel's former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett described the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran as a threat to Israel. Israel's former Prime Minister Yair Lapid said the agreement is a proof of Israel's failed foreign policy. This has dealt

a severe blow to the interests of the US. China has maintained a neutral role in the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Hence their efforts reaped success. As per the opinion of experts on world politics, the dreams of Israel and US to form an alliance with Arab countries against Iran has got shattered with this incident. Due to this deal, the position of Iran in Middle-East will become strong and now many Arab countries like Egypt will have to enter into deal with Iran. This will also end the civil war in Yemen and will also help resolve the crisis in Lebanon. On the other hand, the US has landed in such a 'chakravyuh' that it will be difficult for it to find an escape route.

Etemaad (March 12) has described it as Ramzan gift for the Muslim world.

Etemaad (March 15) states that spokesperson of Iranian foreign affairs ministry Nasir Kanani said that due to this agreement, there will be a fresh beginning in Iran's friendly relationship with Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain. Now Bahrain has also given the indication of re-establishing diplomatic relationship with Iran. It is to be noted that Bahrain has been running a campaign against Iran for a long time now and its foreign affairs ministry had alleged that Iran had been interfering with the internal affairs of Bahrain and provoking the people of Bahrain against its rulers. Following the Islamic Revolution that took place in Iran in 1979, Egypt's relationship with Iran turned bitter.

Salar (March 13) states that when the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran was signed in Beijing, the former foreign affairs minister of China, Wang Yi, was also present. Following the signing of this agreement, Saudi Arabia's relationship with Syrian President Bashar Al Assad is likely to improve and it will strengthen the government of Bashar Al Assad.

Siasat (March 12) in its editorial has welcomed this agreement and said that this has rendered a severe blow to the United States and the position of China in world politics has gone up. This agreement has also raised the hope of ending the war in



Yemen and Syria. This is an important step towards unity in Islamic world.

Quami Tanzeem (March 12) in its editorial has welcomed this agreement and expressed hope that there will soon be a high-level meeting between the King of Saudi Arabia and the Iran President in China. The newspaper has described it as a diplomatic victory of China. The spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign ministry, while welcoming it, said that this will improve unity in Islamic world.

Roznama Sahara (March 12) in its editorial said that in 2018, the then US President Donald Trump had claimed that without the help of the US, the Saudi government will not last even for two weeks. This agreement, which was signed due to the efforts of China, is a slap on the face of the US. China has done something which the US or any other nation in the world did not expect. Due to this decision, China's standing in the world politics has got a boost.

Inquilab (March 13) states that Bahrain has also given the indication to restore diplomatic relationship with Iran. The newspaper also claimed that there was a four per cent increase in the value of Irani Riyal after signing of this agreement.

Comment: The relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been stressful for a long time. The reason for this is that the Saudi rulers are hardcore Sunnis and Wahabis whereas Iran has been a Shia nation. The relationship between Shias and Sunnis has been hostile right from the

beginning. It is to such an extent that there is difference even in the Kalima. The Sunnis consider Hazrat Ali as the fourth Khalifa of Islam. Whereas Shias consider him as the first Khalifa of Islam. They do not accept the three Khalifas namely Abu Bakr, Usman and Umar as Khalifas. They claim that Prophet Muhammad had appointed his son-in-law Hazrat Ali as his successor. However, the Prophet's fatherin-law Abu Bakr violated this agreement and declared himself as the first Khalifa of Islam. The history of Shias and Sunnis is also a bloody one. The Shias claim that their nine imams were brutally murdered on the orders of the Khalifas of Sunnis. However, these two prominent sects of Islam believe in Quran. However, there is huge difference in their interpretations. Even in India there was a long history of bloody clashes between Sunni and Shia rulers during the Muslim rule.

During the First World War, the Khalifa of Turkey was an ally of Germany. Following the defeat in the war, the Britain, through diplomatic efforts, ended the Khilafat in Turkey with the help of Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk. The last Khalifa, Abdul Majid II, had to flee Turkey and take refuge in France. Britain divided the Khalifa's empire to more than a dozen nations and installed their puppets as rulers in them. Even in India also, Muslims launched a Khilafat agitation and sought the restoration of Khilafat and even Mahatma Gandhi and Congress joined them.

Biggest rally in the history of Israel against Netanyahu

Mumbai Urdu News (March 13) states that the people of Israel have been protesting for the past 10 weeks against the changes brought in the judicial system in the country. On March 11, for the first time in the history of Israel, more than 5 lakh people protested on the streets in different cities of Israel. It is being said that there were more than 2 lakh protesters on the

streets of Israel city Tel Aviv. The protesters claimed that the changes brought in the judiciary is against the democracy. On the other hand, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that this will improve the judicial system.

Israeli newspapers described it as the biggest protest in the history of Israel. Opposition leader and former Prime



Minister Yair Lapid, while addressing the protesters, said that Israel is currently facing the biggest ever crisis in the history of the country. Islamic fundamentalism is spreading fast and the economy is collapsing. Iran signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia and destroyed all our plans. The Abrahamic Accord that Israel signed

with six Arab nations due to the efforts of US, has been finished. However, the Israel government does not care about this crisis.

Inquilab (March 15) reports that the Israeli Parliament has given legal approval to strengthen the government of Netanyahu. As per a law passed in the Parliament, Netanyahu cannot be deposed now. In the bill presented in the

House in this connection, 61 votes were in favour, while 51 opposed it. As per this bill, a Prime Minister can be ousted only with a majority of 90 members of the Parliament. The newspaper said that the way the bill got support in the Parliament, the position of Netanyahu has got strengthened.

Protesters in Iran get amnesty

Inquilab (March 15) states that the Iran government has announced amnesty to more than 22,000 protesters in connection with the anti-government protests that took place in the country recently. On the other hand, the chief of Iranian judiciary, Gholam-*Hossein Mohseni*-Eje'I, has claimed that so far 42,000 people who had

taken part in anti-government protests have been given amnesty. He said that all these protesters were arrested in connection with the protests that took place after the death of a Kurd woman, Mahsa Amini, during an anti-hijab protest. Now, a general amnesty has been declared to them in order to improve peacekeeping in the country.

Turkey gets Saudi Arabian aid

Siasat (March 8) reports that Saudi Arabia has come out in the open to extend a helping hand to Turkey, which is facing a huge financial crisis. In this connection, an agreement has been signed as per which Saudi Arabia will deposit five billion dollars in the Turkey's central bank. The agreement was signed by chairperson of Saudi Fund for

Development (SFD) Ahmed Aquel Al-Khateeb and the Governor of the Central



bank of Turkey Sahap Kavcioglu. This agreement was signed on the directions of



Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

According to media, this agreement will help Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to deal with the massive economic crisis being faced by his country and it has also increased the possibility of him getting re-elected in the forthcoming elections. It is to be noted that due to the financial crisis last year, there was a huge decrease in the value of Turkey's currency 'Lira' in the international market. This agreement has also given the indication that the cold war between the two countries for domination in the Islamic world has ended now. This

agreement was also an indication of Erdogan's hugely successful politics.

Turkey's finance minister *Nureddin Nebati* has claimed that Turkey will overcome the economic crisis with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. He said that Turkey's foreign exchange reserve will soon reach 130 billion dollars. Saudi Arabia has also announced a huge financial aid to Pakistan to overcome its financial crisis. Saudi Arabia will make investments worth 100 million dollars in Pakistan. This will create more employment opportunities in Pakistan and it will also help contain the spiralling inflation in the country.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt rank in top 10 arms importers

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 14) reports that in the past five years, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt ranked among the top 10 importers of weapons and arms. This has been revealed in a report released by Stockholm International Peace and Research Institute. As per the report, Saudi Arabia received 9.6 percent of all arms imports during 2018 to 2022. They included planes, air defence mechanism, armoured

vehicles, missiles and ships. These weapon systems were bought from the US, France and Spain. Saudi Arabia purchased 91 modern war planes and more than 20,000 modern missiles and guided bombs from the US.

In the past five years, Qatar has become the third largest arms buyer in the world. Qatar has also purchased war planes, defence shield, missiles, ships, submarines etc. Out of them, 42 percent was purchased from the US, 29 percent from France and 14 percent from Italy. It has purchased 36 Rafale from France and 36 F-16 fighter planes from the US. Egypt has become the sixth largest country to purchase weapons from international



market. Earlier it was in the third position. Now, there is a 5.5 percent decrease in their purchase. For Egypt, there was a 44 percent increase in their purchase of weapons from Russia between 2018 and 2022, compared to the previous decade. Now Egypt has become the third biggest nation in the world to purchase Russian weapons. Its purchases include 34 percent from Russia, 19 percent from Italy and 19 percent from France. This apart, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Bahrain and Iraq also purchased large quantities of arms and ammunition from the US, which is 54 percent of their purchase. These countries purchased 8.5 percent from Russia and 8 percent from Italy.

Others

News channel fined for propaganda against Muslims



Salar (March 2) states that News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) has imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on 'News18 India' on charges of undertaking misleading propaganda against

Muslims. NBDSA chairman Justice A. K. Sikri also directed that an investigation shall be conducted into the statement of News18 India's anchor Aman Chopra, in which Muslims have been deliberately targeted and they have been slandered.

It is to be noted that on October 6, 2022, Indrajit Ghorpade had filed a complaint before the Authority, in which he had alleged that the channel had defamed Muslims in one of its shows and also presented a negative image. In a reply to the Authority, News18 India said that the programme was

presented in an objective manner and said the show was in connection with a stonepelting incident during a garba in Khoda district in Gujarat and the subsequent police action against mischievous elements.

Yoga in Saudi Arabian universities

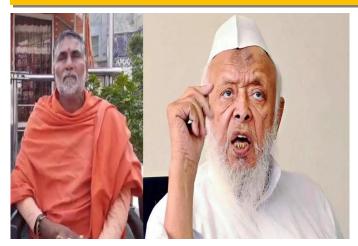
Mumbai Urdu News (March 5) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has announced that it would promote Yoga education in universities in the country. Chairman of Saudi Yoga Committee Nouf Marwaai announced that agreements are being signed to provide Yoga education in different universities of Saudi Arabia. She said that Yoga is necessary for physical and mental development.

It is to be noted that the Saudi government had constituted a committee on May 16, 2021 to promote Yoga education in the country and a woman who was trained in Yoga in India was appointed as its chief. The Indian government had



honoured Nouf Marwaai with Padma Shri in 2018. Last year, the first Yoga event was organised in Saudi Arabia which continued for four days and nearly 1,000 people had participated in it.

Sanyasi stopped from entering Deoband



Mumbai Urdu News (March 1) reports that Swami Yashveer Maharaj arrived at Deoband to question the claims made by Jamiat Ulema leader Arshad Madani who, at a conference of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind held in Delhi, said that Hazrat Adam and Manu were same persons. In order to maintain peace, the police stopped the Swami, who was carrying all the four

Vedas, on Roorkee Road itself and he was not allowed to go to Deoband.

The supporters of Swami and the police had a heated argument over this. Following and this. the swami supporters staged a dharna on the road and started chanting Hanuman Chalisa. In order to stop further worsening of the situation, more police personnel were deployed in the area. It is being said that Yashveer Maharaj belongs to Yoga

Sadhana Shivir in Muzaffarnagar. He alleged that Arshad Madani has insulted Sanatan Dharma. In this connection, he wrote a letter to Maulana Arshad Madani in which he raised nine questions and sought a clarification on them. After not getting any reply, he declared that he would go to Deoband and hold a debate with Madani.

Masjids covered with tarpaulin in Aligarh

Mumbai Urdu News (March 8) states that in order to maintain peace during Holi in Uttar Pradesh, a few masjids in Aligarh have been covered with tarpaulin so that mischievous elements do not throw colours at them. According to police, some masjids in communally sensitive locations have been covered using tarpaulin. Managar of Masjid Halwaiyan, Haji Mohammad Iqbal said they had covered the masjids using

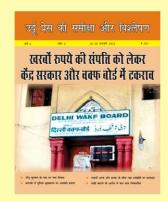
tarpaulin on the instructions of the administration so that mischievous elements do not throw colour on the masjid and disturb peace. Imam of Masjid Abdul Karim said that ever since Yogi government came to power in Uttar Pradesh, masjids are being covered using tarpaulin. He said that they do it on the instructions of the administration so that peace is not disturbed.

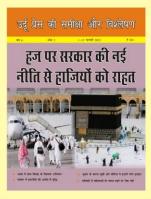
Vice-chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board passes away

Inquilab (March 11) states that the sajjadanashin of the renowned dargah Syed Shah Makhdoom Ashraf Semnani in Kichocha Sharif in Uttar Pradesh and the vice-chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board, Syed Shah Fakhruddin Asharaf, has

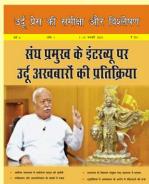
passed away. He was 73 years old and was counted among the great scholars of Islam. Several Muslim leaders expressed condolences over his death. Later he was buried (Supurd-e-Khak) in the presence of thousands of people.

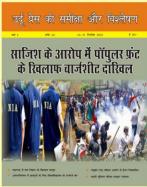
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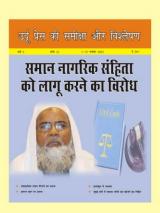
















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