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Strong Opposition to the Ban on Halal Certified Products



- Impasse on action against unrecognised madrasas
- Saudi Arabia seeks complete ceasefire in Gaza
- 139 opposition leaders in Bangladesh awarded punishment
- Anti-Islam leader gets huge victory in Netherlands polls

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Summary

In Uttar Pradesh, a case has been registered against four Muslim organisations for issuing Halal certificates. This apart, a state-wide drive has also been initiated against Halal certified products. In this connection, dozens of places were raided and cases were also registered against the accused. An activist in Lucknow had filed a complaint with police claiming that the institutions that issue Halal certification had been extracting huge money from the traders and their firms concerned and the money is being used for terrorist activities in the country. Uttar Pradesh Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar constituted a special investigation team for inquiry into the case. There is huge anger among Muslim organisations and their leaders due to this decision of Uttar Pradesh government. All India Muslim Personal Law Board and other Muslim organisations said this decision of the government was against Islam and Shariah and alleged that the government imposed this restriction due to its anti-Muslim feelings.

The chief of Bareilly sect, Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, has indicated extending support to Modi government and the BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, but he has also put a stringent condition. He said if the Modi government cuts off its relationship with Israel and instead establish relationship with Palestine, then the Bareilly sect will support it in the forthcoming elections. There is no doubt that the Bareilly sect enjoys the support of a major section of Muslims. This sect believes in Sufis and they attend the dargahs and offer chadar. The rivalry between Bareilly and Deobandi sects are at least 200 years old. The Deobandi sect believes in the Wahabi tradition of Islam and they consider visiting dargahs and offering items like chadar as against Islam. This apart, both the sects had been issuing fatwas against each other. It is to be noted that in 1992, when the disputed structure in Ayodhya was demolished, there was huge anger among Muslims against the government. Seeing this, the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao made efforts to elicit the support of the Bareilly sect and in this connection he came down to Bareilly to visit the dargah of Ala Hazrat, but later as Narasimha Rao was ousted from power, these efforts came to a standstill.

Meanwhile, a temporary ceasefire has been established between Israel and Hamas. Saudi Arabia and other Muslim nations are now stressing that the US put pressure on Israel and prepare it to implement a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, but they have not succeeded in this effort so far. Some Muslim countries have also claimed that due to the efforts of the President of China, the US had to put pressure on Israel for a ceasefire. It is to be noted that earlier, the President of China, in order to create an atmosphere for ceasefire, had called the foreign affairs ministers of many Arab and Muslim nations to Beijing for talks. Following this, the Chinese President even went to the United States to hold talks with Biden. However, the US has not given any indication about the role of China in the ceasefire. Hence, it is difficult to say the hands of which world powers were behind this ceasefire.

After Pakistan, now Iran has stepped up its campaign to expel Afghan citizens staying illegally in the country. According to sources in Afghanistan, more than four lakh Afghan citizens have been expelled from Iran so far. Iran claims that these Afghan citizens have been playing a role in spreading terrorism in the country. The Afghanistan government and the United Nations have alleged that a campaign has been launched to expel Afghan citizens from foreign countries, but Iran and Pakistan have been refuting these claims. Their claim is that they have launched this campaign to expel the Afghan citizens who are staying illegally in their country.

Strong protest against ban on Halal certified products



Muslims have lodged a strong protest against the ban imposed on Halal certified products by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.

Inquilab (November 20) states that a few days ago, the Uttar Pradesh government had imposed a ban on Halal certified products, as per which legal action would be taken against Halal certified medicines, medical equipment, food items, cosmetic products and also against individuals and firms involved in their storage, distribution, buying and selling within the borders of Uttar Pradesh state. However, items exported abroad will be kept outside the ambit of this ban. It is being said that as per some sections of the law related to the ban on Halal certified products, jail term extending from six years to life, apart from fine, could be awarded as punishment. This apart, directions have been issued to set up inquiry committees to inquire into Halal certified products. The committees will raid shops and shopping malls and take legal action against those selling Halal certified products. In the past few days, cases have been registered against organisations issuing halal

certification to dairy products, jiggery, bakery products, papermint oil, namkeen and food items.

In this connection, a notification has also been issued by Anita Singh, Principal Secretary, department of Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), Uttar Pradesh. As per this notification, a complete ban has been imposed on products carrying the labels of Halal certification within the borders of Uttar Pradesh. These items include medicines, medical equipment and cosmetic products, apart from food items. Till now, these items have been sold in markets after packing them and labelling them with halal certification. The government states that there is no need for halal certification on these products and this is included in the food safety act of the Indian government. Whereas, there is no formal law or rule for the government to issue halal certificate and neither there is any need for halal certification under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. In such a situation, if any halal certification label is pasted on the packing of any medicine, medical equipment and cosmetic products, then it is

a violation of this law and there is a provision for punishment under the same law. The government believes that halal certification is a parallel system which raises doubts about the production levels and it also violates the Food Security Act.

It is to be noted that a case has been registered against Muslim institutions like Halal India Private Limited in Chennai, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Halal Trust in Delhi, Halal Council of India in Mumbai and Jamiat Ulema, Maharashtra which issue halal certification, at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow. The complainant in this case has filed the complaint against providing halal certification and thereby monetary benefits to consumers of a particular religion in the name of religion.

Inquilab (November 21) states that the investigating agencies have become active after registration of case against some organisations that issue halal certificates at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow. The cyber cell and intelligence wing of police have stepped up their investigation into their activities and funding of these organisations. It is being said that investigations are being conducted into their links with Popular Front of India and SIMI and the sources of their income. This apart, investigations are also conducted into complaints received over utilisation of the funds received from abroad for anti-national activities. The state's intelligence agencies have also become active after registration of FIR against organisations that issue halal certification on a complaint filed by Shailendra Kumar Sharma, a resident of Aishbagh locality in Lucknow. The complainant's allegation is that these organisations are playing with the honour of public and are amassing huge money by issuing halal certification without having any legal rights to do so and such money are being used for the activities of anti-national elements and terrorist organisations. Soon after receiving this complaint, the Uttar Pradesh government



imposed a ban on these organisations from issuing halal certificates. Anita Singh, Principal Secretary of the department which issued the notification, told **Inquilab** that earlier halal certification was being used only for meat, but for the past few years, this has been started for cosmetic products, sugar, oil and food items.

As per another news published in this edition of **Inquilab**, on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the teams of FSDA have started investigations throughout the state. It is being said that these departments seized items worth lakhs of rupees and cases have also been registered in this connection.

Inquilab (November 23) states that a five-member committee has been constituted to investigate into halal certified products. An official of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Halal Trust, Delhi, Niyaz Ahmed Farooqi, has claimed that the trust gives halal certificate to only those non-meat products which are being exported from Uttar Pradesh. He said that halal certification is not issued on behalf of the trust to products being sold at local level. The newspaper also claimed that the man named Shailendra Kumar Sharma, who filed this complaint is a former office-bearer of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. After receiving this complaint, Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) has constituted an STF to conduct an inquiry into this case which will be headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Vishal Vikram Singh and his team comprises five other officials as well.

Inquilab (November 27) states that giving a clarification on the issue, FSDA head, Additional Chief Secretary Anita Singh, said that halal certified products have been kept in the list of wrong packing and labelling category for which there is no need for the government to issue any separate directions. However, on receipt of the complaint, the issue has been sent to the court of ADM where imposing a penalty on traders is being considered. She has made it clear that so far nobody has been sent to jail in cases where raids have been conducted or cases been registered. She said the Parchoon Vyapari Association has sought 15 days' time to remove halal certified products from shops and shopping centres which the government has accepted.

Roznama Sahara (November 22) states that former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur has filed a complaint regarding raids conducted by FSDA with the minorities commission.

Inquilab (November 24) reports that there is an increase in the political campaign against halal certified products. After Uttar Pradesh, an organisation named Hindu Sena has filed a complaint with police in national capital Delhi and demanded legal action against those organisations who are making huge money by issuing halal certification.

Urdu Times (November 19) reports that Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has expressed strong opposition over the controversy erupted over halal certification and claimed that the certificate being issued by Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind through halal trust is due to the requirements of export and import of halal certified products within the country and outside. Giving it any kind of political colour is a mischievous step. Currently, there is lot of demand for halal certified products world over and it is mandatory for Indian companies to get halal certification to sell our products in international market. This has been confirmed in the notification number 2022-23/25 issued by the commercial department of India government. It is mentioned in the

notification that it is not mandatory to get halal certification but stopping those who obtained it is against the provisions of the Constitution.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 24) states that the general secretary of Jamiat Ulema had claimed that the industries ministry of Central government had also authorised some institutions to issue halal certification. Huge quantities of meat and meat products have been exported from Hindustan to different countries in the world. The foreign companies that purchase them have this condition that they will purchase only those goods on which halal certification label is pasted. He said that when the Central government's policy in this connection is clear, the state governments have no power to impose a ban on this. He said if necessary we will also approach the court in this connection.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 24) states that Union Minister Giriraj Singh has sent a letter to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and demanded that a ban should be imposed on organisations that issue halal certificates in Bihar as well.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 27) states that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has strongly criticised this decision of the Uttar Pradesh government in which some registered Muslim organisations issuing halal certification has been described as illegal. According to the board, this decision of the state government is an interference in the religious freedom and against the interests of the country. Spokesperson of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Dr Sayed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that Islam had made some rules for its followers on food and shelter, which is mandatory for all Muslims to follow. In this, some things have been described as haram and Muslims have been directed not to use them. This issue is not limited to meat and its products and there could be several other products where such things are being mixed which is haram in Islam. He said that the meaning of halal certification is that this product is halal compliant, and no such item has been

mixed with it which is considered as haram in Islam. He said that due to this decision of the Yogi government, there could be adverse effect on the exports to Muslim countries and due to it the country's economy may also get affected.

Etemaad (November 20) in its editorial, while criticising the ban imposed on halal certified products by the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh, said the ban has once again made clear the Muslim enmity of Yogi and BJP. This ban has been imposed at a time when an FIR has been registered at Hazratganj police station in

Lucknow in which it has been alleged that some organisations are making unfair profits by issuing halal certification in an illegal manner and the income from them are being used to provide financial aid to terrorist organisations. The newspaper said that this certificate is being issued under the supervision of the Central government and its aim is to make the consumer aware that there are no such items used in these products which are considered as haram in Islam. The newspaper claimed that this ban has been imposed deliberately to target the Muslims.

Announcement of conditional support to BJP in Lok Sabha elections



Mumbai Urdu News (November 17) reports that the chief of Bareilvi sect and the national president of Ittehad-e-Millet Council, Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, at a press conference organised at his residence in Dargah Aala Hazrat in Bareilly Sharif, has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for extending help to Palestine. On this occasion, Maulana said that he stands by the Prime Minister and will also extend help to make the BJP victorious in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but on condition that the Prime Minister has to declare that he stands with Palestine instead of Israel. It is to be noted that the Indian government provided help to Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas. The Muslims are praising Prime Minister Modi on this step. Maulana Tauqeer said that tomorrow

he will address the Juma namaz where members of all communities including Hindus and Muslims will take part in huge numbers. Earlier, this public meeting was supposed to take place in Islamia ground but the administration did not grant permission. Now this public meeting will take place in Noumahla Masjid. The Maulana targeted the police and the administration for not granting permission to organise the public meeting at Islamia ground and said that the government doesn't want Hindus and Muslims to sit together.

Maulana said that the administration has granted permission to organise the public meeting in Noumahla masjid instead of Islamia ground so that as soon as Hindus hear the name masjid, they will not come for it. He said that a mass prayer has been organised in support of Palestine for those people in Hindu community who want peace. Prayers will be sought for Palestine in the meeting. He said we congratulate the Indian government for reaffirming its old policy on Palestine recently. The Maulana said if the Modi government does not have any relationship with Israel, then it should refuse to grant recognition to it and recall

its Ambassador from the country. If the Modi government does it, then we will stand with BJP and will stand by it in the forthcoming elections as well. He said that there is protest against the atrocities of Israel in all countries including the United States, but Saudi Arabia has not taken the appropriate stand in the Palestinian issue. He said that Muslims in the world should raise their voice against Saudi Arabia.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 19) in its editorial said that when people come to know about the statement of Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, they will definitely do not feel good about it but when they see the condition put up by Maulana, they will feel at peace. The news was that the Maulana had appreciated Prime Minister Modi for extending help to Palestinians and announced that he is ready to help BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. A number of people might also be thinking that like a few Muslim scholars, the Maulana also got into the lap of Modi. Such people could also be called 'Godi Ulema.' Who all are in this list, that the entire country knows, and hence there is no need to mention anybody's name here. Meanwhile, Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan has made it clear in his condition that even if he is taking the help of Prime Minister Modi and talking about supporting BJP, he is not doing it blindly. He has his own conditions and he could support BJP in a situation where the Modi government abandons Israel and stands with Palestine.

The newspaper said that Maulana must be knowing that the Modi government would never accept his condition and even if it does, how? This government has been raising the slogan of 'we stand with Israel' right from the beginning. When the question of truly supporting Palestine comes in the United Nations, the Indian government could be seen standing with the US and Israel. The Modi government cannot hide its Israel-supporting stand just by saying that we are in favour of establishing a Palestinian state or indicate that we want the welfare of Palestinians by supporting some resolutions in the United

Nations. Well, this is a matter of foreign policy of two countries and the nation's head knows it very well what is best for the country. However, one thing is very much clear, Hindustan leans towards Israel and not towards Palestine.

Some people, while citing the speech of Prime Minister Modi at the Voice of Global South Summit, say that just see how the Prime Minister has given a speech in support of Palestine. He said the killing of citizens in the Israel-Hamas war is condemnable. Is this enough? Despite this, Prime Minister Modi could be thanked for mentioning about those killed in Palestine along with the deaths that took place in Israel. The debate started over the statement and conditions put up by Maulana Tauqeer Raza and some people have been frowning upon it. However, this statement of Maulana needs to be appreciated. At least there are some who know that there is strong support for Israel in the government and the war has been given a communal colour for political purposes. It has been made an issue till the elections. Finally, someone has got the courage to say that if the government stands with Palestine then it is ready to support the BJP.

The newspaper said that in today's politics, it is very much important to have conditions. Muslims have been giving their votes on the basis of secularism without any demands and conditions for a long time, but Maulana Tauqeer Raza has shown a path that let the government be of anybody, but a condition could be placed before it. However, other Muslim scholars are also raising their voice in favour of Palestine. Maulana Arshad Madani had raised his voice in favour of even Hamas. The aim of all of them is to tell the government that the issue of Palestine is of ultimate importance to Muslims in this country because it is linked to their belief and religious tradition and the leaders and rulers of this country should respect their sentiments.

Comment: However, there has been differences among various sects of Indian

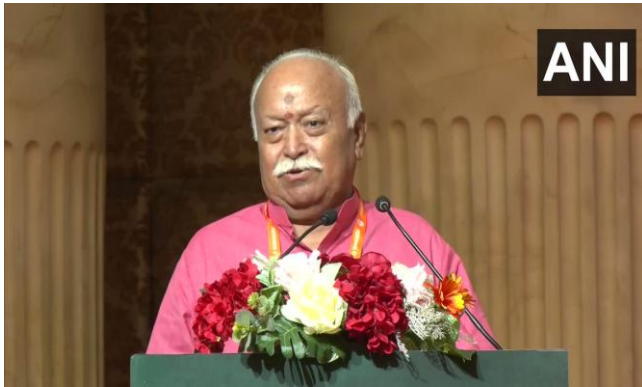
Muslims right from the beginning over the support given to dargahs and Sufis. In the Barelvi sect, stress has been given on personal devotion to Allah and the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad and Sufi practices like veneration of saints apart from following the Shariah. This sect got new strength due to Ahmad Raza Khan, who established the Islamic school along with madrasa Manzar-e-Islam in 1904. His followers are called Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and they are counted among Sunni Muslims.

The enmity between Barelvi sect and Deobandi sect is quite an old one. The two have been issuing fatwas against each other for the past 200 years, describing the other as Kafir. Deobandis belong to the Wahabi tradition and they are strongly opposed to recognising Sufis and attending dargahs or offering chadar in them. Deobandis consider these as against the basic

principles of Islam. The two sects also differ on the translation of Quran.

The interesting thing is that the Deobandis were strongly opposed to the British right from the beginning. Whereas, the Barelvis never lost an opportunity to support the British. This apart, the Deobandis were opposed to Pakistan. Whereas, the Barelvi sect had strongly supported the Pakistan. The Barelvis claim that they have more than 20 crore supporters in Bharat and Pakistan. The interesting thing is that after the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya in 1992, when the Muslims in the country started protests against the government, the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao made some efforts to elicit the support of Barelvi sect and he even went to the dargah of Ala Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza Khan in Bareilly to make offerings, but the matter got stalled as he lost power soon.

Urdu media criticises Sangh chief



Urdu Times (November 26) states that the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mohan Bhagwat, has come up with a new argument that a time will come when the entire world will become *sanatani*. Means, all people in the world embrace Sanatan Dharma. This viewpoint of Mohan Bhagwat is like the dream of Sheikh Chilli, because Sanatan Dharma is dying in Bharat itself. Its existence is in danger and no serious effort is being made to save it. How will the entire world accept Sanatan Dharma just for the politics of vote bank?

Whereas, Islam claims and there is truth in that, a time will come when the entire world will become Muslim but the number of believers will come down. The entire world is headed this way. In US and European countries, people are increasingly embracing Islam. On the other hand, Mohan Bhagwat is making a new claim.

The newspaper said this is the same Mohan Bhagwat who has been claiming till now that the ancestors of Muslims who stay in Bharat were Hindus. But why he doesn't know that when the earth was created, Hazrat Adam Alaihissalam appeared on earth for the first time and Mother Hawwa was born from his left rib. Both of them were Muslims. The entire human race came into being from them and it is the lineage of Muslims that has spread all over the world. Later, they adopted the religions of their liking. Mohan Bhagwat must also be knowing that, but pretending to be not

knowing, he has been making a new claim that the entire world will become *sanatani*. This is his dream. To dream is no crime, but the dream of Sheikh Chilli becomes an object for laughter. The mentality of RSS is anti-Muslim right from the beginning, because its identity has originated from it. They never want



Muslims to remain happy in Bharat and that is why they keep releasing new stories every day. Unfortunately, today the remote control of Modi government is in the hands of RSS. Whatever the thinkers of RSS say in Delhi, Modi government does the same.

The newspaper claimed that whatever anti-Muslim and anti-Shariah decisions are taken, there is 100 percent involvement of RSS in them. Whether it is the issue of ending the triple talaq or the decision to scrap Article 370 on Kashmir. In the past 10 years, the RSS has worked on a solid scale. First, they appointed their own selected people on important posts and after that they started the effort to influence the judiciary as well. The judges were also selected as per their own wish. Their own selected people have been appointed in the selection board for top government employees as well and that is why there is no Muslim in any important government post. As an example, take Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Madhya Pradesh. There are no senior Muslim officials in the ministries in these states. They have been sent to side postings. Those Muslims who have conscience resign from their posts when they feel suffocated. Same is the case with IPS officers.

The newspaper has revealed that in Maharashtra a highly intelligent IPS officer Abdur Rahman had been kept on side posting and he was mentally tortured to the extent that he had to resign from his post. However, during the time of the resignation, while opposing it, we had

described it as a cowardly act because the fight against injustice shall be done by staying within the system. If expelled from it, then the person becomes a common man. Then nobody cares about him. Kashmiri youth Shah Faizal, who was the UPSC exam topper, also became a similar victim of suffocation and had to resign and he formed a new party and contested the election. However, it failed.

The newspaper said that Bharat is a great nation and there are no two opinions on it. In this country, people belonging to different religions have been staying for centuries. Their colour, class, language and culture are all totally different and there were no clashes between them. When the influence of religion started increasing in politics, the political leaders started using religion to bake their political bread and ever since separatism, disturbance, violence, tension and mob lynching started. Since then, claims have been made about the presence of a temple below every masjid and the land of masjids have been seized and mandirs were built on them. The Muslims are silent on this as well because they know that the history repeats itself. When the time will change, those troubling them will also fall flat.

The newspaper has suggested that first unite all the *sanatani* people in the country. That itself would be a big deal. Let them learn to respect other religions. RSS should change its negative stand towards Muslims and adopt a positive stand. Until there is a change in their thinking, their mission will keep failing and it will never

get success. Mohan Bhagwat is invited to study seriously about Islam. He himself will understand that Islam is the best religion in the world which gives the message of humanity and promotes mutual brotherhood. If Mohan Bhagwat understands Islam, then he will also adopt Islam. Hence Mohan Bhagwat should stop dreaming and come to the real world.



Urdu Times (November 16) has published an article by Ram Punyani, whose headline was, 'RSS forced to praise Ambedkar.' It has been stated in the article that the leaders of BJP and RSS take the name of Ambedkar time and again and try to claim that they honour Ambedkar and give lot of importance to his teachings. However, the fact is that the viewpoint of Ambedkar and RSS are diametrically opposite to each other. It is also a fact that Ambedkar had always stressed against discrimination on the basis of caste, prejudice and bigotry. His efforts were to emphasise on social justice. Opposite to it, RSS was always in favour of maintaining the caste system. It is to the extent that despite these kinds of differences between the two, RSS thinkers have been trying to express in various forms that they are the followers of Ambedkar's teachings. Savarkar was a supporter of 'two-nation theory' and he wanted Bharat to be divided into two nations--Hindu nation and Muslim nation. Sangh Parivar had opposed the Hindu Code Bill, but due to political interests, now Sangh Parivar has become a follower of Ambedkar.

Roznama Sahara (November 11) has published an article by Sahil Zubairi, in which it has been stated that those people who keep a tab on the speeches and statements of Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat know that there is more than one meaning for his words. May be he believes in the principle that let say something which has hundred aspects. His every statement is just

the opposite of his previous statement. Sometimes he calls all Hindustanis as Hindus and claims that the DNA of everyone is same. From this it is clear that Sangh doesn't like the multiculturalism of Bharat. It doesn't accept the ancient identity, religion, language and regional identity of all communities in the country. Its stress is that Hindutva should be the special identity of all Hindustanis. Now, the Sarsanghchalak of Sangh Mohan Bhagwat has come up with a new story that not only the Sangh wants to purify all the sects in Bharat to bring them under its discipline, but also wants to make the entire world Aryan and give it the colours of Aryan culture.

The writer says that before Independence, the Hindu Mahasabha and Arya Samaj had run a purification campaign for Muslims, whose purpose was to bring back to Hinduism the descendants of those Muslims who were forcibly converted to Islam by Muslim rulers. Now, after coming to power, the BJP and RSS have also started the 'Ghar Wapsi' campaign and talk about purifying the sects. Only time can tell how much the Sangh will succeed in this. Mohan Bhagwat talked about these things at the Third World Hindu Congress held in Bangkok in Thailand on November 24. Along with this, he also started the debate on the Aryan culture. In the eyes of Mohan Bhagwat, Aryan is a culture and he wants to paint the whole world with it. Means, he wants to colour the whole world with Hindu culture. Sangh is free to implement

whatever it wishes. Sangh has been working with this aim from its inception till today. It is the good fortune of Sangh that if not in the world, but at least in Bharat its wishes are definitely taken care of by the Modi government and that is why Mohan Bhagwat is now trying to colour the entire world with Aryan culture.

The newspaper said that Mohan Bhagwat, as per his habit and the policy of the Sangh, has not spared Muslims along with the British and said that in Hindustan, the British had adopted an aggressive stand towards Hindus. Earlier, Muslims had also created havoc after occupying Bharat. To purify all sects means the Sangh wants to do 'Ghar Wapsi' of all sects especially Muslims after doing purification. It wants to paint it in the imaginary Hindu culture. 'Live and let live' is the basic principle of Hindu religion, but the Sangh Parivar doesn't believe in this mantra. Sangh's second chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar in his book 'Bunch of Thoughts' had described about the three biggest enemies of the nation, which are Muslims, Christians and Communists. Even today the Sangh considers these three as its hurdles

on the path and it has adopted different ways to deal with them. However, it has also constituted the Muslim Rashtriya Manch, but as per our information, the shakhas of Sangh are closed to the Muslims belonging to BJP and Muslim Rashtriya Manch.

The newspaper claim that the RSS never makes a non-Brahmin as its Sarsanghchalak. At least, he should be an upper caste Hindu. Rajju Bhaiyya had to resign from his post for being a non-Brahmin. Sangh believes in the varna-vyavastha of Hindu religion, as per which the Brahmins hold the highest place in the hierarchy. On the basis of the religion, they adopt a discriminatory behaviour especially towards Muslims and Christians. Sangh has even opposed the Tricolour. Even though the Sangh talks about colouring the entire world with Aryan culture, even unknowingly it did not raise a single voice about the killing of 15,000 people in Gaza. In the three-day conference that took place in Bangkok, no demand was raised even for a ceasefire in Gaza. The agenda of the conference was how to make the entire world Hindu by following Hinduism. ■

Impasse over the action against un-recognised madrasas

The efforts started by the Uttar Pradesh government to take action against more than 14,000 unrecognised madrasas in the state has landed in trouble due to the differences surfaced between the education department and the Madrasa Education Board.

Roznama Sahara (November 18) states that the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, Dr Iftikhar Ahmed Jawed, had sent a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and demanded that the plan to merge unrecognised madrasas with other madrasas shall be started as early as possible so that the aim of Prime Minister Modi for 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas' could be credibly displayed. In this letter, Dr Jawed

had written that the government had conducted an inquiry into madrasas in entire Uttar Pradesh last year and its report had been handed over to the government. It has been revealed in this report that there are 8,449 such madrasas which are not affiliated to Madrasa Education Board or any other institutions. Despite passing of one year, no action has been taken in this connection. Nearly 7.5 lakh students study in these madrasas. Nearly 90 percent among them belong to backward classes. Since these madrasas are not granted recognition, some people have started describing them as illegal.

In this connection, All India Teachers Association Madaris-e-Arabia had sent a memorandum to the Chief



Minister, Minister for Minority Affairs and other officials in which it had been said that the Madrasa Education Board has not granted recognition to new madrasas in the past eight years. However, they had submitted their documents to the board. Now threats are being issued to close down them and impose fines. In another news, this newspaper said the responsibility to grant recognition to madrasas in Uttar Pradesh rests with Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board which functions under minorities welfare ministry. However, since 2015, no new madrasa has been granted recognition. However, these madrasas fulfil the conditions set by the government. Whereas the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education department claims that these madrasas are under it and the madrasa education board has no right to grant recognition to them. Due to the mutual disputes between these departments, this issue is still pending. The newspaper has alleged that the Basic Education Department has been issuing threats to close them down and impose fine on them.

Inquilab (November 27) states that the issue of approval of madrasas in Uttar Pradesh is in trouble because there is a dispute between madrasa education board and minorities welfare department. The chairman of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board has sent a letter to the minister for minority welfare affairs Dharmpal Singh seeking recognition for these madrasas, but so far it has not got any success in the effort. The chairman of

Madrasa Education Board told the correspondent of **Inquilab** that those madrasas which are unrecognised should get approval, but some officials have become hurdles in the path. Either they pretend to get the portal ready or take cover under online applications or keeps it pending in the name of collecting data after conducting a survey.

Siasat (November 19) in its editorial has condemned the statement of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the issue of madrasas and said that the chief minister is regularly targeting the Muslims. Sometimes he targets the masjids and madrasas, sometimes he makes comments on the food habit of others. It looks like that the Assam chief minister wants to leave behind even Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath in spewing the venom of communalism. The newspaper said they rake up these kind of controversies in order to hide the failures of own government. There is lot of unease in the society but the chief minister is not ready to care about it. The surprising thing is that the BJP high command has also not stopped him from issuing such controversial statements. Himanta Biswa Sarma has threatened to close down even the madrasas which are running on government aid. The newspaper said the chief minister's post is a responsible one and he should desist from issuing such statements but he is not ready for it. This statement by him is against Indian Constitution and against the democratic traditions.

Ramayan-Mahabharat recommended to be included in NCERT syllabus



Roznama Sahara (November 22) states that a high-level committee of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had recommended that epics Ramayan and Mahabharat shall be included in the NCERT syllabus. The committee has recommended that these epics shall be included in the category of books belonging to the classical age under the history syllabus. However, it has not been decided so far which chapters of Ramayan and Mahabharat shall be taught in which class. The chairman of this high-level committee, Prof C I Issac, told news agency ANI that the committee's panel had also recommended that the Preamble of the Constitution shall be written on the walls of all classes in schools and these should be in different regional languages. Prof Issac is a retired professor in history. He was the chairman of the committee constituted to review the social science syllabus of NCERT.

The committee had also recommended that the Indian knowledge tradition, Vedas and Ayurveda shall also be included in the textbooks of NCERT. The committee had also recommended that in textbooks in schools, it should be written Bharat instead of India. However, so far NCERT has not approved the same. Prof Issac said they had suggested that history shall be divided into four

periods namely classical period, medieval period, British era and Modern Bharat. Till now, the country's history has been divided into only three periods namely ancient, medieval period and modern Bharat. Now we have suggested that epics Ramayan and Mahabharat shall be taught as part of classical age so that students should know who Ram was and what role did he play. Similarly, students shall be given knowledge about the characters of Mahabharat and their roles.

Roznama Sahara (November 26) states that the controversial parliamentarian from Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq has opposed the inclusion of Ramayan and Mahabharat in the syllabus of school textbooks and described the decision as against tradition of Bharat and secularism. He said that Ramayan and Mahabharat should not be included in the textbooks because it is not a bigger book than the Holy Quran. He said that if Ramayan and Mahabharat are included on the basis of religion, then Holy Quran should also be included in the textbooks. This is because there is no greater book than the Quran in the world. He said that if the religious books of Hindus are included in the textbooks of NCERT, then the books of other religions shall also be included in them. In this way, the country's cultural unity and the feeling of patriotism will increase.

139 prominent opposition leaders in Bangladesh given jail term



Roznama Sahara (November 18) reports that general elections have been announced in Bangladesh. Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh, Kazi Habibul Awal, has announced that elections will be held across the country on January 7 to elect the new members of Parliament. He said we are committed to hold a free and fair elections. It is to be noted that last time the general elections were held in Bangladesh in 2018. However, the Opposition had boycotted the election and Sheikh Hasina's party had registered a unilateral victory. This time also the main contest will be between Sheikh Hasina's party Bangladesh Awami League and Khalida Zia's party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Many countries in the world are keeping an eye on this election.

Inquilab (November 22) states that as soon as elections have been announced in the country, the government has stepped up action against Opposition parties. Recently, 139 prominent leaders in the Opposition have been awarded jail term on various charges. According to foreign media, the Opposition parties in Bangladesh have alleged that Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina may once again commit fraud in the forthcoming elections. The opposition parties have demanded that Sheikh Hasina resign from her post and a free and fair elections should be held under the supervision of a national government. This apart, a series of mass protests are taking place across the country against the government. As per official report, many prominent leaders of main opposition party BNP are among those awarded jail sentence. They have been accused of spreading violence and attacking the police during anti-government protests. Now they have been awarded punishment ranging from four months to three-and-a-half years in jail. These cases were registered between 2013 and 2018 when the Opposition observed hartals to blockades. Those who have been punished include the president of youth wing of BNP, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, and two other prominent student leaders.

Inquilab (November 20) states that the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has banned the largest Islamic fundamentalist party in Bangladesh, Jamaat-e-Islami, from taking part in the elections. The lawyer of



Anti-government protests have been taking place in the country for the past one month. Secondly, more than 40 lakh labourers working in 3,500 factories of Bangladesh's third largest industry namely the textile industry have started a hartal. Majority of them are women. They have been demanding hike in wages after seeing the price rise in the country. Bangladesh is in the grip of an economic slowdown for

Jamaat-e-Islami said the government has banned Jamaat-e-Islami on charges of taking part in anti-national activities. This ban was questioned in the Supreme Court which has been rejected by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Obaidul Hassan. This apart, the spokesperson of the party, Matiur Rahman, said that as per the order of the Supreme Court, no ban has been imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami, but its activists have been prohibited from taking part in the elections. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami will take part in the nationwide hartal launched by BNP. The protesters have been demanding that the general elections shall be held under the supervision of a national government. It is to be noted that Jamaat-e-Islami is among the biggest opposition parties in the country and a ban has been imposed on it since 2013 over taking part in the elections.

Hindustan Express (November 19) states that a tug-of-war is going on between different political parties in Bangladesh.

the past one decade and in an effort to tide over the crisis, it has not only entered into a tie-up with China on economic and trade issues but on defence sector as well. The present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been in power for a long time now. She wants to win this election at any cost and that is why she has unleashed a drive to crush opposition parties and media. Prominent opposition leader of Bangladesh Khalida Zia is in jail for a long time on charges of corruption. Whereas the government has imposed a ban on another opposition party, Jamaat-e-Islami, from taking part in the elections. The striking labourers are demanding that their wages shall be hiked three times. In view of the current economic crisis, the owners of textile industry are not ready to accept the demand of the labourers. This is the reason why they have resorted to violence now. Recently, they have set fire to more than 600 factories.

Anti-Islam leader gets huge victory in Netherlands polls

Roznama Sahara (November 24) states that in the elections held recently in Netherlands, anti-Islam leader Geert Wilders' party, 'Party for Freedom' got a huge victory. His party emerged victorious in 37 seats in the 150-member Parliament. Whereas, the alliance of Left parties finished far behind. It is to be noted that

Wilders had extended strong support to the abrogation of Article 370 and the statement of Nupur Sharma on the Prophet. Wilders was born in Venlo city in Netherlands in 1963. He belongs to the Roman Catholic community, but considers himself as an atheist. He has been running a campaign for quite some time demanding a ban on



Quran and expulsion of Muslims staying in Netherlands.

Due to the extremist thinking of Wilders, three political parties in Netherlands had refused for an electoral alliance with him. The alliance of Left parties under the leadership of former commissioner of European Union, Frans Timmermans, managed to win 25 seats. Timmermans said that all those staying in Netherlands are equal and we will not tolerate the expulsion of anyone from Netherlands. The third position in this elections was secured by the party led by Dilan Yesilgoz, a Muslim woman of Turkish origin. Her party registered victory in 24 seats. Whereas, Pieter Omtzigt's party secured the fourth position by winning 20 seats.

Urdu Times (November 25) states that strong anti-Muslim Geert Wilders' party has secured 37 seats out of the 150 seats in the Parliament. The BBC said that an earthquake has taken place in Dutch politics due to the victory of Wilders' party. It will have its effect on the politics in Europe where anti-Islam elements are active in different countries. They will get a new life from this victory. It is to be noted that in the previous elections, Wilders' party got just 17 seats. In order to form the government, Wilders has to form an alliance with other parties because in the 150-member Parliament, it is necessary to have a majority of 76 seats.

Etemaad (November 27) in its editorial, while commenting about the elections in Netherlands, said it is very much worrying that anti-Islam elements are becoming active in the world and are using

anti-Islam as a means to come to power. The US, on the pretext of the destruction of World Trade Centre, has pushed many Muslim countries into war. Later those leaders who came to power following Islam were overthrown in the name of Arab Spring and the puppets of US were installed in their

place. Due to the atmosphere that is being created in Europe against Islam and the Prophet, it is becoming difficult for Muslims to live there. Quran is publically burnt and Prophet is being made the target of criticism. In the elections held in Netherlands, the way Geert Wilders got the highest number of seats is an indication of serious threat to Islam and Muslims.

Even in France, anti-Islam feelings are being sparked. Preparations are being made there to ban masjids and Islamic schools. In this way, anti-Islam elements are trying to come to power by opening fronts against Muslims. Wilders could be described as the Donald Trump of Netherlands. His stand against Islam is quite aggressive due to which he has been getting threats to his life since 2004. The British government had tried to impose a ban on him from entering Britain but the court had termed the decision as illegal. Recently, in the manifesto issued by Wilders' party, it has been said that Netherlands is not an Islamic country and here there is no place for madrasas, Quran and Islam. It has also been declared in it that the diplomatic relationship with those countries where Shariah law is in place will be ended. The interesting thing is that there are many such countries in the world where efforts were being made to capture power by creating an atmosphere against Islam. Even India is not untouched by it. This kind of situation is very much worrying for Muslims and the Ulema. The newspaper has appealed that the Muslims across the world has to take it seriously and should get united against it.

Demand to expel Indian soldiers from Maldives



Roznama Sahara (November 19) states that the newly elected President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, during his swearing-in ceremony, has demanded India's Union Minister Kiren Rijiju that the Indian soldiers currently deployed in Maldives shall be removed immediately. This information was provided by the office of the President. It is to be noted that nearly 75 Indian soldiers are deployed in Maldives, who provide protection to the Special Economic Zone and other places in Maldives with the help of ships and radars. The President said that foreign soldiers are not acceptable in Maldives. He said that we give stress on friendly relationship with neighbouring countries and other nations. He said his government will give special focus on tourism, development of industries and its management.

Roznama Sahara (November 16) states that the new President had invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend his swearing-in ceremony but due to his busy schedule, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju was sent to Maldives. A spokesperson of India's external affairs ministry said that sending a senior Union Minister for the swearing-in ceremony in Maldives is a proof of the fact that India believes in strengthening the cooperation between the people of the two countries. Maldives is an important maritime neighbour and has a special place in the

'Vision Sagar' and 'Neighbour First' policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

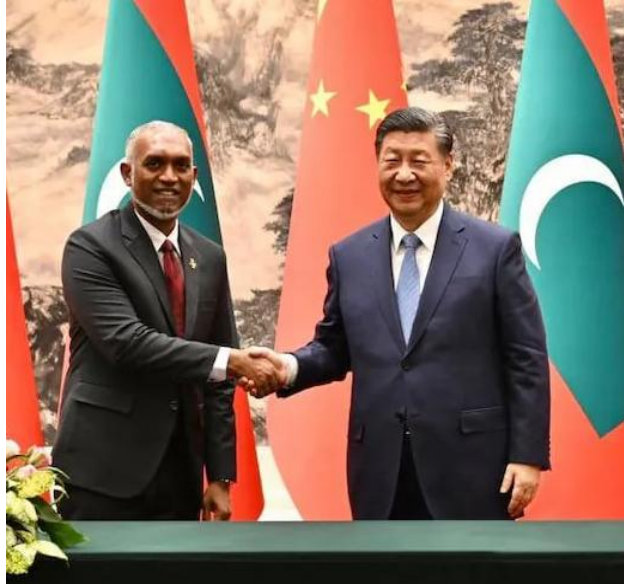
It is to be noted that the new President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, is considered as a China supporter. However, he had said that if India withdraws its soldiers from Maldives, then Chinese soldiers will not be deployed in their place. He said that Maldives is a small nation from geographical point of view in order to take part in

political conflicts and hence I do not want to include the foreign policy of Maldives in it. According to the newspaper, while taking part in the elections that took place in September, Mohamed Muizzu had spearheaded his campaign against the domination of India in Maldives.

Roznama Sahara (November 26) states that in the elections held recently in Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu has come to power. The newly elected President has been quickly trying to end the presence of Indian soldiers in Maldives and as soon as he was sworn in, Muizzu urged the Indian government that it withdraw its military contingent from Maldives. According to the chairman of Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies, Chintamani Mahapatra, this decision of the new President of Maldives is not a setback only to Bharat, but to the entire Quad countries. These countries wanted Maldives to take part in the efforts to maintain peace and stability in Indo-Pacific region.

It is to be noted that the official name of Maldives is Republic of Maldives. This country is a group of hundreds of islands. Majority of these islands are deserted. Maldives lies nearly 700 kilometre south of India's Lakshadweep island. The total number of islands is 1,192, but only 200 islands among them are inhabited. The capital of Maldives is Male. Nearly 80% of the total population of the

country stays there. More than 99% of the people who live in the country are Muslims. The Tamil meaning of the name Maldives is 'mountain island'. Experts say that the name Maldives has its origin in the Sanskrit word Maladweep whose meaning is 'chain of islands.' Whereas, some analysts claim it to be Arabic name. The country has a Presidential form of government and there is a Parliament to aid and assist the President. The President is directly elected by the people of the country.



The newspaper said the administration of the new President said it has decided to renegotiate the more than 100 treaties signed between Maldives and Bharat, among which some of them were related to security. According to analysts, China has been trying for a long time to establish its foothold in this group of islands. A few years ago, China had tried to establish its naval base in some of its islands, but due to the strategy of India, they could not succeed in it.

It is worth mentioning that the former President of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohammad Solih, was considered as a friend of Bharat and he had followed the 'India First' policy. However, the current president, Mohamed Muizzu, had run his election campaign on the basis of 'India Out' policy and he had described the presence of Indian military contingent in Maldives as a threat to the sovereignty of Maldives. It is to be noted that the military contingent that the current president is seeking to oust from Maldives includes the pilots of helicopters and planes and technical experts. These people maintain maritime surveillance and rescue activities in the sea.

As per a news report, Research Fellow of University of Western Australia and an authority on Maldives, Azim Zahir, said the way the presence of Indian military contingent is raised during the election campaign, the people there got influenced about it. China has been very active in

Maldives from 2013 to 2018. China also started many construction projects in Maldives. China has been constructing a bridge at an investment worth 200 million dollars, which links it to the International Airport in Male. Vice-chairman of Studies and Foreign Policy department in Observer Research Foundation, Harsh V Pant, said that due to the increasing activities of big powers in the Indian Ocean region, the importance of Maldives has also increased.

According to media reports, Pakistan and China have been making efforts for quite some time to improve its influence in Maldives. Nearly a decade ago, Pakistan had sent a group of Muslim Ulema to Maldives to teach Islam to the citizens of the country. It is to be noted that even before it, former President of Maldives and a strong supporter of China, Abdullah Yamin, had won the elections, but the people there rebelled and overthrew his government. After this, India supporter Ibrahim Mohammad Solih came to power resulting in improved relationship between Bharat and Maldives. As far as Mohamed Muizzu is concerned, ever since he was an opposition leader, he has been opposing Maldives' friendly relations with India. Currently, Maldives' trade relationship is mostly with India. After Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, now China has started making investments in Maldives.

US sanctions on people linked to terrorist organisations



Hindustan Express (November 19) states that the US State Department, while describing Katai'b Syed Al-Shuhada Brigade of terrorist organisation Hezbollah and its general secretary Jarnal Hashim Finyan Rahim Al-Saraji as international terrorists, included them in its 'black list.' US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said in a statement that the Syed Al-Shuhada Brigade and the cadre linked to it has messed with the efforts of the US and the international alliance, who have been making efforts to eliminate terrorist organisation ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and put the lives of hundreds of people in danger. He said that six persons belonging to Iran-supported Hezbollah are included in the new 'black list' released by the United States. Iran has been playing a significant role in providing financial help and supply modern weapons to militia groups linked to Hezbollah through Sipah-e-Pasdaran-e-Inquilab-e-Islami and its foreign operations force, Quds Force. According to Pentagon, these terrorist organisations have recently attacked the US military in Syria and Iraq. In the middle of October, these terrorist organisations linked to Iran carried out

more than 60 attacks on US soldiers in Iraq and Syria.

Hindustan Express (November 16) states that the US treasury department has announced fresh sanctions on senior leaders belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the groups associated with it. The US State Department has claimed Iran has been providing military aid and training to Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The US treasury department has imposed sanctions on a senior leader of Hamas, Mahmoud Khaled Zahhar. Meanwhile, sanctions have also imposed on another person associated with Hamas, Ma'ad Ibrahim Mohammed Rashid Al-Atili. The US allegation is that Al-Atili has been working for Hamas and those organisations associated with it. This apart, sanctions have also been imposed on the commander of military wing of Palestine Islamic Jihad, Nasser Abu Sharif, and Muhjat Al-Quds Foundation's top official Jamil Yusuf Ahmad 'Aliyan on charges of providing financial aid to Islamic terrorist organisations.

The newspaper said that in Damascus, Deputy General Secretary of Palestine Islamic Jihad and the commander



of Al-Quds Brigade, the armed wing of Palestine Islamic Jihad, Akram Al-Ajouri, was also put in the 'black list.' Al-Ajouri has been accused of arranging military training to the cadre of Palestine Islamic Jihad in Gaza, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon and Yemen and also recruiting the cadre for the organisation. As per another statement of the US treasury department, Hamas has been using the Nabil Chouman and Company established in Lebanon to secure financial aid from Iran and hundreds of million dollars have been received by Hamas through this company. In order to transfer this money, the owner of

Chouman, Nabil Khalid Haleel Chouman, along with his son Khalid Chouman and another money exchanger based in Lebanon, Reda Ali Khamis, worked with Hamid Ahmad Al-Khudari. This company has played a major role in handing over the Iran-supplied financial aid to Islamic Jihad in Gaza. Recently, Iran has sent money worth seven million dollars to Hamas.

Inqilab (November 19) states that the office of the President of United States has confirmed that the US administration is taking stringent action against the Hamas supporters staying in the US. The President's office said that Hamas is a foreign terrorist organisation and hence the visa of student supporters of Hamas are being cancelled and they are being expelled from the US. It is to be noted that recently the US security agencies had urged the government that it cancel the visa of those people and students who have been holding protests in US in support of Palestine and Hamas and expel them from the US. ■

Pakistan bans sending goods to Afghanistan

Inqilab (November 16) states that Afghanistan's Minister of Commerce and Industry Nooruddin Azizi has alleged that the Pakistan government has illegally detained thousands of containers filled with goods worth billions of rupees bought from abroad by Afghanistan at the Karachi Port. He demanded Pakistan to immediately grant permission to send them to Afghanistan. As per a report in 'Dawn' newspaper in Pakistan, the Pakistan government has claimed that Afghanistan had purchased these goods in an illegal manner. Due to this, Pakistan has suffered damages worth lakhs of dollars in the form of tax, because Afghanistan smuggled these goods to Pakistan.

The Afghan government has criticised that Pakistan has been deliberately putting hurdles in sending the

goods to Afghanistan which have been purchased from abroad. It has stopped more than 3,000 containers at the Karachi Port on the pretext of illegally higher amounts of taxes and duties due to which the traders in Afghanistan have suffered damages worth crores. These containers include high-end electronic equipment, machine parts and clothes. Pakistan says that ever since Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, they have been demanding duty free goods in multiple quantities compared to the past, which is an open violation of the agreement.

In a statement issued by the Afghanistan embassy in Islamabad, it has been claimed that recently Afghanistan's Minister of Commerce and Industry Haji Nooruddin Azizi held talks with Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani



in this connection in Islamabad and he complained that Pakistan has illegally withheld hundreds of containers at Karachi port in the past one year which were purchased by Afghanistan, due to which Afghanistan has suffered losses worth billions of rupees.

Hamara Samaj (November 22) states that as a retaliatory step, Afghanistan has closed its Chaman border with Pakistan. Before this, Afghanistan had closed the Torkham border as well. Due to this, the Pakistani traders had to suffer damages worth crores of rupees. A fruit trader at Hazara vegetable market in Quetta, Haji Abdullah, said that hundreds of fruit traders had handed over crores of rupees to the owners of the pomegranate gardens in Afghanistan's Kandahar province several months ago so that as soon as the harvest is ready, the harvest could be taken from them. Now, as the pomegranate harvest is ready, Afghanistan has closed its border with Pakistan due to which the entire trade has stopped. Along with Quetta, there is an increase of Rs 100 to 200 per kilogram for pomegranate and grapes in the markets in Karachi, Sindh and Punjab. He said that at the behest of Afghanistan, some tribal organisations are staging a dharna on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Now the international route that passes through Quetta, Chaman

and Kandahar has also been closed, due to which the trade between the countries have been stopped.

Hindustan Express (November 21) states that Pakistan's caretaker prime minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakkar has alleged that the Afghanistan government is not ready to hand over the terrorists of banned organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to Pakistan. He alleged that the

land of Afghanistan is being used to carry out terrorist activities in Pakistan. He threatened that if the Afghan government does not hand over the terrorists belonging to this organisation to us we will take stringent action on our own.

He said the Taliban leader knows it very well where the TTP men are hiding and from where they carry out the terrorist attacks taking place in Pakistan. We will no way tolerate that the land of Afghanistan is being used for terrorist activities in Pakistan and the ruler of Afghanistan is watching the *tamasha*. He said how is it possible that the TTP men carry out attack on Pakistan and we remain silently watching this violence? Finally, why shouldn't we retaliate? Until the terrorists of this banned organisation hand over their weapons to us, our campaign against them will continue. Pakistan's prime minister said that the US had put pressure on us that we immediately stop the action being taken to expel Afghan citizens staying illegally in Pakistan, but we will not compromise on our interests.

Hamara Samaj (November 23) states that the United Nations has condemned the efforts by Pakistan to deliberately push the Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan. The United Nations said that Pakistan should stop such activities.

Saudi Arabia demands complete ceasefire in Gaza



Inqilab (November 11) states that the Saudi Arabia's cabinet has once again demanded a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The cabinet said that in order to achieve the goal of permanent stability in the region, it is necessary that an independent Palestine state shall be established. It is to be noted that a number of nations including Saudi Arabia are sure that it is necessary to have a permanent ceasefire to overcome the present crisis so that war could be stopped from spreading to other areas. In this meeting, a discussion was also held on the results of the fifth Arab meeting in which it had been said that in this region and at international level it is necessary to take steps to find solution to water crisis. This apart, in order to resolve the water crisis, a demand has been made to set up an international organisation. Saudi Arabia expressed hope that all nations will make this effort to ensure that an agreement shall be made to establish permanent peace in the region.

Inqilab (November 29) states that Egypt's External Affairs Minister Sameh Shoukry said that the ceasefire shall be extended in Gaza and it shall be given the

nature of a permanent ceasefire. All countries in the world should abandon their double standards and should make efforts to ensure that concrete steps are taken to find solutions to the dispute between the Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle-East. During a meeting of Arab Islamic Committee, the foreign minister of Egypt told the foreign minister of Spain that some countries in the world are not taking any concrete step to stop the efforts made by Israelis to expel Palestinians from Gaza. The aim for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza cannot be realised until Israel is convinced that the ceasefire is in its interests. It is necessary that the world powers get united and put pressure on Israel for a ceasefire. The hurdles that have been created on the path of the aid being sent to Gaza by Israelis is making it difficult to find a solution.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 23) states that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, has appealed to all countries that they stop supplying arms and ammunition to Israel. This will force Israel to think about a permanent ceasefire. He made this opinion



while addressing the Brics Summit. He said that Saudi Arabia is making the demand for a serious and lasting peace through the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the borders that existed in 1967. He said that our meet is taking place at a time when Gaza is in a very difficult situation. We condemn the Israeli attack in Gaza and strongly demand that these attacks should be stopped. He said that Israel is making savage attack on innocent citizens, hospitals and places of worship in Gaza. In such a situation, it is necessary that countries in the world collectively make an effort to stop this human tragedy and stop the situation from turning worse. He appealed to countries across the world that they provide more and more help to Gaza. It is to be noted that the BRICS countries include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, China, Egypt, Russia, Brazil, Bharat, South Africa, Argentina, Ethiopia and Iran.

Avadhnama (November 23) states that Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held talks with Ambassadors of various countries and heads of international organisations. In these talks, he stressed that all the powers in the world should get united to stop Israel's oppressive war against Palestinian people in Gaza and West Bank and demand that the drive launched by Israel to expel Palestinians from Gaza should be stopped. This apart, credible steps should also be taken to stop the killing of innocent citizens there. He said there is only one solution to

the Palestinian crisis and that is to conduct a referendum there so that Palestinians can take a decision on their own future.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 19) states that the commander of Quds force in Iran, Esmail Qaani, said Iran will extend all possible help to Hamas in its war against Israel. In a message to the commander of the military wing of Hamas, Mohammed Deif, he said we stand with Hamas in its war against Israel. Quds force urged

Iran-supported Hezbollah, fighting organisations active in Yemen and Iraq, that they get united and take action against Israel.

Hindustan Express (November 21) reports that Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has urged Muslim nations across the world that they immediately cut off diplomatic relationship with Israel and also stop supplying it oil and foodgrains. He said the governments of some Muslim nations have condemned the offensive actions of Israel in their Parliament, but some countries have not taken any credible steps in this connection. It is to be noted that a joint meeting of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Arab League took place in Saudi Arabia two weeks ago. In this meeting, Iran had urged all Muslim nations to cut off diplomatic relationship with Israel. Iran had also urged the Muslim countries that they stop supplying oil to Israel. However, many Arab nations did not accept this request of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi. Recently, Iran had displayed a supersonic ballistic missile during a parade and claimed that this missile was capable of evading the anti-ballistic missile system of Israel and the US.

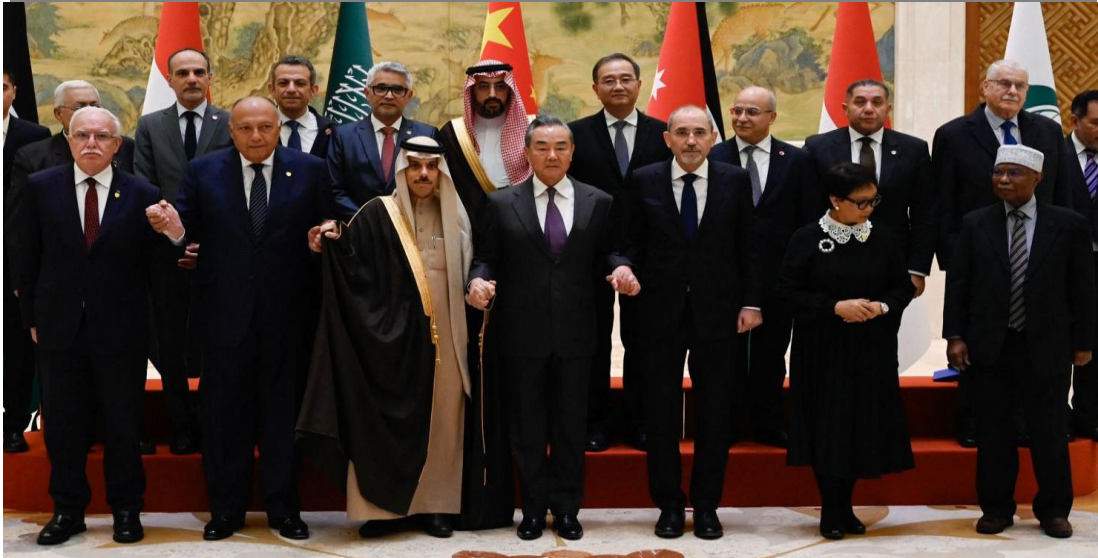
Etemaad (November 20) states that Turkiye's Foreign Affairs Minister Hakan Fidan said that all the countries in the region should get united and put pressure on Israel for a permanent ceasefire. He said there is only one solution to the problem

and that is to establish an independent Palestine state on the basis of the 1967 borders. He also said that Turkiye had sent 11 planes to Egypt as humanitarian aid meant for Gaza ever since the Israeli attack on Gaza till and 170 citizens of Turkiye have been taken out from Gaza. This apart, efforts are on to take out more than 1,000 Turkiye citizens from Gaza. After the attack on October 7, we could see that there is no possibility of a permanent peace being established there till now. However, more than 13,000 Palestinian citizens have been killed. We can't watch as silent spectator to this killing. Our policy is that

there should be permanent peace in Gaza and the Palestinians there shall be provided with humanitarian aid.

The foreign minister of Turkiye said all Islamic nations should make efforts to use their political and humanitarian means in order to stop the war in Gaza. He also expressed concern that now Israel has started threatening to use nuclear weapons. It is not a secret thing now that the US and many countries in the Europe are openly supporting the aggressive actions of Israel. Until there is change in their stand, no permanent peace could be established there.

Is there a Chinese hand behind the ceasefire in Gaza?



Hamara Samaj (November 21) states that the foreign ministers of Arab and Muslim nations reached Beijing on the invitation of China. They urged China that it use its influence to ensure ceasefire in Gaza. China is one among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The representatives of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Indonesia, Palestine and OIC held discussions with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi in Beijing. Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said we have come here with a special message. We want China to use its influence to impose a ceasefire in Gaza. On this occasion, foreign

minister of China, Wang Yi, said that China is a good friend and brother of Arab and Muslim countries. We have always supported the rights of Palestinian people and we have been striving to protect their interests.

Earlier, **Siasat** (November 20) has claimed that Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Faisal bin Farhan had said the foreign ministers of Arab and Muslim countries will visit China and the purpose of the visit is to ensure a ceasefire in Gaza.

Urdu Times (November 22) in its editorial, while praising China, said that China is playing a special role in the world

politics. Its latest example is the meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic countries and other officials in Beijing. All the Islamic nations coming together in China is proof of the importance that China gives to Arab countries. In the past few days, due to the efforts of China, Iran and Saudi Arabia entered into a friendship and from that it is clear that China is serious about a ceasefire in Gaza. Now, the meeting



of Muslim countries that took place in China is an alarm bell for the United States. This meeting gives a clear indication about the growing inclination of Muslim countries towards China. Now Muslim nations are looking towards China with hope. In future, China wants to emerge as a super power and sideline United States on the world stage. So far, China has not attacked any Muslim nation. Whereas the US had always tried to install its puppet regimes in Arab countries. The support that China has received from Arab nations has given a ray of hope to the Muslim world.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 25) in its editorial said that Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the United States because the world is at the brink of a world war. The US, together with NATO nations, wants to make Ukraine the kabristan for Russia. Whereas Russia wants to entangle Israel and the US in Gaza and shift the focus of the world from the Ukraine war. However, Israel and the US are badly stuck in the war in Gaza. Till now, Israel has failed to mark victory in Gaza. In such a situation, the Chinese President has told Israel in clear terms that it should take credible steps to make the ceasefire a reality in Gaza, otherwise it would not be possible to stop the war for

them. China has also warned that if the US sends its warships to help Israel, then it will also take necessary steps to stop it.

The newspaper said that due to pressure from China, Israel is now ready for a temporary ceasefire. Hamas has released nearly 100 Israeli hostages and more than 70 foreign hostages from its custody. The temporary ceasefire, which was for four days, has been extended for more days. What is required is to give the ceasefire a permanent status. Protests are taking place in the entire world against Israel. Even in United States, the protesters demanded President Joe Biden that he put pressure on Israel for ceasefire, otherwise they will not support Biden in the forthcoming presidential elections. The way China has been increasing its influence in Arab matters, it looks like it would be difficult for the US to control the Houthi rebels in future. Recently, a lot of concern is being expressed in the US about Iran which got its supporters attack US bases in Iraq and Syria. However, the US has been regularly warning Iran not to fuel the war. The US and Israel have been putting pressure on Iran that it should not try to spread this war to other countries in the Middle-East. Secondly, Iran had stepped up attacks on US bases through its supporters.

Drive to expel Afghan citizens from Iran



government has been forcibly expelling Afghan citizens from the country. According to the newspaper, Afghan officials stationed in Herat said a huge number of Afghan citizens were forcibly expelled from Iran and their visa and passport were also deliberately torn away by the Iranian officials. The officials also alleged that the Afghan citizens had gone to Iran carrying passports in search of jobs.

Siasat (November 27) states that after Pakistan, now Iran has also stepped up its campaign to expel Afghan citizens staying in the country. According to informed sources, more than four lakh Afghan citizens staying illegally in Iran have been expelled from there. Iran claims that the Afghan citizens staying in Iran are involved in terrorist activities. According to sources in Afghanistan government, the government of Afghanistan has criticised the drive to expel Afghan citizens from Iran and alleged that the Iranian

On the other hand, the Iranian government claimed they are expelling those Afghan citizens from the country who do not possess any passport or legal documents. A newspaper in Afghanistan has published the statement of two Afghan citizens who were expelled from Iran, in which both said that they had legal passport and visa, but despite having them the officials there forcibly expelled them from Iran.

Former Indian Navy officers appeal against death sentence in Qatar

Siasat (November 25) states that an appeal filed by the Indian government against the death sentence awarded to eight former Indian Naval officers by a court in Qatar has been accepted by another court in Qatar. There is a possibility of the hearing being held immediately on this petition. According to sources in Indian government, this appeal was filed in another court in Qatar nearly 15 days ago. However, neither Indian government nor Qatar has given any official information regarding this. External affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had given information about the appeal being filed on November 9 and he



said the officials of Indian Embassy were sent to meet the accused. He also said the Indian government is in constant touch with the Qatar government in order to

provide legal help to the former officers of Indian Navy.

It is to be noted that a court in Qatar on October 16 had awarded death sentence to eight former Indian Naval officers. According to Financial Times, they have been accused of spying for Israel, but the Qatar government has not given any

official information in this connection. A few days ago, the family members of these accused also held talks with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. According to informed sources, the Indian government is also taking the help of Government of Turkiye in order to pardon them from death sentence. ■

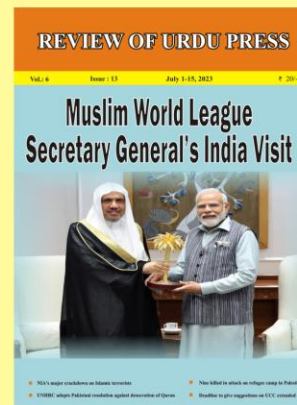
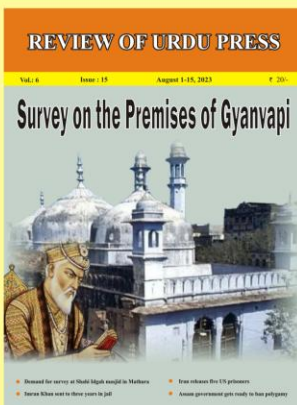
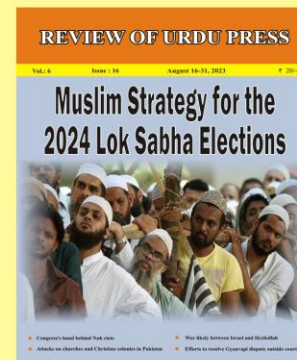
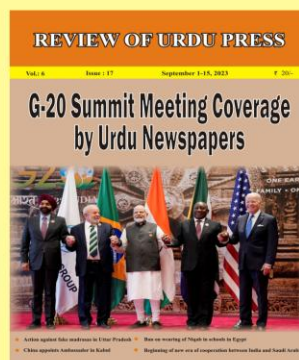
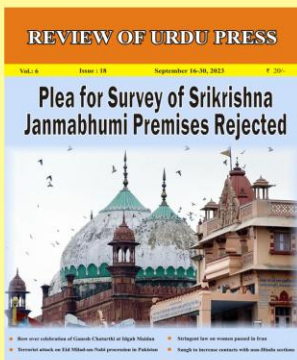
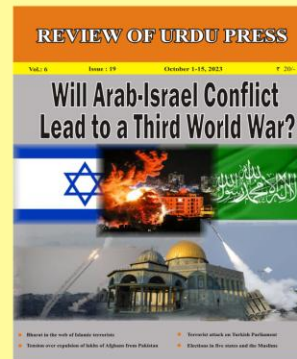
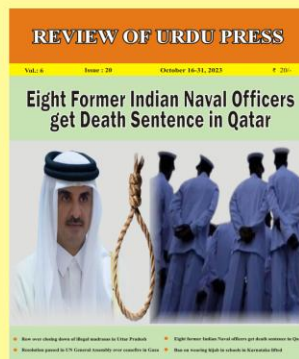
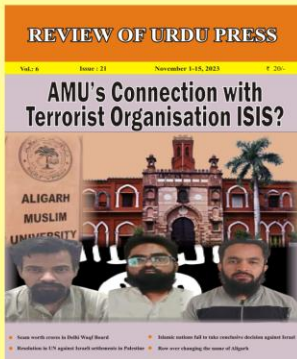
Appeal filed against death sentence given to Indian nurse in Yemen rejected



Hindustan Express (November 18) states that the Supreme Court in Yemen has rejected an appeal filed against the death sentence awarded to a Kerala nurse, Nimisha Priya. This nurse has been lodged in jail since 2017 on charges of the murder of a Yemeni citizen. Nimisha had been accused of killing a Yemeni citizen, Talal Abdo Mahdi. It is being said that Talal Abdo Mahdi had kept the passport of Nimisha with himself and he was not ready to give it back to her. In order to get her passport back, Nimisha had given an intoxication injection to the Yemeni citizen, due to which he died.

Meanwhile, Nimisha's mother has approached the Delhi High Court seeking permission to go to Yemen. The Delhi High Court has directed the government to take a decision regarding the same within a week. Nimisha's mother, in order to save

her daughter from the gallows, is ready to pay the 'blood money' (compensation amount) to the family of Talal and she wanted to hold talks with them in this connection. On behalf of the petitioner, a lawyer, Subhash Chandran, urged the Delhi High Court that there is only one way to save Nimisha from the death sentence and that is grant permission for Nimisha's mother to visit Yemen to hold direct talks with the family of the deceased in Yemen, but due to the civil war in Yemen, the India government has banned its citizens from visiting the country. An organisation that has been running a campaign for the release of Nimisha, Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council, had urged Delhi High Court and the Central government that Nimisha Priya's mother shall be given permission to go to Yemen due to the special situation. ■



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