

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

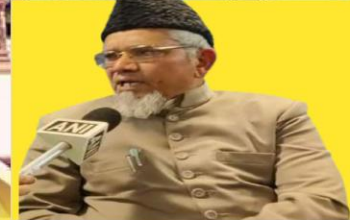
Vol.: 7

Issue : 1

January 1-15, 2024

₹ 20/-

Protests in Urdu Media Against Inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya



- Two accused get death sentence in Shramjeevi Express blast
- Over 200 people killed in terrorist attack in Iran
- Three Maldives ministers suspended for comments against PM Modi
- Ban on Pakistan-supported Tehreek-e-Hurriyat

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

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Summary

A section of Indian Muslims and leaders of some so-called secular parties have been opposing the inaugural ceremony of the Ram Mandir built in Ayodhya. In this connection, Urdu newspapers have published editorials targeting the Central government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP apart from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. These Urdu newspapers have been highlighting news against inauguration of Ram Mandir and presenting them to their readers. Even Muslim leaders are also not shying away from scaring Muslims in the name of Ram Mandir. They said that Muslims should stay at their home during the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir and do not step out, otherwise there could be damages to their life and property.

As per an agreement reached between Saudi Arabia and the Indian government, 1.75 lakh Indian Muslims will visit Saudi Arabia this year to take part in Haj. In this connection, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani, along with a high-level delegation of External Affairs Ministry and Central Haj Committee, took part in the World Haj and Umrah Conference held in Saudi Arabia. From this, one could get a clear indication that after Narendra Modi came to power, India's friendly relations with Saudi Arabia got further strengthened. Smriti Irani also visited many holy places located in Medina city in Saudi Arabia. This apart, she took a detailed look at the arrangements made by the Saudi government for Haj pilgrims from India.

Posting insulting comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media proved costly for three ministers in Maldives. Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu suspended the three ministers from the cabinet. It is to be noted that Prime Minister Modi had shared a few photos and video of his visit to Lakshadweep on social media. This apart, he had urged the tourists in India to include Lakshadweep as an itinerary on their tourism list. On this, the three deputy ministers of Maldives, while making insulting remarks against Prime Minister Modi, alleged that the Indian government is trying to present Lakshadweep as an alternative tourist spot to Maldives. It cannot be denied that the current President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu's relations with China is growing in strength. Recently, Muizzu visited China and also announced signing of 20 agreements between the governments of two countries. As per latest reports, China is preparing to make massive investments in Maldives. From this it is clear that after Sri Lanka, China has now started making efforts to trap Maldives into its debt trap.

Sheikh Hasina has become the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the fifth time. Two prominent opposition parties of Bangladesh namely Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami boycotted these elections. Despite this, 28 small parties and more than 450 independent candidates took part in the elections. However, foreign media said the general elections in Bangladesh was not held in a free and fair atmosphere. They described the election as a one-sided affair.

The fraudulent claims about unity and brotherhood in Islam has now started getting exposed. Two prominent sects of Islam, Shia and Sunni, are now playing Holi with the blood of each other. Iran is a Shia-majority nation. Recently, in a twin bomb blasts that took place in Kerman city in Iran, more than 200 people were killed and over 300 injured. Notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS has taken responsibility for the blasts. This Sunni organisation is playing Holi with the blood of Shias in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria as well. Recently, Turkiye started taking stringent action against those belonging to this bloody organisation and had claimed taking into custody hundreds of suspicious people. ■

Protests in Urdu media against inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

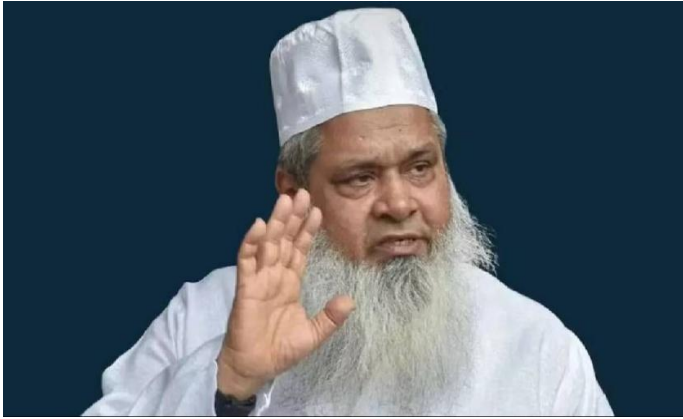


The moment discussions about the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya began, majority of fundamentalist Muslim leaders and the Urdu newspapers being run by them started strongly opposing it. In this connection, a well-planned campaign was being unleashed in the country in which news related to protests against the inauguration were exaggerated before people.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 14) reports that the chairman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said in a statement that the inauguration of Mandir at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a murder of justice and secularism. The construction work of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is a sheer cruelty on Muslims. The Supreme Court had accepted that there was no concrete evidence to prove that a mandir was destroyed to construct the masjid. Along with this, there is also no evidence to prove that Bhagwan Ram was born in this specific place. The court has

given this decision on the basis of the belief of a section of the majority community after ignoring the law and justice. However, the Muslims, while honouring the decision of the Supreme Court, has maintained silence on this issue. Even then this decision of the court has inflicted a serious wound in the minds of Muslims. Rahmani said that promotion of the temple across the country with a political aim is like rubbing salts into the wounds of Muslims. All India Muslim Personal Law Board strongly condemns this non-secular and undemocratic stand of the government.

Roznama Sahara (January 7) reports that in a resolution adopted by Jamiat Ulema, it has been said that the active participation of government in the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is a serious setback to the Indian Constitution and is based on injustice. In a statement, the government and its departments have been urged to keep away from such discriminatory policies. Along with it, the Muslims in the country have



also been urged not to get into any provocation and maintain peace.

Inquilab (January 7) reports that the chief of All India United Democratic Front, Badruddin Ajmal, urged Muslims in the country not to come out of their houses from January 20 to 26 because their life and property could be in danger. Whereas, the vice-chairman of Jamaat-e-Islami, Prof Mohammad Salim Engineer, said it is wrong to utilise the inaugural ceremony for political propaganda and electoral benefits. He said it looks like that it is not a religious programme, instead an election programme of BJP and a political rally of Prime Minister Modi. He said the country is rapidly moving from constitutional democracy to dictatorship of the majoritarianism. Similarly, the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said we will never forget Babri Masjid. He said that the inauguration of the mandir by the government is like rubbing salt into our wounds. He said it is against the basic tenets of the Constitution and appealed to the Muslims to remain patient.

According to English newspaper **The Hindu** (December 29), the Indian Union Muslim League has passed a resolution and described the Ram Temple inaugural function in Ayodhya as an election gimmick and urged people not to fall into this trap. This resolution was passed by the National Political Advisory Committee of Muslim League. National general secretary of Muslim League, P K Kunhalikutty, while addressing media

persons, said the party will neither make any comments nor give any advice regarding the stands adopted by other parties regarding the Ram Mandir issue.

Urdu Times (January 15) reports that the national president of Congress, Mallikarjun Kharge, said that it is not a religious ceremony, instead an election rally of BJP and we will not take part in this ceremony. Similarly, the

Communist Party of India said the inauguration of the Ram Mandir should be done by religious leaders and political leaders should keep away from it. Whereas, in Modi government, the political leader himself has become the religious peshwa, so that he could play around with the religious sentiments of innocent Hindus and politically exploit them. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, while describing this programme as a political stunt of BJP, said that people should keep themselves away from it.

Urdu Times (January 14) reports that the chief of Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati, said she will not take part in the inauguration ceremony of Ram Mandir. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also took a similar decision. Before this, International Working President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Alok Kumar said the two leaders were also invited to take part in the ceremony.

Roznama Sahara (January 6) reports that one Muslim leader, Hafiz Mohammad Jawed, said there is no atmosphere of fear among Muslims over the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir. He said that some leaders are conspiring to trap Muslims in an atmosphere of fear in order to bake their political bread. He said that Muslims should stay away from it and should not take any emotional decision.

Inquilab (January 15) said that the biggest religious centre of Sikhs, the Akal Takht, had rejected an invitation to take part in the ceremony. Spokesperson of



Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Angrej Singh has confirmed this news.

Siasat (January 13) said the BJP is making efforts in a planned manner to reap political benefits from the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. However, though it is a religious issue, the BJP has given it a political colour and hijacked it. The BJP is targeting those political parties which are not taking part in this ceremony and are declaring them as anti-Hindu. The newspaper said that the four Shankaracharyas had said that it was not a religious function, and had become a political function of the BJP and that they would not take part in the function of RSS and BJP.

Etemaad (January 2) in its editorial alleged that the BJP, which had captured power with the help of Ram Mandir issue, has once again started playing politics on the issue ahead of the elections in 2024. Taking part in the Meerabai Jayanti function in Mathura on November 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said soon there would be darshan at the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. On December 30, Prime Minister Modi visited Ayodhya and inaugurated the railway station and airport there. The Godi media had given wide publicity to it. Through this, the Prime Minister has given this message to

his voters that the Ayodhya issue will remain in his agenda in the future as well. Before this also the Prime Minister had visited Uttar Pradesh many times and tried to capitalise on this issue. The newspaper said that Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had said that Ram Mandir is one thing, and running a political campaign in the name of Ram Mandir is another thing. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut alleged that the BJP has been giving a political colour to the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. It looks like the BJP will field Sri Ram as its candidate in the next elections. General secretary of Samajwadi Party, Swamiprasad Maurya has alleged that the BJP is marketing Bhagwan Ram to capture power. Now it has become clear that the Ram Mandir will be its main agenda in the forthcoming elections.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 12) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of Congress to boycott the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The newspaper also said that the Congress also had a major role in indirectly raking up the Ayodhya movement. During the reign of Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership, the decision taken by the Hinduvadi group in Congress to open the locks of Babri Masjid and do the Shilanyas of Ram Mandir had given a new turn to the Ram Mandir movement.

Later the BJP took political benefits out of it. The newspaper expressed happiness that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the function taking place in Ayodhya is an RSS function and the Congress will not take part in it. The newspaper suggested that the Congress should remain adamant on its stand.

Hamara Samaj (January 13) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of Shankaracharyas to boycott the Ram Mandir inaugural ceremony. The newspaper said that the inauguration of the Ram Mandir at the hands of the prime minister will put the country's Constitution and the democracy in danger, but neither the BJP nor other stakeholders of Hindutva are concerned about this. The BJP has found a way to come to power on the pretext of Ram Mandir once again and it is not ready to change it.

Hamara Samaj (January 12) in its editorial said that lot of politics is taking place over the inauguration of Ram Mandir and the BJP has become totally offensive over the decision of Congress not to attend the Pran Pratishtha of the Mandir. The ruling party has been propagating that those parties which are not taking part in this function are anti-Hindus.

Urdu Times (January 14) in its editorial said the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya should have been done by some Shankaracharyas, but may be Prime Minister Modi is a bigger Hindu religious leader than the four Shankaracharyas and hence the inauguration of the Ram Mandir is being done at his hand. On seeing this, the four Shankaracharyas including the Shankaracharya of Puri Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, have announced to boycott the ceremony. They know that in whatsoever way the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhumi issue has been a purely political one, the same way the inauguration of the Ram Mandir has also become political. The newspaper said that this is an insult to Hindu belief. If the Hindus and Ram bhakts understand this, then there is no need to make them

understand in the next elections. The newspaper urged that the Hindu brothers should use their senses and prevent religion from becoming a victim of politics.

Roznama Sahara (January 8) in its editorial criticised the publicity given to the religious ceremony in Ayodhya using government money and described it as against the sentiments of secularism and the Indian Constitution.

Roznama Sahara (January 9) has described the inauguration of Ram Mandir as one more definitive step towards the creation of a Hindu Rashtra.

Urdu Times (January 11) said in its editorial that in order to come to power, the BJP is writing a new history for the country. The newspaper has described the demolition of Ram Mandir and construction of Babri Masjid at its place as one such fake story and said the BJP has been capturing power on the basis of this lie from 1988 till now and is using it effectively even now.

Urdu Times (January 13) in its editorial said the construction of Ram Mandir has taken place on the spot of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya and its inauguration will take place on January 22. Though the mandir is a purely religious matter, the BJP is making a political debut on the pretext of it. The newspaper has advised Muslims to remain utmost cautious during the inaugural ceremony of mandir and they should stay back at their homes. They should not pay attention to any kind of rumours. The Muslims should neither make any comments about Ram Mandir, nor should confront anyone on this issue. The religious leaders of Muslims also should not take part in debates on television regarding this event.

Avadhnama (January 12) has published an article in which the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir has been described as a game by BJP. The article expressed surprise as to why an incomplete mandir has been inaugurated, since the construction of Ram Mandir has not been completed, and why such a hurry is being displayed in this connection? As per Hindu



shastras, pran pratishtha is not conducted at any incomplete mandir. This is the reason why Hindu Shankaracharyas refused to take part in the function. The newspaper said that the inauguration of this incomplete mandir has been done as part of a well-planned conspiracy so that the BJP would be able to collect the votes of majority community in the forthcoming

elections. The newspaper has described it as a nefarious conspiracy by the Sangh Parivar and advised Muslims not to come under any provocation because even their one wrong step will prove dangerous to the Muslims.

Siasat (January 2) reports that on the pretext of the inaugural function of Ram Mandir, the RSS has been trying to destroy the atmosphere of communal harmony in the country. A senior leader of Sangh, Indresh Kumar, appealed to

Muslims that they chant 'Sri Ram Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram' in all masjids, dargahs and madrasas during the inaugural ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 22 and express solidarity with their Hindu brothers. This statement of Indresh Kumar is against Islam and Shariah and the Muslims in the country should not get stuck in this muddy water. ■

Two accused get death sentence in Shramjeevi Express blast

Roznama Sahara (January 4) reports that the sessions court in Jaunpur has sentenced to death the two accused in the Shramjeevi Express bomb blast, Hilaluddin and Nafikul Vishwas. It is to be noted that Hilaluddin is an original resident of Bangladesh. Whereas, Nafikul belongs to West Bengal. A fine of Rs 5 lakh each have also been imposed on them. It is being said that on July 28, 2005, a bomb blast took place in a general compartment of Shramjeevi Express near the crossing of a railway station located in Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh, in which 14 people were killed and 62 were injured. This train was on its way from Patna to Delhi. A case was registered at a GRP station on the basis of a complaint by train guard Zafar Ali. The special branch of Delhi Police had



conducted an inquiry into the incident. Following this, both the accused were arrested.

It is to be noted that the two accused were lodged in a jail in Hyderabad since 2016. They were summoned before the court in Jaunpur for the verdict in the case. The prosecution lawyer had sought death sentence to both the accused, which the court has accepted. It is said that the two other accused in the case, Alamgir and

Obaidurrahman, had been given death sentence earlier itself. On the basis of the witnesses produced and evidence presented in the court during the hearing of the case, it has been confirmed that Bangladeshi citizen Roni alias Alamgir had placed a bomb, manufactured by terrorist of Laskhar-e-Taiba, Obaidurrahman, in a train compartment. The court has also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on them. The two terrorists filed an appeal in the high court against this verdict of the sessions court which is currently pending in the court. The police had claimed during the investigation that the mastermind in the blast, Ghulam Razdhani alias Yahya, was killed in an encounter with police.

Urdu Times (January 10) reports that the Uttar Pradesh ATS has arrested an accused linked to terrorist organisation ISIS, Amas Ahmad alias Faraz, from Aligarh. Whereas the second accused,

Abdul Samad Malik, had surrendered before the court earlier itself. According to Uttar Pradesh ATS, these students of Aligarh Muslim University had created a module of notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS in which nearly a dozen people had been hired. Seven among them were arrested in the beginning itself. Amas Ahmad, a 22-year-old resident of Prayagraj, had passed BA from Aligarh Muslim University and he had been studying MBA there till last year. Whereas, Abdul Samad Malik, a 25-year-old resident of Sambhal, has been studying for MA in social work from Aligarh Muslim University. The police have also seized huge amounts of suspicious cash, equipment for making bombs and documents related to it from them. The information regarding this gang was collected after the arrest of two persons in Pune.

Effort to incite Muslims in the name of places of worship and educational institutions



Roznama Sahara (January 4) states that the ancient dargah Mamu-Bhanje and the many mazars situated near to it were razed to the ground under police supervision during the dead end of night. It is being said that the dargah of Mamu-Bhanje was

nearly 250 years old. The newspaper has accepted that the Piplehwar mandir located near to it was also demolished.

Inquilab (January 5) reports that this dargah is among those 123 properties of the Waqf, the status of which is pending before

the high court right from the beginning and the court had ordered to maintain status quo in this connection. The newspaper has expressed surprise that the Waqf board had made the Centre a party to the case, but the agency which razed this mazar namely PWD, was not made a party to the case. This was a mistake deliberately committed by the Waqf board.



Roznama Sahara (January 7) has claimed that the crooked eyes of PWD and NDMC have fallen on the masjids and mazars in Delhi and they are being demolished on one pretext or another.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 14) has alleged that a masjid was demolished on the pretext of road widening in Ghatkopar in Mumbai. The newspaper claimed that the issue of this masjid was also pending in the court and the court had issued a stay order on the matter. This masjid in Ghatkopar was built behind the Sarvodaya Hospital several decades ago from where a madrasa, Gulshan Ahmad Raza, was also being run. A member of the masjid managing committee said the municipal committee has been taking action since 2018 in the name of construction of a bridge on Golibar Road. The matter has been pending in the court since then.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 15) in its editorial alleged that the religious sentiments of the country's biggest minority community are being deliberately hurt. The way a masjid was razed in Ghatkopar recently is a strong proof of this. This apart, preparations are on to demolish a historical masjid in Delhi, Sunehri Bagh Masjid. All these are being done in a systematic manner. The newspaper urged that the Muslim leaders in the country should forget their differences and sit together to find a way to foil this campaign.

Hindustan Express (January 5) states that Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has lowered the dignity of

his post. He, while raising the sensitive issue of Haji Abdur Rahman Shah alias Haji Malang Dargah located in Kalyan Nagar in Maharashtra, described it as Malanggad and expressed his wish to liberate it. The annual Urs of this dargah will begin on February 14. Every year, people belonging to Shiv Sena raise this issue and this time it is possible that the issue gets further aggravated. While addressing a public meeting, Chief Minister Shinde said the liberation of Malanggad is in his mind and he will fulfill it under any circumstance.

It is to be noted that Hindu organisations describe Haji Malang dargah as the samadhi of Yogi Machindranath and demand that it shall be handed over to the Hindus. Since Eknath Shinde has raked up this issue once again, the dargah committee has sought a special security from the state government during the Urs. The two communities have been staking claim on this dargah, located in the south of Kalyan. The members of both the communities are in the trust. The trust claims that this dargah is 800 years old. Whereas the right wing organisations claim that it was the samadhi of a Hindu yogi. This dispute is pending in the court. Chairman of Haji Malang Dargah Trust Nasir Khan claim that it was stated in the 'Bombay Presidency Gazetteer' published in 1882 that Haji Abd-ul Rehman came to India from Yemen and settled on this mountain. The king of the region had given his daughter in marriage to him. The Kabr of Baba Haji Malang and Ma Fatima are



present on the dargah premises. The present structure dates back to 12th century.

Tasir (January 7) in its editorial said the Haji Malang Dargah has also been made controversial like many other dargahs and masjids. The nyasis of the dargah said this dargah has been claimed to be a Hindu mandir in order to fulfill some political interests.

Urdu Times (January 5) in its editorial has alleged that as soon as the elections have come close, the Bhagwa brigade has once again become active and the Shiv Sena has also started showing its colours. The nyasis of the dargah, the Ketkar family, has described it as a Muslim dargah. The newspaper said that Shinde has forgotten that he was occupying a responsible position. He should keep himself away from issuing statements on such controversial issues. It is to be noted that this issue was first raised by Shiv Sena leader Anand Dighe in 1980 and described it as a 700-year-old Hindu mandir.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 12) in its editorial has alleged that the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University is not

acceptable to the Modi government at the Centre. Recently, in his written statement to the Supreme Court, the country's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that in view of the national importance given to the Aligarh Muslim University, it cannot be accepted as a minority institution. This institution was of national importance right from the beginning, which has been confirmed from the documents during the foundation-laying of Aligarh University in 1875 and also from the other laws made by the Parliament. He stated in his written reply that Aligarh Muslim University cannot belong to any particular religion or religious community because it has been recognised as a national institution.

It is to be noted that the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University has been embroiled in a controversy for many years. In 1967, a five-bench Constitution bench in the Aziz Pasha Vs Govt of India case said that since the Aligarh University is a central university, it cannot be granted the recognition of a minority institution. It is worth mentioning that the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill has been passed in Parliament in 1981, but this was scrapped by the Allahabad High Court in January 2013. That time the then UPA government at the Centre had filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against this decision. Now this matter is pending before the court.

Despite second marriage, divorced woman entitled to alimony from former husband

Mumbai Urdu News (January 7) states that the Bombay High Court has said in its verdict that a divorced wife, despite entering into second marriage, is entitled to get alimony from her former husband. Justice Rajesh Patil in his verdict said there is no such condition in the 1986 law

regarding the talaq of Muslim women that if a divorced woman marries again, then the alimony that she was getting from her first husband will be stopped. The court said that the purpose of this law is that even if a divorced woman marries again, she is still entitled to receive a reasonable



alimony and the woman who got the divorce has this right under Section 3 (1) (A) of the law.

Along with this, the court rejected a petition seeking a review of the verdict of JMFC, Chiplun and Sessions Court, Ratnagiri. In the petition, it was stated that the petitioner's marriage took place on February 9, 2005 and a daughter was born to her on December 1, 2005. After this, he went to Saudi Arabia for job and his wife left for her parents' house. Later the woman filed a petition seeking alimony under Section 125 of CrPC and the husband had offered her divorce in April 2008. The lower court had initially rejected the petition seeking alimony but the wife filed a new petition under this law.

Following this, the court had directed alimony for the daughter and a lump sum amount for the wife. The husband questioned this decision of the lower court in the higher court. Whereas the wife demanded that her alimony shall be increased. The sessions court, while partially accepting the petition of the wife, directed that the former husband shall pay his former wife Rs 9 lakh as one-time payment. On this, the husband filed the current review petition before the high court. Lawyer of the petitioner Shaheen Kapadia argued in the court that since the wife got married for the second time, she was not entitled to get alimony from her

former husband. She could get the money for alimony from her current husband. The court, however, said there is no mention of such a condition under Section 3 (1) (A) of the law. The purpose of the law is to save the divorced woman from poverty and to make arrangements for her to lead a dignified life even if she marries again.

It is to be noted that as per Shariah law, after the period of iddat (the time of probation which a divorced woman, or a widow, must wait before she can marry again), it is not mandatory on the part of the former husband to provide alimony to his divorced wife. If the wife stays in her parents' house without the permission of the husband during the iddat period, then it will not be the responsibility of the former husband to give her alimony. Member of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Mahmood Ahmad Khan Daryabadi has described this decision of Bombay High Court as anti-Shariah and against the basic principles of Islam. He said that when a woman takes divorce from her husband and marries again, how come she becomes eligible to get alimony from her former husband?

Mumbai Urdu News (January 8) in its editorial has criticised the verdict and said this decision of the court is against Shariah and against the Indian tradition because it is a kind of joke. As per Islam, if a husband gives divorce to his wife, he will not have any relationship with his former wife once the period of iddat is over. In such a situation, how come he be held responsible for paying alimony to his former wife? As per Islam, if a woman marries again after getting divorce, then only her current husband shall be responsible to provide her sustenance. The court believes that she has the right to get

alimony from her former husband in order to strengthen her financial condition. Is it not an offence against her former husband? The newspaper criticised that the Indian courts are taking such decisions which are not in accordance with Islam and Shariah. Before delivering such sensitive verdicts, the court should have necessarily held advice-consultation with the scholars of the respective religions so that the religious provisions are not violated and the courts are not accused of making undue interference in religious matters.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 30) states that the Madras High Court in a judgment said that Muslim men have the right for polygamy under Islamic law but

all wives will have to be treated equally. In case he fails to do so, then it will come under the definition of cruelty. The high court upheld the decision of the family court which granted divorce to the first wife on the basis of harassment. The court took into notice that the husband and his family members had tortured the former wife and did not provide her appropriate treatment despite being pregnant. Tired of this, the first wife left her in-laws' house and later her husband married again and he started staying with the second wife. The Madras High Court said the person concerned did not give equal treatment to his first and second wives. Whereas, as per Islamic law, it is mandatory to do so.

Quota of 1.75 lakh pilgrims ready for Haj



Mumbai Urdu News (January 9) reports that the quota for Indian Haj pilgrims for the Haj yatra in 2024 has been fixed at 1.75 lakh. Nearly 1.4 lakh people will be sent through Haj Committee of India to Saudi Arabia for Haj. Whereas, 35,000 Hajis will be sent through private operators. In this connection, Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani and Union Minister of State for Foreign Affairs V Muralidharan signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Haj and Umrah, Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, in Jeddah city in Saudi Arabia. Later the two Indian ministers visited the

Haj Terminal at King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah to oversee the arrangements for the Haj yatris. It is to be noted that Smriti Irani and Muralidharan were on a visit to Saudi Arabia to take part in a meeting on Haj and Umrah organised in Jeddah. In the meeting that took place in Saudi Arabia, more than 200 representatives of different organisations associated with Haj including representatives from different countries took part.

Siasat (January 9) reports that the two Indian ministers reached Medina from



have been made for the stay of Indian Haj pilgrims. She was accompanied by Chief Executive Officer of Haj Committee of India Liaquat Ali Afaqi, Joint Secretary (Haj) C P S Bakshi, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor Nirupama Kotaru and other senior officials of External Affairs Ministry. On this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer of Haj Committee said the selection of the interested Haj

yatris will be done through lottery by Jeddah in a Metro train. Indian citizens staying in Saudi Arabia gave both of them a warm welcome at the railway station. Following this, the two ministers went on a tour of Masjid-e-Nabawi. There they were presented with Aab-e-Zamzam. On this occasion, Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan provided a detailed information regarding the history of the three holy places in Saudi Arabia. Smriti Irani also closely studied the facilities being provided to Indian Haj pilgrims by the Saudi government. She also went to those hotels where arrangements

yatris will be done through lottery by January 22 so that appropriate arrangements could be made for Haj yatris.

Urdu Times (January 14) reports that Smriti Irani also visited Masjid-e-Nabawi in Medina, Jabal Uhud (Mount Uhud) and the Masjid-e-Quba, well-known as the first masjid of Muslims. While thanking the Saudi Arab government for the visit, she said that her visit is a testimony to the increasing cultural and spiritual relationship between India and Saudi Arabia.

Ban on Pakistan-supported Tehreek-e-Hurriyat



Mumbai Urdu News (January 1) states that the Central government is taking consistent action to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Now the Union government has banned the Pakistan-supported separatist organisation in Jammu and Kashmir, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. The

information regarding this was shared by Union Home Minister Amit Shah himself on social media platform 'X.' He said that a ban has been imposed on this organisation under UAPA due to its involvement in terrorist activities. This organisation has been involved in activities

aimed at separating Jammu and Kashmir from Bharat and impose Islamic rule in the state. This organisation has also been involved in promoting separatism in Jammu-Kashmir and people associated with this organisation have been found involved in terrorist activities. He said this action has been taken as per the 'zero tolerance' policy adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards terrorism.

Earlier, the home ministry had imposed a ban on another Pakistan-supported separatist organisation, Muslim League Jammu-Kashmir (Masrat Alam group). This ban has been imposed for five

years. It is to be noted that the foundation of Pakistan-supported separatist organisation Tehreek-e-Hurriyat was laid by Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2004. That time, Geelani has been openly running a campaign to merge Jammu-Kashmir with Pakistan. In 2001, Geelani passed away. Following this, the organisation has become almost inactive. After the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu-Kashmir, the Centre had launched a major crackdown on separatist organisations, their leaders and terrorist organisations. Currently, dozens of separatist leaders are lodged in different jails in the country.

Supreme Court overturns decision to release accused in Bilkis Bano case



Siasat (January 9) states that the Supreme Court has cancelled the decision of the Gujarat government to release early the 11 accused serving life-term in jail on charges of gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and killing seven members of her family during the Gujarat riots in 2002. The Supreme Court directed the accused to surrender before the jail authorities within two weeks. A division bench comprising Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said in its verdict that the decision taken by the Gujarat government on August 10, 2022 to

release the accused from the jail before completing their term was outside its jurisdiction. In other words, the remission of the sentence granted by the Gujarat government to the convicted persons has been cancelled. The division bench said that the hearing of the case took place in Maharashtra and hence the right to take a decision on remission of the sentence rests with Maharashtra government. Justice Nagarathna also said that an order issued by another bench of the Supreme Court on May 13, 2022 has no legal standing as the

order was obtained after keeping the court in the dark. It is to be noted that on the basis of the facts presented by the Gujarat government, the bench had described the decision to grant remission of sentence to the 11 accused as appropriate.

It was said that the Gujarat government had released the accused from Godhra jail on August 15, 2022 under its amnesty policy. A huge controversy erupted over this decision of the state government. Later, Bilkis Bano and some other people questioned this in the Supreme Court. The then division bench of the Supreme Court, after holding a hearing in the case, had reserved its judgment on October 12 last year, which has been delivered now.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 10) reports that out of the 11 accused in the Bilkis Bano case, nine have gone absconding. Even their family members had no information where they had gone. After the verdict delivered by the Supreme Court, when the media persons reached the houses of these accused, they were found to be locked.

After this verdict of the court, the Urdu newspapers unleashed a systematic campaign on this issue. Muslim leader Maulana Mahmoud Madani, Asaduddin Owaisi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Pavan Khera described it as a victory for justice and the struggle of Bilkis Bano. CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat said this decision of the Supreme Court is welcome.

Hindustan Express (January 9) in its editorial has described the decision as supremacy of justice and law and said those who have been sentenced to life-term will have to spend at least 14 years in jail and their matter could be reviewed only after that. The sentence given to the accused could be reviewed on the basis of



seriousness of the charges, the behaviour of the accused in the jail etc.

Etemaad (January 9) in its editorial has welcomed the verdict and said the biggest court in the country has proved that the justice is alive even now. The court, while making serious comments against the state government, said the state government has no right to release these convicts beforehand. Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi demanded the Central and Gujarat governments to apologise to Bilkis Bano. He said that the BJP in Gujarat and the Modi government at the Centre are strongly standing behind the accused. The Gujarat government had extended all help to release them and they were released before the Assembly elections. This decision of the Supreme Court is a slap on the face of the Gujarat government and a new ray of hope has been born. It is hoped that due to this verdict, the governments will also learn a lesson, who are wrongly using their power for political benefits.

Inquilab (January 9) described the verdict as a historical decision and said the credibility of judiciary has gone up due to it. The verdict has given the message of a rethink to those governments who take decisions on the basis of religion. The Welfare Party of India has described this verdict as bold step taken by the Supreme Court.

Roznama Sahara (January 9) in its editorial said the verdict has restored the image and the independence of judiciary.

Three Maldives ministers suspended over comments against Prime Minister Modi



Siasat (January 8) reports that the Maldives government has suspended its three deputy ministers who had made disparaging remarks against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media. Their comments had created a huge ruckus. Following this, many Indians, while protesting these comments, had announced cancellation of their trips to Maldives. It is to be noted that these deputy ministers of Maldives had described Narendra Modi as a ‘joker’ and ‘puppet of Israel.’ As per a statement of Maldives government, the three ministers namely Maryam Shiuna, Malsha Shareef and Mahzoom Majid have been suspended from the cabinet.

It was said that Prime Minister Modi had shared some photos and video of his visit to Lakshadweep on social media platform X. Following this, many people had described Lakshadweep as a better tourist spot on social media. Rattled by it, these Maldives ministers made objectionable comments against Prime Minister Modi. When the ruckus flared up, the Maldives government distanced itself from the controversy by stating that these

were not the opinion of the government, instead were the personal opinion of the ministers. However, many opposition leaders and former presidents of Maldives condemned the comments and said it will lead to a negative relationship as well as an atmosphere of hatred. Former President of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, described the comments of these ministers as regrettable and demanded the government to clarify its stand on these comments.

Hindustan Express (January 8) states that the Maldives National Party had condemned the statements of these ministers and demanded that the government take necessary action against them.

Roznama Sahara (January 8) reports that India’s external affairs ministry had strongly objected to the statements of these ministers and the Indian High Commissioner in Male duly registered his protest and demanded action against the accused ministers. When condemnation came from all sides, one of the ministers, Maryam Shiuna, deleted her tweet. Following this, the Maldives government

issued a statement and said the government has become aware of the objectionable comments made against foreign leaders on social media platforms. These are the personal opinion of these ministers and they have nothing to do with the policies of the government. It had also been said in the statement that it is the opinion of the government that the freedom of expression shall be used responsibly and no such opinion shall be made which may give rise to hateful sentiments against any neighbouring country.



Images posted on X by @narendramodi

Siasat (January 10) said in its editorial said that a small country has created a big controversy. The President of Maldives, while quickly calming India's anger, suspended the accused ministers from the cabinet. The Indian government summoned the Maldives High Commissioner in New Delhi, Ibrahim Shaheeb. Though no official statement has been issued about the discussions held between him and the government officials, the Indian High Commissioner in Male held talks with the top officials of Maldives foreign ministry in this connection. However, the Indian High Commissioner made it clear that the talks held with the officials of Maldives has nothing to do with this controversy and the meeting was a scheduled one. The media has confirmed that during the meeting, the Indian High Commissioner drew the attention of the Maldives officials to the statements of the three ministers and also expressed displeasure over them. Analysts estimate that the tension that has arisen in the relationship between India and its neighbouring country Maldives will have serious implications on the economy of Maldives because the Indian tourists play a significant role in the economy of the country. Maldives get huge foreign currency from these tourists.

Etemaad (January 11) in its editorial said that when governments change, the policies also change. The president who

has come to power last year is also in the same situation. Recently, the issues between the two countries got complicated due to the controversial statements made by some ministers on social media. The President of Maldives has ordered an investigation into the issue and suspended the three ministers till the inquiry report comes. It is a fact that there are many such ministers in the present government whose leaning is towards China and they do not like Bharat. These comments are also the handiwork of such elements. It looks like the government of new President Mohamed Muizzu wants to maintain a balance between India and China, because the economy of Maldives is dependent on these two nations. After winning the elections, new President Muizzu had declared that he will expel the Indian military contingent from the country. Following this, a debate heated up in political circles that the new president's leaning is towards China. Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Union territory of Lakshadweep and mentioned about the natural beauty of the place on social media. Some ministers of Maldives assumed from it that now the intention of India is to develop Lakshadweep from the point of view of tourism and this policy would have a negative impact on the tourism industry in Maldives.

It is to be noted that in 2021, nearly 2.91 lakh Indians had visited Maldives and in 2022, this number was 2.41 lakh. Maldives foreign minister Moosa Zameer said that such comments about foreign leaders are not acceptable to him. It is

being said that Lakshadweep is only 300 kilometres away from the coast of Kerala. This group of islands is quite attractive from the point of view of tourism. Maldives government believes that the Indian government wants to develop it for tourists as an alternative to Maldives.

Roznama Sahara (January 9) has warned the President of Maldives that he should learn from the situation in Sri Lanka, because if any nation makes China as its friend, then that country doesn't need any other enemy. Whereas Bharat is a time-tested nation. In 1998, some mischievous elements, with the help of Tamil Tigers, tried to capture power in Maldives after destroying the democratic system there. Then, on a request from the then President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the then Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi sent Indian soldiers to Maldives to protect democracy.

The newspaper said that the current President of Maldives has been caught in the murky waters of China and as soon as he took charge, he started insisting on



sending back the Indian military contingent from Maldives. The moment Mohamed Muizzu took over power, he set aside old traditions and instead of visiting India first, he went on a visit to Turkiye. After this, he turned to China. Was it just a coincidence? Later the indecent comments that the three ministers made against the Indian prime minister, were those also a mere coincidence? The backbone of Maldives' economy is the Indian tourists who visit that country. In 2023, nearly 2 lakh Indian tourists visited Maldives. From this, it is clear that the worsening of relationship with India will be detrimental to Maldives.

Sheikh Hasina elected Bangladesh Prime Minister for fifth time

Hamara Samaj (January 9) reports that Bangladesh Awami League has come to power following victory in the general elections in Bangladesh and its leader Sheikh Hasina took over the reins of prime ministership for the fifth time. According to the Election Commission in Bangladesh, Awami League and its allies have registered their victory in 223 seats out of the total 300 seats in the Parliament. Whereas, 63 independents have also won. As per a report in Al Jazeera, the independents who registered victory in the elections originally belonged to Awami League. This time the party did not give them tickets and hence they fought the elections as independent candidates. Sheikh Hasina had directed them to stand as

dummy candidates so that the world could be told that the elections were held in a free and fair atmosphere in Bangladesh. According to official sources, only 40% polling took place in Bangladesh. During the voting, majority of polling booths had worn a deserted look.

It is to be noted that two prominent opposition parties of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, had announced the boycott of the elections. They had alleged that Sheikh Hasina had been coming to power through election fraud right from the beginning. In order to win the elections this time, she sent thousands of activists of Opposition parties to jail. The chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Khalida Zia is in jail



along with many of her colleagues. This apart, the government had imposed a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and many of its leaders and activists have been hanged to death.

Siasat (January 9) reports that the party of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Bangladesh Awami League, has come back to power after securing 70 percent seats in the elections held in Bangladesh. The voters exercised their franchise in 42,000 polling booths in the country. The Bangladesh media has published the statements of many foreign observers also who had described the elections as free, fair and peaceful. The number of voters in Bangladesh is stated to be more than 12 crore. Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina has been in power since 2009.

Siasat (January 8) reports that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by her family members, cast her vote in a polling booth in city college in Dhaka. On the occasion, she told reporters that Bangladesh is a free nation the people of the country is my strength. She said that she was hopeful that the people of Bangladesh will bring her back to power due to the government's public welfare programmes. She said that she doesn't have to clarify before any foreigner whether the elections are being held in a transparent manner or not because the people of Bangladesh knows the truth. It is to be

noted that the elections in Bangladesh were held amid sporadic incidents of violence. Many polling stations and vehicles were set on fire. Four persons had burnt to death after a vehicle they were travelling in was set ablaze. The government claimed that this was done by the activists of opposition parties. This was the 12th general elections in Bangladesh after getting separated from Pakistan in 1971. According to the Bangladesh Election Commission, there are more than 2,000 candidates in the field in this year's election which included 436 independent candidates.

Roznama Sahara (January 8) reports that the Bangladesh Election Commission had invited several foreign observers including from India to witness the elections being held in the country so that the world does not raise any question regarding the polls. Sheikh Hasina said the government wants to ensure that the democracy sustains in the country, because no country can develop without a strong democracy. In Bangladesh, development has taken place because the democracy here has been founded on strong bases. Sheikh Hasina has won from Gopalganj-3 constituency. As per a report of Bangladesh News, she had registered her victory eight times from this parliamentary constituency since 1986. She won the election on a margin of 2,49,865 votes. Whereas her



rival candidate, M Nizam Uddin Lashkar of Bangladesh Supreme Party, got only 469 votes.

Inquilab (January 10) reports that the US and Britain have alleged that the elections in Bangladesh did not take place in a fair and transparent manner because the country's largest opposition parties did not take part in these elections.

Inquilab (January 10) in its editorial said the election was held in a unilateral manner and the people did not show any interest in it. Only 40% polling took place in the elections. From the photos of the polling centres which were published, it was clear that the polling centres remained deserted. It is sure that such a situation was created because of the boycott of the elections by the opposition parties and it is also clear from it that the majority of people in Bangladesh are not with Sheikh Hasina. The ruling party did not take the leaders of the Opposition parties into confidence. Instead, they were sent to jails. Sheikh Hasina is more concerned about her power rather than the democracy and it is

clear from her statement that she is not worried what the world says. She is worried only about the people of Bangladesh.

Etemaad (January 10) in its editorial, while criticising the elections, said that Sheikh Hasina's party Awami League has won in two-thirds of the seats. Whereas, all opposition parties had boycotted this election. The US has described it as undemocratic elections.

Whereas Britain said that it is completely wrong to call the elections held in Bangladesh as an election. All the opposition parties in Bangladesh demanded that Sheikh Hasina resign from her post and the polls shall be held under the supervision of a national government, which Sheikh Hasina did not accept. On the contrary, she sent hundreds of leaders and activists to jail. After this, the Opposition announced a boycott of the elections. A total of 44 parties are registered with Bangladesh Election Commission. Out of them, only 28 parties took part in the elections and only two parties managed to win some seats in the elections. The opposition parties alleged that in order to hoodwink people, Sheikh Hasina fielded activists belonging to her own party Awami League as independents and also as candidates of different other parties in an effort to show that the elections were being held in a free and fair manner. It is clear from this that Sheikh Hasina wanted to utilise every opportunity to remain in power.

Hamas's terror plot foiled in Denmark

Mumbai Urdu News (January 14) states that the Denmark police has claimed that the seven persons who were arrested for their involvement in a conspiracy to massacre Jews and US supporters in Europe last December belonged to Hamas. During the hearing of this case in a court in Copenhagen, the government lawyer confirmed that it was Hamas which has conspired for the attack. However, the government lawyer said that as per the

directions of the government, he does not think it would be appropriate to present the entire details of the case before the people, because the matter is confidential. However, it is clear that the conspiracy was hatched by Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas in order to take revenge against Israeli attacks.

It is to be noted that the Denmark police had arrested three terrorists in this connection and a huge cache of explosives



were also seized from them. Later, in the raids conducted in other countries in Europe, four other persons belonging to this gang were also taken into custody. The Justice Minister of Denmark said the threat of terrorism is very serious for us but fortunately we have the Dutch intelligence system and a vigilant police, who are capable of foiling the intentions of terrorists.

Urdu Times (January 15) reports that Israel has claimed that Hamas has been planning to attack its embassy located in Sweden. Hamas is rapidly increasing its activities in Europe. Recently, a gang of terrorists belonging to Hamas was busted in Denmark, Germany and Sweden from

whom money obtained from foreign sources, arms and ammunition and explosive items were seized. Israel also claimed that Israel's intelligence agency Mossad also had a role in busting this gang. Mossad claimed that the conspiracy for the attack was planned by Hamas leadership in Lebanon and more than two dozen terrorists of Hamas were secretly sent to European countries with the aim of carrying out the attack.

According to US newspaper **Voice of America** (December 18), the Denmark police took into custody three persons belonging to this gang from Denmark and one from Netherlands. Later raids were conducted in the hideouts of the people belonging to this gang in many European countries during which more than two dozen people were taken into custody. Huge cache of money received from foreign sources, arms and ammunition and explosive items were seized from them. This gang had made a plan to target the Jews and US embassies in more than a dozen countries in Europe, which was foiled by the intelligence sources.

Maldives President shows his true colours after returning from China

Mumbai Urdu News (January 15) reports that after returning from a visit to China, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has issued an ultimatum to India that it should withdraw its military contingent from Maldives before March 15 so that the friendly relationship between the two countries could be continued. According to official sources, currently there are 88 Indian military personnel in Male, who fly the Dornier aircraft and the helicopters given to Maldives and also take care of them. After returning from China, the Maldives President's tone became sharper. In a press conference held in Male on January 13, he had indirectly targeted India. He said that we may be a small

country, but being small doesn't give a licence to anyone to threaten us.

As per a report on 'Sun Online,' principal secretary to the President on public policy, Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, told reporters that a message has been properly conveyed to India that it should withdraw its military contingent before March 15 under any circumstance. As per the policy of the new government, no foreign military shall stay in Maldives. Ibrahim also claimed that a core group has been formed between the two countries to make preparations for the process of withdrawal of the soldiers. Its first meeting was already held in Male in which senior officials from both the countries participated. The Indian



High Commissioner in Maldives took part in this meeting on behalf of India. Ibrahim said it has been decided at the meeting that the Indian military contingent will be withdrawn from Male within the scheduled time.

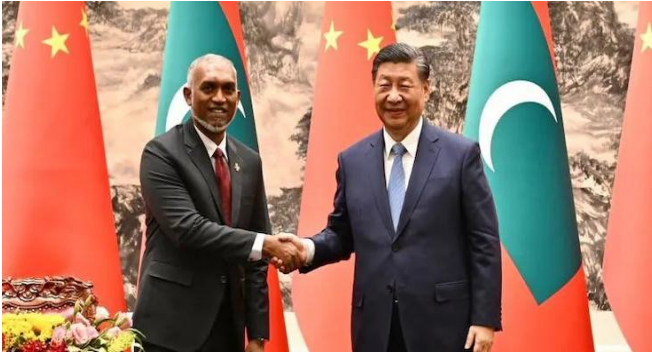
Etemaad (January 12) reports that the Maldives President made his first official visit to China during which the two countries agreed to develop friendly relationship. The two countries also signed 20 fresh agreements on this occasion. According to newspapers, President Mohamed Muizzu during his election campaign had described Bharat as a threat to the independence and sovereignty of Maldives. Meanwhile, in Chinese capital Beijing, President Xi Jinping described the Maldives President as our old friend. He said that China will make more investments in Maldives in pursuance of a strategic cooperation. However, Maldives is already trapped in the clutches of Chinese debt, which will increase further. Maldives President Muizzu has thanked China for playing a positive role in the economic growth of Maldives and for improving its infrastructure.

As per World Bank data, Maldives is already trapped in a Chinese debt of 1 billion and 37 crore dollars, which is 20 percent of its total loans. Maldives also has a loan of 12.25 billion dollars taken from Saudi Arabia and India. As per the data of American Enterprise Institute, the Chinese firms had made investments worth 1 billion and 37 crore dollars in Maldives under the 'Belt and Road Initiative' in 2014. The Chinese President also claimed at this joint

press conference that China extends full support to the protection of sovereignty, independence and national prestige of Maldives. The chairman of the standing committee of National People's Congress of China also met the President of Maldives. He said that due to the visit of the President of Maldives to China, there would be further improvement in the friendly relationship between the two countries.

Roznama Sahara (January 13) reports that the Chinese broadcasting institution 'CCTV' said in its broadcast that China would extend more financial help to different sectors in Maldives on a priority basis. These include the construction of basic infrastructure, health, employment, development of new energy institutes, agriculture and protection of marine environment.

Roznama Sahara (January 15) states that after returning from China, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu started strongly raising the issue of withdrawal of Indian military contingent from Maldives. Addressing reporters, he said that India should immediately withdraw its military personnel, respecting the democratic wishes of Maldives. If India does not withdraw its military contingent, then it will not be in line with the democratic wishes of Maldives. It will be equivalent to overlooking the Constitution and putting the future of democracy in danger. The people of Maldives do not want to see any foreign military on its land. He said that deployment of any foreign military in the country without the approval of Parliament is a violation of the basic spirit of the Constitution. The solution to this problem could be found through talks with Bharat. He said that India is one of our closest friends, to which our tradition and culture are rooted. It is a historical truth that the relationship between the two countries are growing in trade, investments and tourism sectors. We are not opposed to or in favour of any nation. We will adopt such a policy which will be in the interests of the people of Maldives.



Maldives and Bharat under which Bharat was given permission to conduct hydrographic survey in the territorial waters, coastlines and tide levels. The President of Maldives refused to renew the agreement. The reason given for this is said to be that Maldives has its own hydrographic agency, which can do this work well. He said that in case it becomes

It is to be noted that the current President had even cancelled the agreement for hydrographic survey signed between

necessary, in order to bring transparency in the work of this agency, we would reconsider taking foreign help.

One crore dollar reward to those who provide information on Hamas supporters

REWARD UP TO \$10 MILLION FOR INFORMATION ON HAMAS FINANCIERS

These individuals help manage Hamas's investment portfolios, which help fund the group's terrorist activities. If you have information on these Hamas financiers, send it to us via Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp, or our Tor-based tip line below. You may be eligible for a reward or re-location.

Tor Link: he5dybnt7sr6cm32xt77pazmlm65ftqy6irivtfnuqfc5ep7eiodiad.onion

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Basit Hamza Al Hasan Khair, Amer Kamal Sharif Alshawa, Ahmad Sadu Jahleb, Walid Mohammad Mustafa Jadallah and Muhammad Ahmad Abd Al-Dayim Nasrallah.

The US State department said we had already declared these five as international terrorists. Among them, Hamza is a financier of Hamas in Sudan. He has arranged several companies in the investment portfolio of

Roznama Sahara (January 7) reports that the US has decided to take strong step against Hamas so that it could be totally wiped out. The US has announced a huge reward at international level against five big financiers who provide aid to Hamas. The US Justice department has announced that any person giving any kind of information regarding those who provide financial help to Hamas will be given one crore US dollars as reward. The US foreign department has also announced the names of five important persons who provide financial help to Hamas who include Abdel

Hamas. This man has so far given 20 million dollars to Hamas. It is being said that he is also linked to the ruling group in Sudan. Amer Kamal Sharif Alshawa, Ahmad Sadu Jahleb and Walid Mohammad Mustafa Jadallah are members of Hamas and these people are part of the investment network of Hamas in Turkiye. Similarly, Muhammad Ahmad Abd Al-Dayim Nasrallah has been a member of Hamas for long time and he has close relationship with Iranian institutions. He has provided many million dollars to Hamas so far. The main base of Nasrallah is Qatar.

Over 200 killed in terrorist attack in Iran



Siasat (January 4) reports that more than 200 people were killed and over 190 injured in a blast triggered by Islamic terrorists near the *maqbara* of General Qasem Soleimani in Kerman city in Iran. It is being said that the number of injured is likely to be more. As per latest news, the number of dead has crossed 250 and over the 200 injured are battling between life and death in hospitals.

Quami Tanzeem (January 4) reports that the terrorist attack took place when the fourth death anniversary of General Qasem Soleimani, the chief of foreign military wing of Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab, was being observed. It is to be noted that the US had killed General Qasem Soleimani along with many of his colleagues in Baghdad in 2020.

Siasat (January 4) reports that this blast took place when explosives kept in two briefcases near the *maqbara* of Soleimani exploded. Thousands of Iranians had congregated at the spot to offer tributes on the occasion of the 'martyrdom day' of General Soleimani. Following the blast, a high alert was sounded across Iran. Deputy Governor of Kerman, Rahman Jalali, told

official news agency 'IRNA' that it was a terrorist attack.

Etemaad (January 6) reports that Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS has taken the responsibility for the twin blasts that took place in Kerman. The ISIS spokesperson told French news agency 'AFP' that the blasts were triggered by its two suicide attackers. Both the attackers were killed in the blast. So far, the Iranian investigation agency has not been able to find out from where the attackers originally belonged to.

Etemaad (January 6) states that Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said that our armed forces will give a befitting reply to those who triggered the blasts. Our soldiers will also decide when and where this will be avenged. According to Iranian news agency 'IRNA', Iran's Interior minister Ahmad Wahidi said raids were conducted across Iran and many suspects linked to the blasts were taken into custody and their interrogation is on.

Avadhnama (January 6) reports that the United Nations Security Council, in a statement, condemned the blast that took place in Kerman and offered condolences

to the families of those who were killed in the blasts. It is to be noted that in the past several years, Iran has become the target of attacks by Israel and ISIS. Israel's intelligence agency Mossad has been accused of the murder of several of its big scientists. Similarly, terrorist organisation ISIS has been accused of triggering more than 100 blasts in Iran.

Inqilab (January 5) reports that Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has advised the country's

government to remain cautious. Iran should avoid a direct conflict with the US under any circumstance. The New York Times has claimed that the supreme leader of Iran has advised his military that they limit themselves to intelligence operations against Israel or to the retaliatory action against the proxy militia in US bases in Syria and Iraq. However, he has definitely indicated of a strong action against the accused over the blasts that took place in Kerman. ■

USA, allied nations step up attacks on Houthi rebels



Inqilab (January 11) states that the US and Britain have opened a new front against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The US and British bomber planes carried out indiscriminate bombing in Yemen capital Sana'a, Hudaydah Port and more than a dozen bases located in Sa'ada city. Following the bombing, US President Joe Biden said the attacks were in retaliation to the attacks carried out by Houthi rebels on the ships of US and allied nations in Red Sea. For the first time, anti-ship ballistic missiles were also used in the attacks. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the Houthis had been warned several times not to target the ships, but they did not stop. Now we cannot tolerate this situation and hence strong action is being taken against them. Houthi leader Abdul Malik Al-Houthi said we have been opposing the US agents earlier itself. Now we are ready to

take the US, Britain and Israel head on for the Palestinians.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sare'e said the US and British aircraft attacked Yemen and had targeted dozens of Houthi bases in which many people were killed. Iran has condemned the attack on Yemen by United States and Britain and said it was against the freedom and sovereignty of Yemen and also against international laws. Iran says the war will intensify due to this and the aggressor nations will have to bear the consequences. Following this attack, Russia has sought an emergency meeting of United Nations Security Council and claimed that international laws have been violated in this attack. Russia said that an unfair advantage of the United Nations Security Council resolution is being taken in which Houthis have been told to immediately stop their attacks on the ships



in Red Sea. Saudi Arabia said that the Houthis were responsible for this attack and they were deliberately flaring up the war at the behest of Iran.

It is to be noted that nearly a week ago, the US had constituted a joint military command of 20 allied nations in order to ensure unhindered movement of ships in the Red Sea. This has been the latest campaign against Houthis after the formation of this command.

Inqilab (January 14) states that bombings by US and Britain on Yemen is still on. A US spokesperson said the radar system of Houthis were targeted during these attacks. White House said the attacks will continue until the Houthi rebels are totally wiped out. According to the US Central Command, more than 100 military bases of Houthi rebels have been targeted in these attacks till now. The US and Britain said these attacks were carried out to weaken the defence mechanism of Houthi rebels. They said that from November till now more than 2,000 ships had to change their plan from entering the Red Sea due to the Houthi attacks. Meanwhile, in a statement, Hamas has

condemned the British and US aggression against Yemen and warned that due to these attacks, the war could escalate to new sectors. Mass protests were organised in many places in Iran against these attacks. Due to these attacks, there was a four-fold increase in the prices of oil in international market. In

Yemen, the Houthis announced that we will give a befitting reply to these attacks. The White House announced that the US Secretary of Defense is monitoring the attacks that took place in Yemen.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 14) reports that the US has once again carried out an attack on Yemen. According to Pentagon, during the attacks, the radar bases of Houthis and the bases of Hezbollah were also targeted. The US had also attacked the airport in Sana'a and inflicted huge damages. Pentagon said the US aircraft and submarines will continue to target Yemen.

Hindustan Express (January 15), quoting US officials has claimed that due to the attack launched by the alliance formed under the leadership of US, nearly 30 percent combat capability of the Houthis got destroyed. Till now, more than 150 guided missiles and drones have been used against them.

Siasat (January 15) reports that US President Joe Biden said that Iran-supported Houthi rebels are terrorists and we will continue to take action against them.

Hamas deputy leader killed in Israeli bombing

Urdu Times (January 5) states that Lebanon media claimed that the deputy leader of Hamas, Saleh al-Arouri, was killed in an Israeli drone strike at an office of Hamas in southern Beirut. Six other persons were also killed along with him. Whereas the Israeli media claimed that six guided missiles fired by Israeli military jets targeted a building during which the deputy

leader of Hamas was killed. In another Israeli attack, 14 people belonging to one family were killed in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. This apart, Israeli military also bombed a base of Hezbollah in Lebanon in which nine persons were killed. Hamas has confirmed that its deputy leader Saleh al-Arouri was killed in the Israeli bombing.



Mumbai Urdu News (January 4) reports that Hamas has announced immediate stopping of ceasefire talks with Israel and the release of hostages and said it will take revenge for the murder of its senior commander. New York Times has claimed that Israel has made a plan to wipe out the entire leadership of Hamas and the murder of Saleh al-Arouri was a part of this plan.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 8) states that Israel has claimed that all the commanders of Hamas in northern Gaza have been eliminated and now Hamas has become leaderless.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 5) reports that a senior official of US Central Command has confirmed that Israel has killed the deputy leader of Hamas, Saleh al-Arouri. This was the first time since October 7, 2023 when the war started

between Hamas and Israel that such a senior commander of Hamas has been killed.

Hindustan Express (January 10) reports that three senior commanders of Hezbollah's 'Radwan Force' were killed in an Israeli attack in Lebanon.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 1) states that till now 22,000 people have been killed in the raging war between Israel and Hamas. This apart, the Israeli Army attacked the Gaza-located intelligence headquarters of Hamas and destroyed it. The military campaign of Hamas against Israel has been carried out from this headquarters. The Israeli soldiers also got several important documents from this building. Israeli Army claimed that an operations room of Islamic Jihad located on the premises of Hamas headquarters was also destroyed.

Inquilab (January 4) states that the chief of the political wing of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said in Doha that the killing of the deputy leader of Hamas in an Israeli drone attack in Lebanon is a violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and it is open terrorist act. We will not remain silent on this and will take fierce revenge. Various Arab organisations and leaders have condemned the killing of Al-Arouri. Lebanon Prime Minister Najib Mikati directed his foreign affairs minister to file a complaint with the United Nations over the Israeli attack in Beirut. ■

UAE to maintain relations with Israel

Inquilab (January 5) reports that in spite of the war between Israel and Hamas, which has been continuing in Gaza for the past three months, the United Arab Emirates has declared that it would maintain its relationship with Israel. UAE's chief of diplomatic affairs, Anwar Gargash, announced in Dubai that the decision to maintain relationship with Israel has been taken on strategic basis and such decisions cannot be changed all of a sudden. These

are long-term decisions which cannot be changed due to some small wars. He said that though many hurdles are coming in this issue, the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Israel will continue despite the war. It is to be noted that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain had established relationship with Israel under the Abraham Accord.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 11) states that in Britain, Saudi Ambassador

Prince Khalid bin Bandar Al-Saud said his country is keen to maintain relationship with Israel despite the war in Gaza, but we want an independent Palestine state to be established. He said that the talks being held with the mediation of United States to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel have been suspended due to the war in Israel.

It is to be noted that Saudi Arabia is the only country in the Islamic world which has not given due recognition to Israel ever since its establishment in 1948 till now. However, towards the end of September last year, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad



bin Salman, in an interview to a US channel, accepted that they were moving faster towards establishing diplomatic relationship with Israel but for Saudi the issue of Palestine is very important.

Dozens arrested in Turkiye on charges of spying for Israel



Roznama Sahara (January 4) reports that Turkiye's intelligence wing has raided dozens of places in different cities of Turkiye and arrested dozens of people on charges of spying for Israel. The Home Ministry of Turkiye has confirmed the arrest of nearly 34 people, who were said to be agents of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad. The government sources have also given the indication that other people belonging to this gang have also been taken into custody and their interrogation is on. Nearly 13 important spies of this gang have been absconding. Nationwide raids are being conducted in search of them. Turkiye's home minister said we will not give permission to any foreigner to take part in activities which are against the interests of the nation.

Roznama Sahara (January 6) states that Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has claimed that such actions against the enemies of the nation will continue.

Along with this, we will also ensure that nobody will get an opportunity to raise their fingers against Hamas or the people associated with it in Turkiye. Israel has not reacted to this claim of Turkish government. Turkiye's home minister said that raids were conducted in 57 places including Istanbul and huge cache of foreign currency including 1.5 lakh Euro were seized from this gang. This apart, dozens of illegal weapons, spying equipment and digital material were seized from them. The footage of the people who were arrested were also shown on official television, in which the spies were seen in handcuffs and taken in police vehicles. The home minister has also claimed that a joint team of intelligence bureau and anti-terrorism bureau conducted raids in eight places in Turkiye. The spying gang has been using social media to recruit its agents and were recruiting Turkiye citizens for Mossad by offering them money and employment. He has also alleged that these foreign agents spread fake news and create unrest among people. It is to be noted that Turkiye had established diplomatic relationship with Israel in 2022, but after the recent Israel-Hamas war, tension has arisen between the two countries. In contrast to its European allies, Turkiye doesn't consider Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

Avadhnama (January 6) states that the arrested suspected persons include

citizens of Palestine, Turkiye, Israel and other countries. It is to be noted that in July last year also the intelligence wing of Turkiye

had claimed to have arrested 56 Israeli agents which included seven Arabs and a Turkish man.

Supreme Court verdict a serious blow to Benjamin Netanyahu

Roznama Sahara (January 5) states that the Supreme Court of Israel, while declaring as illegal a law passed by the Parliament, stopped its implementation. It is to be noted that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had passed a controversial bill in the Parliament, in which a provision has been made as per which Parliament could intervene in any verdict of the court and stop its implementation. A major section of people of Israel has been opposing this law for many months. Even the defence minister of Israel had submitted his resignation in protest against this law. Lakhs of soldiers of reserve force, who are the backbone of Israeli Army, had declared that if the government call for them to take part in the military service, they will violate the order. On this, Netanyahu had threatened that those reserve soldiers who violate the government order will be court-martialled. The opponents of the prime minister said that Netanyahu has brought this controversial law in order to escape from the clutches of law so that if the court delivers any verdict against him on corruption charges, he could save himself from going to jail or being declared ineligible to contest the elections under the guise of this law.

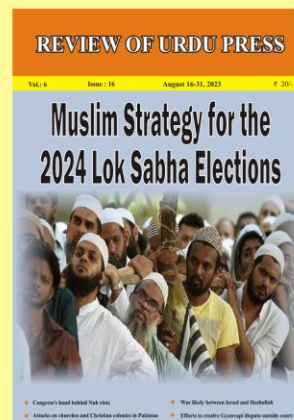
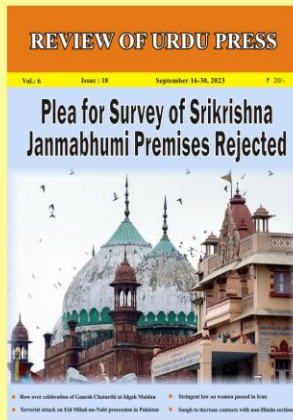
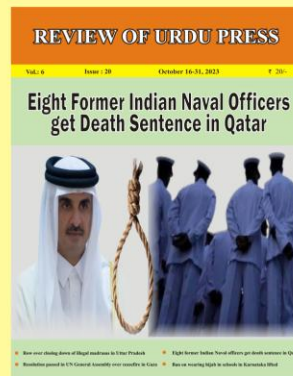
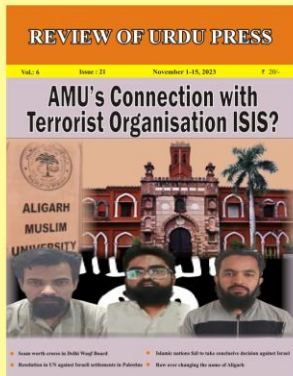
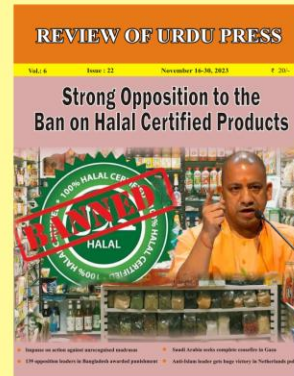
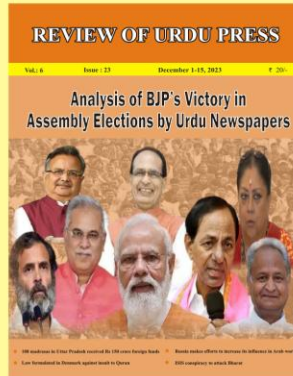
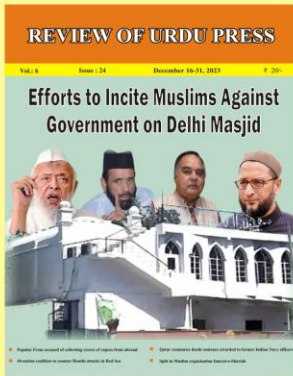
It is to be noted that in July last year, despite strong protests from the people, the Israeli Parliament had been made to pass a judicial reforms bill that seeks to limit the powers of the Supreme Court. Whereas, 64 MPs of the ruling alliance voted in favour in the Parliament. On the other hand, the Opposition had boycotted the voting. As per this bill, the Supreme Court will not be able to make any kind of interference in the laws passed by the Parliament. The Opposition leaders in Israel had strongly opposed this. According to Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post, six retired chiefs including the current chief of Israel's powerful intelligence agency Mossad have opposed this bill. The current director of Mossad David Barnea said that



the government is travelling on the wrong path and it will have serious consequences. He demanded that Prime Minister Netanyahu give up his stubbornness and find some way to reach a compromise with people. He alleged that due to his stubbornness, Netanyahu is dividing the brave people of Israel into several groups. Israel's Army chief Herzi Halevi said that the law passed by the Parliament will have a negative impact on the morale strength of the Israeli Army. The observers also allege that Hamas has taken advantage of the differences that have erupted among Israeli people and the Army due to this law and carried out the attack on Israel.

According to English newspaper **The Hindu** (January 4), this decision of Israeli Supreme Court is a serious setback to Netanyahu government, which is fighting a war against Hamas in Gaza. Out of the 15-member full bench of the Israeli Supreme Court, 12 judges supported the verdict of the Supreme Court and described the law passed by the Parliament as against basic law in Israel.

Roznama Sahara (January 4) reports that it has been said in this verdict that this law has been brought in the Parliament in order to extend benefits to a particular person and hence it is a manipulation of the rights of the Parliament. Those who filed petitions in the Israeli Supreme Court against this law included opposition parties and people belonging to Political Watchdog group. Their contention was that this amendment was against the basic principles of Israeli Constitution.



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