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Analysis of BJP's Victory in Assembly Elections by Urdu Newspapers



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- Russia makes efforts to increase its influence in Arab world
- Law formulated in Denmark against insult to Quran
- ISIS conspiracy to attack Bharat

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Summary

The Urdu newspapers have clearly stated in their editorials that the credit for the unprecedented victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in the recently held Assembly elections goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These newspapers also said there are no more doubts about the BJP getting a hat trick in the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024. The election strategy adopted by the BJP has been proved effective. It is also to the greatness of Prime Minister Modi that he has handed over the leadership of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to completely new faces. The strategy adopted by the party to field MPs and Union Ministers in the electoral arena also proved to be a success. This apart, the party has also succeeded in controlling the internal factionalism in the party.

The Urdu newspapers said the defeat of Congress in the Assembly elections was due to their wrong doings and overconfidence. The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' launched by Rahul Gandhi to take on the Modi wave did not succeed due to the growing popularity of the Prime Minister. Not only that, the internal factionalism within the party also influenced the outcome of the elections. The first test of the alliance named INDIA, formed due to the efforts of Congress to take on the BJP, proved to be a damp squib. The newspapers alleged that the Congress ignored different parties which were part of the alliance, and it proved costly. The domination of Congress in the INDIA alliance has ended after the manner in which the party has been wiped out in the elections.

The preliminary investigation conducted by the Special Investigation Team formed by the Uttar Pradesh government under the leadership of Additional DGP Mohit Agarwal of ATS to probe into the financial aid received by the madrasas in the state has made several sensational revelations. Nearly 108 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh received financial aid worth Rs 150 crore in two years from foreign sources. The question that arises here is whether the foreign money was being used for anti-national activities or religious conversions? Keeping this receipt of money in mind, the state government has decided to conduct a proper investigation to find out how these madrasas which received the foreign funds used them and for what purposes? In this connection, a data on the detailed expenditure have been sought from the managers of these madrasas.

The surprising thing is that there is a sudden spurt in the number of Islamic madrasas in the border areas of Uttar Pradesh. Whereas the population of Islam followers is not much in the region. The state government has decided to conduct a proper investigation into the recognised madrasas along with unrecognised madrasas and has sought a detailed report on the same from the officials concerned by the end of this month.

It cannot be ignored that despite mutual differences, Muslim countries get united in the name of Prophet, Quran and Islam and they are also fully capable of exerting political pressure. Due to pressure from these Islamic nations, the Denmark government had to pass a special law in the parliament recently in order to stop incidents like insulting Quran and other religious texts. As per the new law, there is a provision to award two years' rigorous imprisonment to those who insult Quran, Islam and the Prophet.

Russia has launched a special campaign to increase its influence in Muslim countries in the Middle-East. Recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin made clandestine visits to some Middle-East countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates etc. The US is very much concerned about the increasing mutual cooperation between Iran and Russia in military, defence sectors and in development of petroleum products.

BJP's unprecedented victory in Assembly elections in the eyes of Urdu newspapers



After the victory of BJP in state Assembly elections, there was a drastic change in the tone of majority of Urdu newspapers.

Avadhnama (December 4) had titled its main story as 'All exit poll predictions wrong.' 'Lotus blooms again in Hindi belt.' 'Congress hoists flag in Telangana.' 'BJP deals huge blow to Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.' 'Modi magic in Madhya Pradesh as well.' This apart, the newspaper has published a statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a box and its headline was 'BJP's victory in three states is a guarantee for hat-trick in 2024.'

Siasat (December 4), published from Hyderabad, had its headline as, 'South India BJP-free,' 'BJP wins in Uttar Bharat.' 'Congress loses in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.' 'Congress's success in Telangana.' This apart, it has published a news as a box item and its headline was, 'Results of this elections will not have any effect in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections: Claims opposition.'

Inquilab (December 4) had its headline, 'Clear majority for BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and

Chhattisgarh.' 'Congress returns in Telangana.' 'All exit poll claims fall flat.' 'Today's hat-trick has given guarantee for hat-trick in 2024: Prime Minister.' Whereas, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said his party will return to power in the three states with hard work and firm determination. The newspaper has also published a statement of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a box on the front page, and its headline was, 'The ideological war will continue.'

Roznama Sahara (December 4) had its headline 'Modi Magic once again.' 'Congress promises ineffective.' 'Telangana gives Congress a respite.' The newspaper has published a statement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a box and its headline was 'Only Modi ji in the minds of people.' Meanwhile, BJP's national president J P Nadda said the victory of BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh is an evidence of the fact that the people of the country have full faith in the leadership of Modi ji.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 6) had given the headline for its editorial as 'Election results in three states in North

India surprising and disappointing.’ The newspaper said that the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan had launched many welfare programmes, which had benefited the people as well. There was no major corruption allegation against the government as well, but despite all this, the shameful defeat of majority of the ministers is beyond comprehension. It is being said that



those who had won, they themselves were not hopeful of such a victory. Now let understand that welfare projects do not have much importance in the eyes of people. The surprising thing is that the Gehlot government had taken many steps for the appeasement of the religious sentiments of Hindus, which included the purchase of cow dung. A huge increase was also made in the budget for Gaushalas, but despite all this, the people had disposed of a clean government by awarding it a shameful defeat. The situation in Madhya Pradesh was not different from this. There was nothing to show for the Shivraj government which was formed through an unethical alliance but the results were just the opposite of expectations. The story of the third state of Chhattisgarh was also not different. The election results have strengthened the grip of aggressive nationalism not only in the Hindi belt, but in the entire country.

The newspaper said there is no strong basis to believe that this election results will not have any effect on the Lok Sabha elections. The newspaper, while mentioning about the tradition of Muslims voting for Congress, said that though Muslims are voting for the Congress, the Congress high command had always ignored the ground-level leaders of Muslims.

Taasir (December 11) had given the title of its editorial as, ‘Next time, cross 400.’ The newspaper said that after the landslide victory in the elections in three states, the BJP has formed a new election slogan and that is, ‘next time, cross 400’. The leaders of BJP are fully confident that

the way the Opposition INDIA alliance lost its face in the recently held Assembly elections, the party is likely to benefit from the same in the other Hindi-speaking states. There are 65 Lok Sabha seats in the three states where the BJP raised its flag of victory, out of which 61 seats are currently with the BJP. Hindi-speaking states—Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand—have 193 Lok Sabha seats. In these states, 170 seats are currently with the BJP. The challenge before BJP is that it not only has to maintain the seats in these states, but has to increase their number as well. However, it is unlikely for BJP to increase its number of seats in 11 states, but an analysis of the Assembly elections indicate that BJP may win more seats only in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Not only that, in order to win 400 seats, the party has to repeat its feat in the 2019 elections in Assam, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Till now, the BJP has contested in the electoral field by showing Narendra Modi’s face and due to it the party has got a clear majority both the times. However, despite the Modi wave, there are many such states where the BJP has been unable to open its account.

Urdu Times (December 4) had given the headline of its editorial as ‘People pressed the lotus button, Congress got the gallows’. The newspaper in its editorial has expressed surprise over the election results and supported the Congress allegation that the election results were in favour of BJP due to EVMs. The newspaper has argued that finally how is it

possible that the BJP has registered a unilateral victory in those states where all election analysts were claiming thin possibility for the BJP and a wave in favour of Congress? The newspaper has blamed Kamal Nath for the defeat of Congress in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party could not even open their accounts. Meanwhile, Asaduddin Owaisi's party, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen could win only seven seats in its fort in Telangana. The BJP high command had said in its election meetings to press the lotus button and hang the Congress. The people have done exactly that.

Hamara Samaj (December 5) in its editorial has described the victory of BJP in the Assembly elections as a success of the popularity of Modi and blamed the negative campaign of Congress party. One of the main faces of INDIA alliance, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, had commented about Congress that it had overlooked the INDIA alliance and did not give importance to Samajwadi Party and other parties in the Assembly elections. Had the Congress given five seats to Samajwadi Party in Madhya Pradesh, it would not have lost 10 – 12 seats. Even now, there is time for Congress to change its viewpoint after seeing the ground situation.

Etemaad (December 4) in its editorial said that these Assembly elections, which were held just a few months before the general elections, has made it clear the inclination of the public. This election results are a satisfaction for the BJP. Whereas, it is a concern for the Congress. The Congress had created the INDIA alliance in order to take on the BJP. In this elections, this alliance was nowhere visible because the Congress did not give importance to the parties of the alliance. The newspaper said that it is clear from the success of the Ittehadul Muslimeen in seven seats that the trust of the minorities is still on Asaduddin Owaisi.

Avadhnama (December 13) in its editorial has described the BJP's victory in

these elections as a victory for Modi. The newspaper expressed surprise that despite being wiped out in the Assembly elections, the Congress leaders instead of facing the ground truth, has started singing the old tune of tampering of EVM machines. The newspaper said that Prime Minister Modi has kept Congress on his target and the people have accepted it. Now the Congress is limited to just three states namely Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana and has totally disappeared from north India. The Modi government has to take special care to ensure that the people in the country, especially the minorities, feel safe in the BJP-ruled states.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 4) in its editorial has claimed that in these elections, the Congress was left wringing its hands while the BJP seized two states from them. The election was especially more important because it was described as a semi-final for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The political pundits were claiming that the party which win in these elections would get the success in the Lok Sabha elections. The newspaper has claimed that one main reason for BJP's victory is that it did some experiments in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The party's strategy to field Union Ministers and MPs in the elections proved to be a success. The party also made special efforts to resolve internal strife, but the Congress failed to contain factionalism and they had to pay for the same in the election results.

Hindustan Express (December 5) in its editorial has described the election results as shocking but expressed happiness that the Congress by capturing power in Telangana has foiled one more attempt by BJP to enter south India. This election results will definitely influence the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. It is clear from the manner in which Gehlot government had indiscriminately published advertisements in newspapers that it is not possible to get votes on the basis of the advertisements published in newspapers and neither it could help win the elections. For this, one must also have leadership



credentials. The infighting between Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot has drowned the Congress. The Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan remained drowned in their 'hangover.' Before the elections, the Congress had tried to cash in on the issue of caste census. The OBC game that the party played in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also failed. As far as the issue of Muslim MLAs was concerned, only 13 Muslim candidates got elected in these Assembly elections. Two Muslims managed to win in Madhya Pradesh, five in Rajasthan and six managed to win in Telangana elections.

Avadhnama (December 10) in its editorial has described the victory of BJP in these elections as a magic by Modi and said that it is true that Rahul Gandhi has fallen behind Narendra Modi in influencing the voters of north India. This apart, all the predictions of exit polls also fell flat.

Siasat (December 8) in its editorial said the huge victory of BJP in the Assembly elections in three out of the five states has boosted the morale of the party activists. For Congress, the election results are a disappointment. However, if one does an analysis, one will not find too much differences between the BJP and Congress in terms of votes. However, this victory of BJP is a huge victory and in election results, what matters is the number of seats won rather than the votes. After the defeat of BJP in Karnataka and after the formation

of the INDIA alliance, the morale of the BJP activists that had gone down has got a new vigour and its effect will be seen in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 13) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the BJP to keep Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vasundhara Raje out of power and said that Prime Minister Modi, by handing over the command of Madhya Pradesh to Mohan Yadav and that of Rajasthan to Bhajanlal Sharma, has given this message that now the era of Vasundhara Raje has ended in Rajasthan while that of Shivraj Singh Chouhan ended in Madhya Pradesh. Vasundhara was the chief minister of Rajasthan two times and Shivraj Singh Chouhan had adorned the chair of Madhya Pradesh chief minister four times. The Centre did not like the two becoming powerful and after using them in the elections, they were thrown out like the flies that fell in to the milk. It looks like the Gujarat lobby wants their pawns to be brought to power in the entire country. The newspaper expressed doubt that now the same game could be played with the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath.

Roznama Sahara (December 4) in its editorial said that from a broader point of view, along with Congress, regional parties also suffered huge setback in these elections. The results in Rajasthan were in tune with its tradition, because a new party is brought to power after every five years. The newspaper has expressed surprise at



the results in Chhattisgarh where Bhupesh Baghel had to go out of power unexpectedly and the BJP registered victory. Due to the complacency and over confidence of Congress, it suffered a shameful defeat in the three states. Whereas the BJP took full benefit of the internal fissures in Congress and ran the election campaign in an effective manner. However, it would be totally wrong if one refuses to give the credit for the success of BJP in these states to the image of Narendra Modi. The latest results would be damaging for the Congress while it would be a boost to the BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Seeing the election results, the Opposition need to think about adopting a new strategy.

Inquilab (December 5) in its editorial said that the Congress needs to do a rethink in its election strategy and need to think why finally it is losing elections after

so many victories and why the BJP is winning after so many failures. In the states where the elections were held, the situation of Congress was said to be strong, but the party managed to win in only one state. Who doesn't know that there are many senior and experienced leaders in Congress, but they were unable to show any charisma. However, it is true that the Congress had no financial resources as it remained out of power for 10 years but one also has to admit that one main reason for the defeat of Congress is its lack of strong organisational structure. Following the defeat in the elections, now the domination of Congress in INDIA alliance too has ended.

Avadhnama (December 4) states that it has become clear from the results of Assembly elections that the INDIA alliance formed by the Congress to take on the BJP has failed in its first test. The truth is that the INDIA alliance remained the victim of internal strife in the state Assembly elections and its leaders were raising allegations against each other. In order to face the Modi wave, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had launched the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It was assumed that the Congress is likely to get strengthened due to it, but the elections results have proved that due to the Modi magic, his efforts totally failed.

108 madrasas in UP get Rs 150 crore foreign funds

Mumbai Urdu News (December 8) reports that the SIT constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to conduct an inquiry into madrasas has stated in its report that 108 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh received Rs 150 crore as foreign funds in the past two years. As per the report of *Prabhat Khabar*, it has also come to the fore during investigations that the madrasas have been getting money from Gulf countries. Now the investigation team is giving special attention to probe the matter in detail. As

per the investigation report, the madrasas which have been receiving foreign funding are located in many other districts including Bahraich, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Moradabad, Rampur, Aligarh, Deoband and Azamgarh. Now the Uttar Pradesh ATS has sought a detailed information from the managers of these madrasas to find out how they got this money and through which organisation, medium and account and also how the madrasa managers spent the money? In this



connection, receipts and bills have been sought so that the investigation agency could find out the purpose with which such a huge amount had been sent from abroad.

It is to be noted that the Uttar Pradesh government had formed an investigation team headed by the Additional Director General of ATS, Mohit Agarwal, in October and the investigation team has been probing the 84,000 madrasas in the state. Out of them, only 16,500 have the recognition from Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. Mohit Agarwal told reporters that the state government has not set any time limit to complete the investigation. The investigation team has also collected information on the madrasas which had received recognition from the madrasa board. Intelligence sources claim that there is a huge increase in the number of madrasas located in regions of Uttar Pradesh bordering foreign countries.

Roznama Sahara (December 7) states that the Uttar Pradesh government has started the work to inquire into the madrasas which have received recognition. The government had decided to conduct an inquiry into 4,394 madrasas. It will start with 560 madrasas which are getting government aid. The minorities department has constituted a committee for the investigation. The government has directed the officials of minorities welfare and divisional deputy directors that they submit

their inquiry report to the registrar of the madrasa board by December 30. This investigation will be regarding the information on the documents submitted for recognition of madrasas, their current situation, the number of employees appointed in madrasas, their teaching eligibility and about the syllabus. Expressing displeasure over this decision of the state government, chairman of madrasa education board, Iftikhar Ahmed Jawed said that frequent investigations into madrasas will hamper their educational activities. As per government report, currently more than 25,000 recognised and unrecognised madrasas are functioning in Uttar Pradesh. Among them, 560 madrasas get grant from the state government. The managers of madrasas allege that ever since Yogi government came to power, it is conducting investigations into madrasas on one pretext or another and every year a new order is being issued in this connection.

Inquilab (December 9) states that the registrar of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board has expressed concern over less number of candidates filling forms to apply for the examination conducted by the board and directed the officials of minorities department to submit a special report on those madrasas which have few students. On the basis of this report, the government grants to the madrasas could be stopped and their

recognition could also be cancelled. After an examination of the records of the previous years, it has come to light that for secondary examinations like Munshi and Maulavi exams, apart from madrasas which receive grant from the government, madrasas which have got the recognition are also not getting forms filled by examinees, which is a mandatory provision to get recognition for madrasas. Board registrar Dr Priyanka Awasthi said that for

the Arabic and Persian madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, it is an essential condition that there should be at least 150 students in them to get recognition till Maulvi and Munshi level. Out of them, the number of students who take the exam for Munshi and Maulvi should not be less than 30. She said that it is assumed that the madrasas concerned are either not functioning or the number of students there is less than the minimum prescribed.

ISIS conspiracy to attack Bharat



Urdu Times (December 10) reports that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has unravelled a conspiracy by Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS to carry out attacks throughout the country. Raids were conducted in 44 places in Karnataka and Maharashtra in search of the accused involved in this conspiracy. The raids were conducted in one place in Karnataka, two places in Pune, 31 places in Thane Rural, 9 in Thane city and in one place in Bhayandar. So far, the NIA has taken into custody 13 people belonging to the terrorist organisation. The investigation agency has claimed that the accused had planned to spread terror and violence in the country. Earlier, the NIA raided a place in Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir and arrested many people. This apart, raids were conducted in districts like Baramulla,

Ganderbal, Kupwara and Pulwama in Kashmir Valley. The investigation agency claims that the gang has been printing fake currencies in large number at the behest of foreigners. The NIA seized hidden fake currencies, paper used for printing notes and digital machinery during the raid. The network of this gang has been found spread across the border.

Inquilab (December 10) states that the NIA also raided Bhiwandi, Padgha, Mira Road, Pune and Bengaluru and arrested 15 other Muslim youths. It is being said that the chief of this module is Sakib Nachan who belongs to Maharashtra. NIA claimed that this terrorist module has connections in different parts of the country. Majority of the raids were conducted in Muslim majority areas. The Muslim youths who have been caught for

being terrorists include Sakib Nachan, Hasib Mulla, Musab Mulla, Rehan Suse, Farhan Suse, Firoz Kuwari, Adil Khot, Mukhlis Nachan, Saif Adiq Nachan, Yahya Khot, Rafil Nachan, Razil Nachan, Shagaf Divkar, Kashif Balere and Munzir K P. All of them were taken to the NIA headquarters in Delhi for investigation.

Inquilab (December 12) states that the Uttar Pradesh ATS has arrested Amrit Gill, Riyazuddin and Izaharul Haq on charges of spying for Pakistan and produced them in court. The court handed

them over to police on remand for one week for their interrogation. It is being said that Amrit Gill has been staying in Bhatinda in the fake name of Amritpal Singh. Meanwhile, Riyazuddin was arrested from Ghaziabad. As per the report of the investigation agency, it has been confirmed that he had received huge amount of money from foreign sources. The accounts from which Riyazuddin was sent money, these were linked to ISIS. Izaharul Haq was arrested from Champaran district in Bihar.

Decision to change the name of Firozabad district in Uttar Pradesh

Inquilab (December 12) reports that the name of Firozabad, known as the city of bangles, is being changed. After Zilla Panchayat, now the Nagar Nigam has also passed a resolution seeking to change the name Firozabad to Chandranagar. Out of the 12 members of Nagar Nigam's executive, 11 have extended support to it. Now the proposal has been sent to the state government for final approval. After getting the approval from Yogi government, the name will be changed. In the meeting, Neeraj Patel has moved the resolution to change the name, which has been accepted without any debate. Councillor of Samajwadi Party, Mohammad Rehan, while opposing the change of name, said that it should be found out first whether Firozabad's name was ever Chandranagar. The Firozabad city was established by the general of Akbar, Firoz Shah, and his maqbara is also located there.

It is to be noted that in the first meeting of Zilla Panchayat in July 2021, a proposal to change the name Firozabad to Chandranagar was moved in the presence of state Minister for Tourism and Culture, Jaiveer Singh, which was unanimously approved by the Zilla Panchayat. Now, the Nagar Nigam has also given its nod.

Comment: Since Independence till now, the names of more than 100 cities in

the country have been changed. After Independence, the name of United Province of Agra and Awadh had been changed to Uttar Pradesh. On November 9, 2000, a new state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and it had been named as Uttaranchal. Later this name was changed to Uttarakhand. In 1996, the name Madras was changed to Chennai. In 1995, the name Bombay was changed to Mumbai and the name of West Bengal capital Calcutta was changed to Kolkata. Similarly, the name Bangalore was changed to Bengaluru. The name Poona was changed to Pune. Similarly, the names of several districts and places in Maharashtra had been changed. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, there the names of more than a dozen cities have been changed. They include the name Faizabad, which has been changed as Ayodhya and Allahabad, which has been changed to Prayagraj. Similarly, the name Mughalsarai has been changed to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

The campaign to change the names was started by Samajwadi leader Ram Manohar Lohia. Due to his agitation, several roads in Delhi which were named after British rulers, were changed. This apart, during the massive protest by the activists of Samyukta Socialist Party, more than four dozen statues of foreign rulers situated in different parts of the capital

were damaged. Following this, the administration decided to remove the statues of these foreign rulers from public places. The interesting thing is that Lohia did not run a campaign to change the name of any road kept in the name of a Mughal or a Muslim ruler of foreign origin. Later Jan Sangh leaders had launched a campaign

to change the names of roads named after all rulers of foreign origin. Later the municipal corporation and New Delhi Municipal Corporation decided to change the names of several roads kept in the name of foreign rulers. Recently, a proposal has been moved to change the name of Aligarh to Harigarh.

BJP MLAs in Telangana refuse to take oath from Akbaruddin Owaisi

Aurangabad Times (December 10) reports that the newly elected eight MLAs of BJP in Telangana boycotted the Assembly on the first day itself in protest against the appointment of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi as pro-tem Speaker. The decision to boycott the Assembly was taken on the directions of Telangana state president of BJP, G Kishan Reddy. Kishan Reddy said the Congress government in the state made Akbaruddin Owaisi as the pro-tem Speaker on the basis of a secret agreement it had reached with All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen. This is because the Congress has only a slight majority in the Assembly and its government could fall any time and hence they reached this secret agreement with Owaisi's party. Reddy claimed that Owaisi is not the senior-most MLA. The BJP has also filed a complaint with state Governor TAMILISAI Soundararajan over the appointment of Owaisi as pro-tem Speaker. Earlier, Telangana Governor Dr Soundararajan had administered the oath to Akbaruddin Owaisi as pro-tem Speaker at a function in Raj Bhawan. Owaisi took the oath in the name of Allah. Akbaruddin Owaisi has won for sixth time as MLA from Chandrayangutta Assembly seat. In this function, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, former Speaker of Telangana Assembly P Srinivas Reddy and others were present.

BJP MLA from Goshamahall, T Raja Singh, had refused to take oath from Akbaruddin Owaisi in the beginning itself.



Last time also he had refused to take oath from AIMIM MLA Mumtaz Ahmad Khan. Raja Singh had said that as long as he is alive, he will not take oath from any MLA of AIMIM for the position of legislator. Raja Singh said he will not take oath before a person who makes anti-Hindu comments most of the time. He said he will approach the Governor against the appointment and will register his protest with her. Describing Congress as a coward, Raja Singh said the new chief minister Revanth Reddy is afraid of AIMIM just like his predecessor K Chandrashekhara Rao and hence he had given permission to make him the pro-tem Speaker. Whereas, as per tradition, the senior-most legislator is appointed as the pro-tem Speaker, who is not Akbaruddin Owaisi. He said the newly elected BJP MLAs will take their oath of office and secrecy when a permanent chairperson is elected in the Assembly. Later when Gaddham Prasad Kumar was elected as the permanent chairperson of the Assembly, the newly elected BJP MLAs took their oath of office and secrecy.

Denmark passes law banning insult to Quran



Avadhnama (December 9) reports that the Denmark Parliament has passed a law declaring insult to other religious texts including Quran as an offence. Those who violate this law could be awarded punishment up to two years in jail. According to foreign news agency AFP, extremists have been insulting Quran and other religious books for the past several years in Denmark. Muslim countries across the world got united and protested against the insult to Quran in Denmark. This apart, many Muslim nations have also snapped diplomatic ties with Denmark. Nearly 94 parliamentarians out of the 179-member Denmark parliament have extended support to the law. Whereas 77 have opposed the law.

The justice minister of Denmark said we were worried about the security of the people of Denmark and hence it was necessary to stop the incidents where a few groups insulted religious texts. Now, public burning of religious texts, their pages or material related to them or insulting them will be illegal. He said that penalty will be imposed on those who have been found guilty of insulting religious texts and they will get a jail

term of two years. It is to be noted that in July this year, thousands of fundamentalist Muslims had tried to attack the Denmark embassy in Baghdad. Following this, the security set-up in Denmark embassies located in Islamic nations was strengthened. As per the data of Denmark police, between July 21 and October 24 this year, 483 incidents related to burning or insulting religious texts and flags were registered in Denmark. Following this, the Denmark government had announced to bring a law in the parliament in this connection, but it was questioned in the courts and it was considered as a violation of the freedom of expression.

It is to be noted that earlier in 2017 also the Denmark government had tried to pass a law in this connection but it did not work out due to the intervention of the courts. Later, the government had tried to create public awareness against such incidents in which they succeeded which was clear from the data on the voting that took place in parliament. According to knowledgeable sources, another nation, Sweden, is also trying to create a law against burning of Quran.

United Nations helpless on the failure of ceasefire efforts in Gaza



Inquilab (December 18) states that UN Secretary General António Guterres has accepted that due to the differences between member nations in the United Nations, the efforts made by the UN to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza have failed.

Urdu Times (December 14) states that the UN General Assembly had passed a resolution for ceasefire in Gaza on humanitarian basis. Out of 193 member-nations, 153 countries including Bharat voted in favour of it. Whereas some other countries including the US and Israel voted against it while 23 countries did not take part in the voting. The countries that voted against the resolution proposing a ceasefire included Czech Republic, Austria, Guatemala, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Liberia, Micronesia etc, other than the US and Israel. Whereas 23 nations including Argentina and Ukraine did not take part in the voting. Hamas had supported the resolution for ceasefire and had urged countries across the world that they put pressure on Israel and force them for the ceasefire. In this resolution, a demand has also been made to release all hostages and it urged all sides that they, while taking care of their international responsibilities, ensure security to the common public and provide aid to Gaza on humanitarian basis.

According to the newspaper, this was a technical resolution, because unlike the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly has no constitutional basis to implement its resolution. There is also no legal responsibility on Israel to abide by this resolution.

Urdu Times (December 10) states that the US has once again vetoed the resolution moved in the United Nations Security Council seeking a ceasefire in Gaza. Out of the total 15 nations, 13 voted in favour of the resolution moved in the Security Council by United Arab Emirates. While the Britain did not take part in the voting, the US used its special veto power and stopped the resolution. It is to be noted that the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have this right where they can use their special veto power and stop any resolution from being adopted in the Security Council. In the United Nations, the Deputy Representative of the United States, Robert Wood, said that the draft of the resolution was unbalanced and it was not in tune with ground reality. There can be no solution to the problem by passing such resolutions. The US wants a permanent solution to this issue so that Israel and Palestine can live peacefully with each other. He said we

cannot support this resolution because it demands a permanent ceasefire and this could sow the seeds of a new war. Seeking an amendment in the resolution, the US representative said that in order to make it work, it would have been better had the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 been condemned, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were killed and 240 people were taken as hostages. It is to be noted that earlier in October this year, the US had vetoed the resolution moved by Brazil for a ceasefire.

Siasat (December 8) reports that the Palestine's foreign minister, while appreciating the efforts for peace by the Secretary General of United Nations António Guterres under Article 99 of the UN, said that the United Nations Security Council should condemn the political terrorism of Israel. It is to be noted that the Secretary General of United Nations had formally demanded the 15-member Security Council that it use its power to stop the destruction and catastrophe in Gaza Strip. He had written this letter in the context of Article 99 of the UN. For the first time during his tenure since 2017, the

current Secretary General has resorted to Article 99 of United Nations Charter. This Article allows any representative in the United Nations to send any matter to the Security Council if he feels any threat to international peace and security and adopt a resolution against the same.

Inquilab (December 19) reports that several members of United Nations Security Council have expressed strong reservations on the veto used by the United States regarding the ceasefire in Gaza. Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas described this action of the US as a support to the war intentions of Israel. Whereas Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described it as an unjustifiable stand of the United States and demanded that the veto power being exercised by permanent members shall be reviewed. China has described it as the dual policy of the United States, while Russia has described it as an inhuman step. Whereas Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that this stand of the United States depended on its understanding, because the intentions for ceasefire and establishment of peace have been dashed. ■

Spike in terrorist attacks in Pakistan



Urdu Times (December 13) states that 23 Pakistani soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack on a major military base of Pakistan in Darband. The public information wing of Pakistan Army has confirmed the attack and said the security forces had foiled the efforts by terrorists to attack the military base. Later, the terrorists rammed an explosives-laden truck at the base, resulting

in a series of blasts in the area and many people were killed. According to the defence wing, the Pakistani Army killed all the six terrorists. Whereas, 23 Pakistani soldiers also died in this attack. As per another press release by Pakistani Army, 27 terrorists were killed in various military operations in Dera Ismail Khan.

As per the information provided by Pakistan's intelligence wing, a military operation was conducted at the bases of terrorists and many such bases were destroyed at Darazinda region in which 17 terrorists were killed. Similarly, a clash took place between the Army and terrorists in Kulachi in which two Pakistani officers were killed. A huge cache of arms and ammunition and explosives were seized from the bases of the terrorists. The

Pakistani Army claimed that a nationwide drive is on against the terrorists.

Aurangabad Times (December 13) states that the number of Pakistani soldiers who were killed have been stated to be more than 25.

Urdu Times (December 4) states that at least nine people were killed and 25 injured when a group of terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a passenger bus in Chilas town in the Pakistani province of Gilgit-Baltistan. Deputy Commissioner of Gilgit, Arif Ahmad, has confirmed the development. He said that the bodies of five victims have been identified, but the rest are yet to be identified. At least four personnel of Pakistani Army were killed and many were injured.

Hamara Samaj (December 4) states that there had been a huge increase in terrorist incidents in Pakistan in the past few months. The terrorists have been selectively targeting police and the Army. Last month, 83 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan in which at least 37 Pakistani soldiers were killed. The interesting thing is that small terrorist groups including Lashkar-e-Khurasan, Tehreek-e-Jihad and a new terrorist organisation whose leader is Hafiz Gulbahadur, were said to be behind

these attacks instead of banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. This new organisation had attacked the bases of Pakistani Army in Bannu on November 26, 2023 in which at least seven Pakistani soldiers and officers were killed. It is being said that the attackers belonged to Afghanistan.

Urdu Times (December 8), quoting Pakistani newspaper *Express News* said that the terrorists were using Afghanistan's soil to play Holi with blood in Pakistan. They were said to include Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Al-Qaida, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, Jundallah, IMU and the Balochi rebels. The Pakistani government has alleged that despite being urged several times, the Afghanistan government has not made any effort to stop the terrorist attacks against Pakistan. These terrorists were using the modern weapons left behind in Afghanistan by the US soldiers. In the past two years, the terrorists who were killed in Pakistan belonged to Afghanistan. According to official sources, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan took part in 49 attacks in Pakistan in 2020, 198 attacks in 2021 and 237 attacks in 2022. This year, this terrorist organisation carried out 137 attacks in which 389 Pakistanis were killed.

Bangladesh Opposition parties boycott elections



Inquilab (December 7) reports that after Jamaat-e-Islami and other opposition parties, the biggest opposition party, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, has also announced a boycott of the general elections to be held in the country. A

spokesperson of the party told correspondents during a meeting that they will not take part in any elections with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hence they are boycotting the elections. The spokesperson said that Sheikh Hasina got victory in the past two elections by committing fraud and since October till now more than 18,000 of its leaders and supporters have been arrested. It is to be noted that Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties had announced boycott of the elections earlier itself which were to be held next month on January 7.

Inquilab (December 9) states that Bangladesh's main opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party has claimed

that its five prominent leaders, who were lodged in jails, were murdered in the past two weeks at the behest of Sheikh Hasina. Nationwide protests were held against this murder. In the past five weeks, more than 20,000 leaders and activists of the party were arrested in administrative action. Similarly, the government has rejected the claim of the opposition, but it has not said how many leaders of opposition parties

have been taken into custody by the police. In connection with the nation-wide bandhs, so far more than a dozen police officers and two dozen citizens have been killed and more than 300 vehicles have been set on fire during the protests. The other opposition party Jamaat-e-Islami said that in the past two weeks, its 20 supporters have been killed at the behest of the government.

Govt grants to France's biggest Islamic school stopped



Roznama Sahara (December 12) reports that the French government has decided to stop the government grant to the biggest Islamic school in the country, because the syllabus of this school is not in accordance with the culture of France and it promotes extremist sentiments. According to French news agency 'AFP,' this school was established in northern French city of Lily nearly 20 years ago and it is considered as the biggest Islamic school in France. The French government took this decision after the recommendation of a high-level investigation commission which had revisited the non-governmental aid received from other sources and the syllabus being taught. According to the French newspaper, the inquiry commission has considered the aid received

from non-governmental sources and the Islamic education in the syllabus as against the democratic and secular tradition of France and said that only Islam is taught in the syllabus. Whereas other religions have been completely ignored which is not in tune with the culture of France. The school managers have decided to appeal in court against this decision. Nearly 800 children study in this school. In the past few years, this school received huge financial aid from different Islamic nations. Following this, the school landed in controversies. The inquiry commission also got evidence that the syllabus of the school advocates the killing of those who insult Islam, Quran and the Prophet and separatism is also taught in the school.

Efforts by Russia to increase its influence in Arab world



After US and China, now Russia has also started making serious efforts to increase its influence in the Arab world.

Etemaad (December 8) states that Russian President Vladimir Putin made a surprise visit to United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia recently. This was the third country that the Russian President visited after the start of Ukraine war. Earlier he had visited Iran and China as well. His aim was to increase the influence of Russia in the Middle-East. According to Russia's official media, Russian President's visit to Arab countries was about international politics, Israel-Hamas war and oil business. Russia has stressed on the importance of holding talks with Saudi Arabia to ensure peace in Middle-East and northern Africa. The interesting thing is that the American lobby has been trying to drag Russia to International Court of Justice on the issue of Russian attack on Ukraine, and that is why the Russian President did not take part in the BRICS Summit held in South Africa and the G-20 conference held in New Delhi in September. The United Arab Emirates is an important trade partner of Russia in the Arab world. According to official sources in Russia, the trade between the two countries has reached nine billion dollars.

Talks are also on between the two countries on starting various projects related to cooperation in oil and gas sector.

The last visit of Russian President to the region was in July 2022. That time he had also held talks with the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Recently, he held talks with Iran President Ebrahim Raisi in Moscow. The visit of the Russian President is taking place at a time when the prices of crude oil have fallen despite a decision taken by oil exporting countries and OPEC countries to reduce the production of oil. It is to be noted that the member nations of OPEC produce nearly 40% of the oil in the world. The US effort was to isolate Russia in the world, which has failed. Russia, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are members of OPEC. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, despite having close relationship with the US, are not ready to accept the US pressure to isolate Russia. Meanwhile, the new era of relationship started between Iran and Saudi Arabia due to the efforts of China is a sign of the decline of the US influence in the international arena.

Urdu Times (December 13) states that the Russian external affairs ministry has given the indication that a new

agreement is being rapidly worked on. Russia has refused to provide more information regarding this agreement. The US is facing trouble as Moscow and Tehran has started a new diplomatic, commercial and military relationship. The Russian external affairs ministry has surely indicated that the foreign ministries of Russia and Iran have agreed to take concrete steps to sign the agreements. In this connection, the Russian President held talks with Iran President Ebrahim Raisi for five hours. The enmity between Iran and the US is well known and Iran could cooperate with Russia in its war with Ukraine.



Recently, Russia has widely used Iranian drones. The White House has refused to comment on whether Iran and Russia are mutually cooperating in the manufacture of ballistic missiles. Iran is the biggest supporter of Israel's arch enemy Hamas. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held talks with Russian President and expressed displeasure over Russia's growing dangerous cooperation with Iran. According to Iranian media, Iran's military cooperation with Russia is growing day by day.

Urdu Times (December 8) states that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman and Russian President Vladimir Putin have stressed that a permanent solution to the Palestine dispute could be found only when Palestine

is accepted as a separate nation. No other way is visible other than this for permanent peace. In the joint declaration issued by the two leaders, it is being stated that Saudi Arabia and Russia have agreed to intensify their efforts to maintain peace at international level and expressed deep concern about the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. This apart, stress has been laid on immediately stopping Israel's military action in Palestinian region. As per the joint statement, the door for a permanent peace could be possible through the establishment of a Palestinian state on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and by declaring Eastern Jerusalem as its capital. Both the countries have appealed to the world that they step up their efforts to establish an independent and autonomous Palestinian state and put pressure on Israel to stop their aggressive actions against Palestinians. Both the countries expressed concern that Israel rejected the United Nations resolution for a permanent ceasefire.

Attack on the US military bases in Syria and Iraq



Urdu Times (December 10) states that two militia organisations supported by Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah, had launched a

massive attack on the US military bases located in Syria and Iraq. As per reports, in the past one week, the two organisations targeted the US bases with missiles and rockets at least 50 times. In retaliation, the US planes attacked the bases of Hamas and Hezbollah located in Syria and Iraq at least 40 times and inflicted damages.

Hamara Samaj (December 14) reports that Iraq Prime Minister Mohamad Shia Al Sudani has warned the US that it will not accept any attack on its soil by the

US. In this connection, he specifically held talks with the US Secretary of State and said that due to this, the war between Hamas and Israel could spread to other countries in the Middle-East. It is to be noted that in the beginning of this month, the US fighter planes had attacked the bases of Iran-supported Hezbollah in Iraq's territory and killed many of their fighters. According to Pentagon, since these militia organisations supported by Iran had attacked the US bases and hence the US had to take military action as retaliation. The US has claimed that in the past two months, these Iran-supported organisations had targeted the US bases located in Iraq and Syria 34 times. The US military

aircraft had targeted the bases of Iran-supported militia organisation Popular Mobilisation Forces. It is being said that this organisation is linked to Hezbollah, which is active in Iraq. The US claims that 2,500 US soldiers are currently in Iraq in order to cooperate with Iraq military in its action against ISIS. The US has urged Iraq that steps shall be taken for the protection of the US soldiers present in Iraq and immediate action shall be taken to stop the attack by Iran-supporters. In Syria also, more than 900 US soldiers are present in US military bases to conduct operations against Kurd rebels and Iran-supported militia organisations. There is a possibility of increasing their number further. ■

Hunger strike in jail by Nobel peace prize winner Narges Mohammadi



Mumbai Urdu News (December 11) reports that Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi, who has been opposing the forceful implementation of hijab and the courts who have been awarding death sentence to innocents in Iran, has started an indefinite hunger strike in Tehran jail. Mohammadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo last year. The award was given to her in recognition of her fight for the rights of

women in Iran and for the protection of human rights. In a press conference organised at Norway's capital Oslo, Narges Mohammadi's brother Hamid Raza Mohammadi and her husband Taghi Rahmani said that Narges Mohammadi had started the hunger strike in jail in protest against the atrocities being unleashed on minority Baha'ai community in Iran. He alleged that hundreds of leaders of Baha'ai

community are lodged in jails in an illegal manner and they have made them their targets of torture. Baha'ai sect is the largest religious minority group in Iran. The fundamentalist Shias want to forcefully end their separate religious identity and faith and want to make them a part of Shia community. In Iran, the Baha'ai sect has been deprived of their rights and they are being sent to gallows on fake charges.

Similarly, 51-year-old Narges Mohammadi is a lawyer from Pesho. In September last year, the Iranian government sent Narges Mohammadi to

jail over her public support to the nationwide protest that started following the death of Mehsa Amini in police custody in Tehran. In the past also, the Iran government had arrested Mohammadi 13 times and she had been given awarded 31 years in jail. This apart, the Islamic court had ordered to punish her with 154 lashes. The Iranian courts had awarded her punishment five times. Last time the Iranian court awarded her punishment two years ago, and ever since she has been lodged in jail. Her children and husband are leading a life of exile in France.

Saudi Arabia announces to make Umrah easier for Indians



Inquilab (December 6) states that Saudi Arabia's Minister Taufiq bin Fauzan, who has arrived on a visit to Bharat, said the Saudi government had announced that the Umrah process for Indians had been made simpler. Now, Indian citizens will get their Umrah visa within two days. Due to the modern technology adopted by Saudi Arabia, getting visa for Umrah and other governmental purposes have become easy. He said that this year, the number of people from India who visited Saudi Arabia for Umrah is more than 12 lakh, which, compared to last year, is 27 per cent more. He said that in order to make Umrah easier for Indians, the Saudi government has

proposed to run a cheap airline service between the two countries. In this connection, he held talks with India's Minister for Minority Welfare Smriti Iran and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs V Muraleedharan. Saudi Arabia has also decided to open three new visa centres in Bharat.

Indians travelling to Western countries can obtain a stopover visa for 96 hours in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi minister said that Saudi Arabia is trying to ensure that Indians get more and more opportunities for Haj yatra and they are provided with better facilities. The Indian government is trying to ensure that women

and handicapped hajjis get special facilities for the Haj yatra. The India government has also announced a new Haj policy for 2024 and has invited applications from those interested in going for Haj. The Saudi minister said that due to the efforts of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new relationship has begun between Bharat and Saudi Arabia.

Roznama Sahara (December 7) states that the Saudi government has opened the doors of all cities and historical places for elderly persons. Till now, those

going for Umrah did not have permission to visit any other place except Mecca and Medina, but as per the new tourism policy of Saudi Arabia, they can travel to any place in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government has also announced special facilities to private tour operators as well, so that they could give facilities to those Indians interested in doing Haj and Umrah under the special programme. Direct flight services from India to Medina are also being started and the number of planes are also being increased.

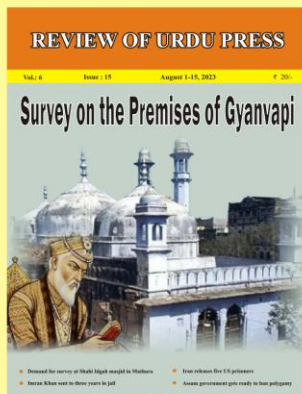
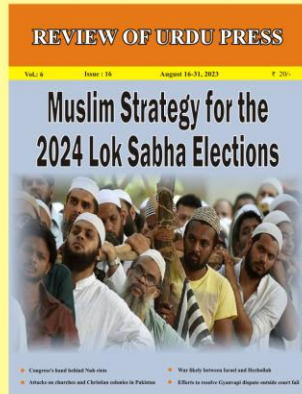
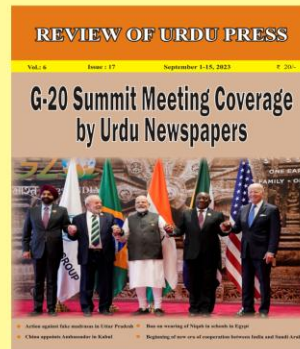
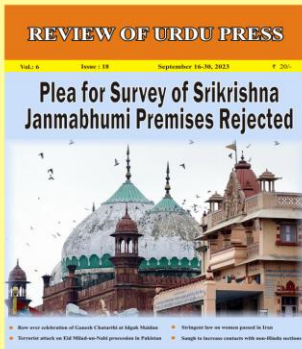
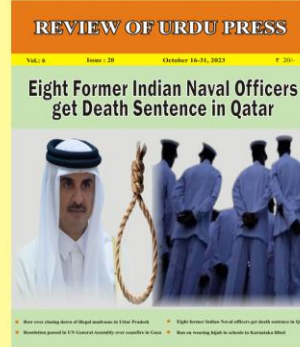
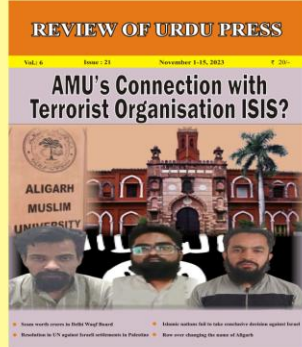
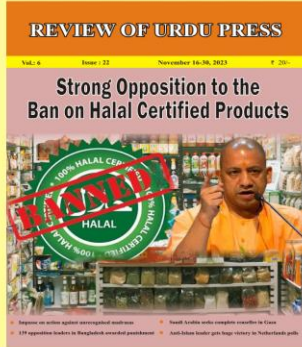
Companies which invest in Saudi Arabia get tax exemption for 30 years



Roznama Sahara (December 8) reports that Saudi government has announced that the international companies that establish its regional offices in capital Riyadh will be given tax exemption continuously for 30 years. Under the tax relief package, the rate of composite and withholding tax has been made zero for these companies. This apart, the international companies that provide employment and job to Saudi citizens will be provided with the facilities of unlimited work visa in return. The families of the officials of such companies will also be given the facility of work permit.

It is to be noted that in February 2021, Saudi Arabia has invited international companies to invest in Saudi

Arabia so that Saudi citizens could get more employment opportunities and the country will develop economically. The aim of the Saudi government is to ensure that due to the new policy of promoting foreign investments, Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh shall develop as an important business centre among the Middle-East and North African nations. Due to this policy, more than 200 foreign companies were given many facilities to set up their regional offices in the capital. The Saudi government is hopeful that due to these facilities, the international companies will take more interest in investing in Saudi Arabia and there would be more job opportunities for Saudi citizens.



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