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Controversy over Razing of Illegal Structures in Haldwani



- Decision to implement Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand
- Political instability in Pakistan due to fractured mandate

- Jailed eight former Indian Naval officers released in Qatar
- Opposition to Surya Namaskar in Rajasthan

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Contents

Summary

National

Controversy over razing of illegal structures in Haldwani	03
Decision to implement Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand	04
Opposition to Surya Namaskar in Rajasthan	08
Lakshagriha of Mahabharat-period or mazaar of Peer?	13
Mufti Salman Azhari arrested on charges of hate speech	14

World

Political instability in Pakistan due to fractured mandate	16
Al Qaida spreads its network in Afghanistan	19
Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar new King of Malaysia	22
Ilham Aliyev elected Azerbaijan President	24
Prabowo Subianto elected President of Indonesia	26

West Asia

Jailed eight former Indian Naval officers released in Qatar	27
Inauguration of grand Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi	28
Massive US bombing in many locations in Iraq and Syria	30
US and Britain attack Houthi bases in Yemen	32
Iran announces Visa-free entry for Indians	33

Summary

The administration has razed a madrasa and a masjid built illegally on government land in Haldwani area in Uttarakhand on the directions of the court. The Muslims strongly opposed the demolitions. The protests escalated so much that there were fierce clashes between the police and the protesters. Nainital District Magistrate Vandana Singh alleged that Muslims have been preparing for this riots for a long time. That is the reason why they collected stones and petrol bombs in their houses in large number which they used to attack the police and the administration. When the situation worsened, the police had to open fire in self-defence in which at least six persons were killed and dozens injured.

The accused were being arrested after identifying them with the help of CCTV footage. So far, more than 100 people have been arrested, which included women as well. Cases have been registered against the rioters under the National Security Act. The leaders of the rioters have been identified and their houses are being razed using bulldozers after seizing their property. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said those elements who provoke violence will be dealt with force. Muslim organisations allege that the riots spread due to the hasty action by the administrative officials. They demanded that the accused officials should be arrested and cases be registered against them.

Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. The Uttarakhand Assembly passed the bill on Uniform Civil Code through voice vote. As per this law, there is a provision to award punishment to the husband or wife if they go for a second marriage if the spouse is still alive. A ban has been imposed on malpractices like *halala* and *iddat* as well. Live-in relationship has been granted legal sanctity in this bill. Every individual who is in a live-in relationship has to register himself or herself. Provisions have been made to provide equal share for sons and daughters in ancestral property. Muslim organisations have been strongly opposing this law. They have also announced their decision to approach the Supreme Court in this connection.

In neighbouring Pakistan, political uncertainty has set in due to the fractured mandate in the elections. Even ten days after the announcement of the results of the elections, government could not be formed there. The interesting thing is that despite strong opposition from the Army, the people of Pakistan supported former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the elections. It is a well-known fact that the real rulers of Pakistan are its Army and if any leader is reluctant to become a puppet in the hands of the Army, he is removed from power. This is to the extent that even the judiciary has become a puppet in the hands of the Army. This is the reason why the court has banned Imran Khan from contesting the elections for the next ten years due to pressure from the Army. This apart, he has been sentenced to jail for 34 years in 10 cases.

The Qatar government has released eight former officers of Indian Navy due to the efforts of Prime Minister Modi and India's external affairs ministry. In October last year, a court in Qatar had awarded death sentence to them on charges of spying for Israel. Later, their death sentence was converted to life-term in jail. Now these officers have safely returned to the country. Urdu newspapers claim that due to the successful policies of Prime Minister Modi, India's standing in Middle-East countries has gone up. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a grand temple built in Abu Dhabi. In 2015, the ruler of United Arab Emirates had donated land for this temple. The construction of the temple has cost Rs 700 crore and it is spread over 27 acres.

Controversy erupts over razing of illegal structures in Haldwani



Inquilab (February 10) reports that a masjid and a madrasa were demolished during an anti-encroachment drive conducted by the administration against illegal constructions in Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Soon, violence erupted over it and huge mobs of Muslims started attacking police. The police station was set on fire and the mob also tried to set ablaze police personnel. Following this, the administration imposed curfew in the entire region and shoot-at-sight orders were issued against rioters. Internet services were fully shut down.

It is to be noted that the Railways had urged the court to remove illegal encroachment on the Nazul land. Following this, the court has ordered to remove the illegal encroachment. District Magistrate of Nainital, Vandana Singh, alleged that preparations were being made for a long time for the riots. When the administration, on the orders of the court, started taking action to remove the encroachment, an agitated crowd attacked the police and administrative officials. They were pelted with stones from the roof-tops of nearby

houses and a large number of petrol bombs were hurled at them with the aim of setting them ablaze.

Inquilab alleged that Muslims were staying in this region in huge numbers even before Independence but the administration has now evicted more than 50,000 Muslims settled there. However, the Supreme Court has stopped their forceful eviction and said that until these people are rehabilitated elsewhere, they shall not be forcibly evicted from there. The newspaper said that curfew has been imposed in this region. In the video that went viral on social media, one could see the fire spreading wide and also hear sounds of firing. Along with this, the screams of women and children could also be heard. Director General of Police, Uttarakhand, Abhinav Kumar said that cases will be registered under National Security Act against those who attacked the police, damaged properties and set fire to them.

After the Haldwani incident, a high alert was sounded in the entire Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Unidentified sources expressed the fear that

mischievous elements could spark riots. Security forces have fully secured Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Contingents of paramilitary forces have been deployed in the town. Nainital SSP Prahlad Narayan Meena said that a large number of rioters have been caught. The Uttarakhand Police have been identifying those who spread riots in Banbhoolpura using CCTV footage.



The newspaper said that the video shows policemen also pelting stones on Muslim Mohalla. Secondly, state Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has claimed that the action taken to demolish the masjid and madrasa was being done as per the law. Whereas Muslim leaders claimed that the court had fixed February 14 to hear the petition that was filed in the high court in this connection, but even before that the administration used bulldozers on both the masjid and the madrasa. This created lot of anger among the local people and women held a huge protest against it. Stone-pelting and clashes started soon after the lathicharge by police.

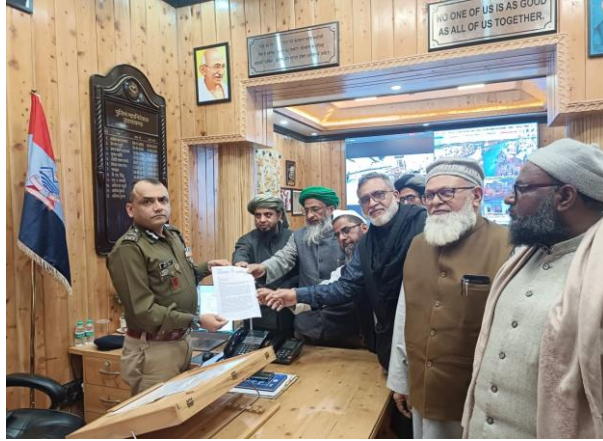
Nainital District Magistrate Vandana Singh claimed that mischievous elements deliberately tried to spread riots. The Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress, while condemning the incident in Haldwani, appealed to the people that they maintain harmony and peace. The Congress, while holding the administration and the government responsible for the violence, alleged that the situation in which six people were killed was deliberately created. Following the clashes, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama reached Haldwani and visited the injured in the hospital. He said that the law will take its own course and stringent action will be taken against the rioters.

Sahafat (February 9) reports that after the demolition of masjid and madrasa in Haldwani, violence erupted in the town. The crowd set fire to several police vehicles. Many police officers and

journalists were injured in the stone-pelting. The provoked crowd also set fire to Banbhoolpura police station. Addressing journalists in Dehradun, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said the administration's team went to Banbhoolpura in order to demolish the illegal structures on the directions of the court. Later, the incited crowd pelted stones on the policemen and administrative officials and also threw petrol bombs at them. In order to control the situation, the police initially used teargas shells. However, when the situation could not be controlled even after this, they resorted to lathicharge and as the situation further worsened, the police had to open fire. Five persons were killed in this firing. Seeing the explosive situation, police and paramilitary forces were rushed to Haldwani in huge numbers from neighbouring places and curfew was imposed for an indefinite period in the area. The rioters are being arrested. Haldwani Municipal Commissioner Pankaj Upadhyaya said the madrasa and the masjid were totally illegal, which were constructed after illegally occupying a three-acre plot of municipal corporation. On the directions of the court, the madrasa and the masjid were initially seized and later demolished.

Inquilab (February 15) reports that on the directions of the chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, a five-member enquiry team was sent to tour the riot-hit areas of Haldwani. This enquiry team alleged that the administration was fully responsible for the riots that took place in Haldwani. The administration had assured

the people that no action would be taken before February 14. In this connection, any kind of action would be taken only after a verdict was pronounced on the petition filed before the court. However, despite this, the administration razed the masjid and the madrasa all of a sudden. When people protested against it, they were fired upon, during which six innocent Muslim youths were killed and nearly 100 were injured. In the report, it was stated that had the administration taken the local people into confidence, this situation would not have arisen. Now, in the changed situation, the administration is carrying out indiscriminate arrests. Hundreds of people had left their houses for other places due to the fear of torture of police.



The local people told this delegation that the police raided the houses of hundreds of people at night and a number of youths were forcibly taken away. Later, cases were registered against these youths. The Muslim delegation demanded the district administration that they stop the arrests of innocent people. It has also been said in the report that the administration did not give them the permission to visit riot-hit areas. The administration said that permission cannot be granted to visit riot-hit areas due to the curfew. Similarly, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that a police station will be built on the land that has been freed from encroachment. While blaming Muslims for the violence, he said that preparations for the riots had been taking place for quite some time.

As per another news, a joint delegation of Jamiat Ulema and Jamaat-e-Islami met the Director General of Police of Uttarakhand Abhinav Kumar and handed over a memorandum in which they condemned the firing on innocent people in Banbhoolpura and indiscriminate arrests of people. They also alleged that the police are deliberately torturing the Muslims. Muslim Mohallas are raided at midnight

and women and children are beaten up. They demanded that innocent people should not be arrested and women and children should not be harassed. The family members of those who have been killed in police firing shall be given a compensation of Rs 1 crore each. The DGP has assured the delegation that no innocent person will be arrested.

Urdu Times (February 17) reports that the Uttarakhand administration imposed a ban on namaz in the masjids in Haldwani during the juma day. Following this order, the people had to offer namaz at their houses only. Nainital SSP Prahlad Narayan Meena said that so far 42 people have been arrested while nine are absconding. The properties of absconding persons have been seized. The 13 women who were found pelting stones on police on the basis of video footage were also arrested. According to official sources, so far six persons have been killed in the riots. Meanwhile, the condition of two injured are stated to be serious. More than 300 people have been injured in the riots and FIR have been registered against 5,000 people.

Inquilab (February 14) states that the administration has sent a notice to the main accused in the Haldwani riots, Abdul Malik, for damages worth Rs 2.44 crore. It has been stated in the notice that he has to pay for the damages suffered by the government assets due to his action. The demolished masjid and the madrasa, which were located on a land named Bagicha, was



under the ownership of this Abdul Malik. The newspaper said that more than 300 families had left their homes due to police torture.

Sahafat (February 15) states that the houses of six accused including Abdul Malik were demolished using bulldozers. The police claim these buildings were constructed on government properties.

Avadhnama (February 13) alleged that the administration was fully responsible for the police firing in Haldwani in which six persons were killed. The local Muslims wanted to take out the Quran which was kept in the masjid there, but the administration did not allow it. The local Muslims opposed this. When this masjid and madrasa were being demolished, the administrative officials said this action was being taken as per the directions of the high court. When the imam of the masjid sought a copy of the order of the court, he was not given the copy and he was beaten up. Following this, common Muslims got angry and they started pelting stones. The police and the administration alleged that the attacks on them were pre-planned and the people had collected stones on the rooftops of their houses earlier itself, but the administration is not saying who forced the ordinary people to resort to stone-pelting. Aren't the local administration and its employees responsible for this? The other thing is that had these masjid and madrasa were illegal or these were built after encroaching government land, why the administration did not take any action so far? Who had given them the electricity and water supply connection?

The newspaper said that earlier in January last year also the issue of

Banbhoolpura colony had come up in the court. From the documents that the people of the locality produced in the high court, it could be established that they purchased land here and built their houses, shops, school and other things. They had submitted their registrations as evidence for the purchase of the property, which were nearly 100 years old. Later when this issue reached the Supreme Court, the court stopped the demolition of their houses. Now this issue is pending before the Supreme Court. When this issue is in court, didn't the administration insult the court by demolishing these houses.

The newspaper alleged that from the manner in which the media has been reporting on behalf of the government, the entire blame is on Muslims. If the officials involved in demolition are not showing the order of the court, then the court could be approached against this action. However, though there is not much hope of justice from the court, the final refuge is still the court alone. Muslims should understand that if they take any retaliatory action on any issue, they alone will have to suffer damages. In any case, it is the BJP which is in power in Uttarakhand and their stand with regard to Muslims is not hidden from anyone.

Urdu Times (February 14) reports that Nainital District Magistrate Vandana Singh had cancelled the arms licence of 120 people in Haldwani and directed them to deposit their weapons with the police. Apart from Haldwani, the District Magistrate said the local people in Banphoolpura wrongly used their licensed weapons and thereby violated the conditions of licence. Hence the District Magistrate has cancelled their licence.

Decision to implement Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand



Sahafat (February 8) reports that the BJP-ruled Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country whose Assembly had approved the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the state. Now there is this possibility of the same being implemented in other BJP-ruled states as well. Now, all the people in Uttarakhand will come under a common law on matters like marriage, wedding, talaq, property, adoption etc. Whereas, this is totally against the guarantee given to the Muslims as per the Constitution. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told reporters that today was a very important day, because we have passed a law, which the people of the country have been waiting for long. Uttarakhand is the first state in the country to realise this dream. He said this law is not against any particular religion, instead is in the interest of every man and woman where they get equal rights on matters like marriage, alimony, property and divorce. When this bill was presented in the Vidhan Sabha, the opposition party Congress demanded that it shall be handed over to the selection committee.

As soon as the bill gets the nod from the Governor, the Uniform Civil Code will become applicable in the state. The Muslim Personal Law Board has condemned this

decision of the government and described it as unnecessary and against the multi-religious belief. Spokesperson of Muslim Personal Law Board, Dr Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, said this law has been brought in a haste for political campaign. The policy that has been adopted for marriage, talaq, succession and adoption in this law is totally against Islam. This is also against Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937. This law is against Article 25, 26 and 29 of the Constitution and it is also against religious-cultural diversity. He said under this law, both son and daughter have been given equal share in the property, which is against Shariah law. The system to protect the rights of Muslims on the issues of marriage, divorce and property as per Shariah is given in Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937.

Urdu Times (February 7) states that Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami presented the bill on Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand Assembly and it was passed with a voice vote. In this bill several provisions have been made with regard to marriage, which are against the Shariah. In this law, the marriageable age for men has been fixed at 21 and for women it is at 18 years. Whereas in the Muslim Personal



anything but cannot compromise on our Shariah and the religion. The Scheduled Tribes have been kept outside the Uniform Civil Code which has been made applicable in Uttarakhand and it has been argued that they have been given protection for the same under Article 21 of the Constitution. Madani said that if the Scheduled Tribes could be kept outside the purview of this

Law under Shariah, no age limit has been prescribed. The girl could be married off any time once her menstrual cycle begins. This apart, registration of marriage has also been made mandatory. If anyone does not do it, then he has to pay a fine of Rs 20,000. The husband and the wife cannot approach a court for divorce before completing one year after consummation of their marriage. The marriage could be conducted through any religious institution, but the divorce could be taken only from the court. A person will get permission to marry again only after the court grants divorce to the first husband or the wife. No appeal could be made to any court against this law. Marrying against the law can result in a jail term of up to six months and up to a fine of Rs 50,000. This apart, there is a provision to award a jail term up to three years for securing divorce by violating the law. Whether man or woman can marry for a second time only if either of them passes away. If either the husband or the wife enters into physical relationship with any other man or woman despite being married, then in a such a situation they can seek divorce.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 7) states that politics has increased over the Uniform Civil Code passed in the Uttarakhand Assembly. Many Muslim organisations and leaders have condemned this decision of the Uttarakhand government. The chief of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Arshad Madani said that such a law is not acceptable to us which is against Islam and Shariah. He said in a statement that Muslims could compromise on

law on the basis of one Article, then why we were also not kept outside this law under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution. If it is Uniform Civil Code, then why there is a discrimination between the citizens? He said that our legal team will look into the legal aspects of this bill. After that, a decision will be taken on challenging the same in the court.

Samajwadi Party MP S T Hasan said that this law is against the directions given to Muslims in Quran and we will not accept this under any circumstance. In Uttarakhand Assembly, Opposition leader Yashpal Arya said that we are not against Uniform Civil Code. The Constitution is being implemented through laws and the ruling party BJP threw to winds the laws in order to quickly pass this bill. Former chief minister of Uttarakhand and Congress leader Harish Rawat said the state government was desperate to get it passed quickly. The state government is taking initiative on this matter on the directions of the Central government. Whereas it was for the Central government to bring such a law.

Hamara Samaj (February 8) states that former chairman of Uttarakhand Haj Committee Maulana Zahid Raza Rizvi condemned the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand. He said that the chief minister took this step in haste, which is not appropriate. He complained that the expert committee, which was constituted to prepare the draft of this bill, did not seek any kind of opinion from any Muslim leader or religious scholar. The Sikhs and Christians have also opposed the Uniform Civil Code. He said that Muslims will not

accept anything which is against the law and Shariah.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (February 6) states that Muslim organisations have started protests against Uniform Civil Code. The Qazi of Jama Masjid, Dehradun said that this law has targeted only Muslims. He said that we will fight against this black law till the last breath while staying within the legal scope. The Muslim organisations have even laid a siege to Uttarakhand Assembly in order to mark their protests. Until Muslims stand united, it would not be possible to stop the arbitrariness of the BJP.

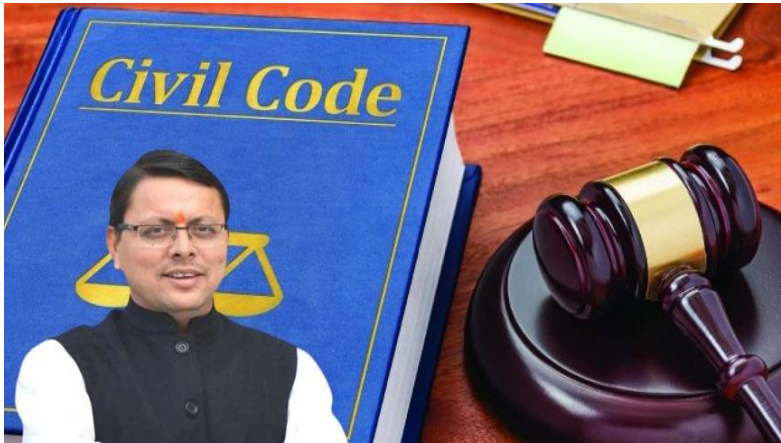
Roznama Sahara (February 8) states that as and when this bill takes the form of a law, it will become mandatory for those who are in a live-in relationship in Uttarakhand to register themselves and not doing so would result in a jail term up to six months. This apart, a second marriage during the life time of the husband or wife has been termed illegal. If a person dies, his property will be distributed equally between his wife and children. This apart, his wife and father and mother will also have rights on this property. Earlier, only the deceased's mother used to get her share in the property. A divorce will be granted only in a situation when both the side reach a compromise. The responsibility of the children born out of live-in relationship shall be borne by both of them. The Adivasis in the state will be outside the purview of this law. There are five Adivasi communities in the state and they include Tharu, Buksa, Raji, Bhotiya and Jaunsari. For second marriage, conditions like halala or iddat will not be mandatory. This apart, there is a ban on marrying the sons, daughters of chacha and mama as declared in Islam.

Qaumi Tanzeem (February 16) said that earlier the RSS used to raise the slogan 'Ek Rashtra, Ek Bhasha and Ek Sanskriti', but ever since the Bhagwa brigade came to power, this slogan has been given an addition, and that is one religion. The Constitution came into being on January 26, 1950 and the nation has been declared

as a secular democracy. The secular nation has been buried long ago. Now what is left is democracy and that too remains only in the name. The country is moving fast towards dictatorship and Hindu Rashtra. This is the reason why an effort is being made to bring a common law namely the Uniform Civil Code to all the citizens of the country. Its sole purpose is to polarise the Hindu votes during the next Lok Sabha elections and seize power. With this aim, small states like Uttarakhand and Assam have started taking initiatives at the behest of the Centre. In Uttarakhand, the law regarding the Uniform Civil Code has been passed and now preparations are on to implement the same in Assam as well.

It is to be noted that the Uniform Civil Code is an old agenda of BJP and now a plan is being made to implement it in the entire country. The Uttarakhand government has implemented it at the behest of the Centre. The BJP wants to know the reaction of Muslims in the guise of this law. This law will be applicable only on the Muslims, but due to strong opposition of the Adivasis, the government has decided to keep them outside the ambit of this law. However, there are many things which are against the Islamic Shariah in this law, among which four are important. The first is it is mandatory to register marriages in court. Secondly, there will not be permission for divorce within one year of marriage. Now, nobody will have the right to grant divorce and for this they have to approach the court. Whereas in Islam, whenever the husband wants, he can grant divorce to his wife and the wife also can take Khula from her husband as per her interest.

Now, it is necessary to cite the reason for talaq in the court. The court will grant divorce only if it is satisfied with the argument. No individual can go for a second marriage without the permission of the court. It will be necessary to tell the court an appropriate reason for second marriage. The son and daughter will have equal share in the ancestral property. All these issues are against Quran, Sunnat and



been opposed to Hindu Code Bill right from the beginning. This Uniform Civil Code is nothing but a conspiracy to stop the implementation of Shariah law on Muslims. Similarly, the Hindu Code Bill has been forcefully imposed on Muslims. In Hindu Code Bill, men do not have the

Shariah. Muslims will never accept this, because it is against their faith, Islam and Shariah. This is the reason why Muslim organisations have decided to oppose it and are preparing to approach the court. It should be remembered that it is futile to hope for justice from the courts. The verdicts in Babri and Gyanvapi cases are more than enough to open the eyes of the people. If Muslims want to stay in this country as per their belief, Islam and as per their identity, then they have to stick to their faith and strictly enforce Quran and Sunnat. It is not necessary to take to the streets for this. Even if you take the most possible peaceful march, the fanatic media and administration will give it a wrong colour and put the Muslim in jail. The masjids and Islam are not secure in our country. Now preparations are on to impose black laws like CAA and NRC on Muslims. It is possible that after securing a massive victory, the BJP will change the current Constitution and declare the country as a Hindu nation.

Urdu Times (February 18) in its editorial alleged that on the pretext of Uniform Civil Code, a Hindu Code Bill is being imposed on the people of the country. In different countries in the world, development and public welfare form the basis of politics, but in our country the panacea for gaining power is to harass Muslims. In Uttarakhand, the rubbish that has been brought on Muslims in the name of Uniform Civil Code is a result of this politics. Sangh Parivar has

permission for more than one marriage. Now, this law will be applicable on Muslims as well. The biggest damage will be on the widows of Muslims, divorced women and on aged women. Now she will not be able to lead an honourable life by becoming the second wife of a married man. This law stops Muslims from living life as per halal. However, this law has no objection to live life in a haram manner.

Etemaad (February 6) in its editorial said that former Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee had said in the Parliament that we had left behind three important issues namely Ram Mandir, Article 370 and Uniform Civil Code for the time being, because we did not have the majority. When we get majority, we will implement them. It looks like that time has come now. Because the BJP has majority, it is implementing its agenda. Two of these issues among the old agenda have already been implemented. The construction of Ram Mandir has been completed and Article 370 has also been scrapped. Now preparations are on to implement Uniform Civil Code before the general elections. The beginning for it is being made in Uttarakhand.

It is to be noted that the Uttarakhand government had constituted a committee headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, which handed over its report to Dhama government on December 22, 2023. In 2018, the Law Commission had said that

currently there was no need for a Uniform Civil Code in the country, neither there is the right atmosphere to implement it. The government has the fear that the Hindus too would protest against the implementation of Uniform Civil Code, because if the law on Hindu joint family ends, then the facilities that the Hindu joint family gets in the payment of taxes will also end. It is to be noted that an MP of BJP, Kirori Lal Meena, had presented a private member bill in Rajya Sabha in this connection in order to gauge the public sentiments, which was opposed by Congress, Left parties and Trinamool Congress. They said that implementation of this law will result in damage to the social fabric and shared heritage. The question that arises here is why the Uttarakhand government did not include anyone from the minority community in the committee constituted to prepare the draft of the Uniform Civil Code? It is clear that this bill has been brought to target the Muslims so that the votes of the majority community could be collected in the next elections. Those who stress on Uniform Civil Code should remember one thing that the Adivasis, Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Northeastern states could oppose it.

Inquilab (February 9) in its editorial said that if it is an important issue in the eyes of Uttarakhand government, why was it not implemented when it came to power? Now when the elections have come close, why the government suddenly remembered it? It is clear that the government wants to polarise the votes of majority community on the pretext of Uniform Civil Code. The other aim could also be that once this bill gets the approval, what would be the reaction of the Opposition parties and the organisations? The government might have thought that let it be implemented in a state first so that if the matter reaches the court, then what stand it would take would also be known. The newspaper said we did not study the draft of this bill, hence it would be difficult for us to say whether the right

to privacy and religious freedom comes within the ambit of this law or not. If it is so, then this law will not sustain in the court.

Roznama Sahara (February 7) in its editorial alleged that the BJP has reached the limit of Muslim enmity. If any law can bring damage to Muslims, then the government will implement it at any cost. Whether it creates fragmentation or controversy in the country. The legislators of Uttarakhand welcomed the bill on Uniform Civil Code with slogans of 'Jai Sriram' and passed it with a voice vote. Now this bill will go to the Governor and after his approval, Devbhoomi Uttarakhand will become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. Chief Minister Dhama said that there are more than 400 such sections in this bill, whose aim are to remove the inconsistencies in the traditional customs and rituals and strengthen the social structure. In this law, live-in relationship has been given legal protection and provision has been made to grant equal share to the children in ancestral properties. If any woman is abandoned by her spouse, then she could claim alimony under this law. The newspaper said that live-in relationship is another name for having a mistress but it is surprising that legal protection is granted to it in Bharat's Devbhoomi. All religions in this world condemn man and woman staying together without marriage, because the children born out of such relationship are not accepted by the society. Chief Minister Dhama, who speaks about strengthening the social structure, has been laying the foundation to tear apart social and family values and he is feeling happy doing so.

Taasir (February 7) in its editorial said that the law passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly on Uniform Civil Code is against the Islamic Shariah laws. The newspaper has advised Muslims to take any decision on the next step only after seriously studying this law. ■

Opposition to Surya Namaskar in Rajasthan



Hamara Samaj (February 12) states that the Rajasthan government has directed that Surya Namaskar shall be made compulsory in all schools in the state. This will begin on the occasion of Surya Saptami on February 15. Following the direction of the Rajasthan government, a meeting of Jamiat Ulema, Rajasthan took place in Jaipur. In this meeting, the directive of the state government regarding Surya Namaskar was condemned. The Jamiat Ulema has asked the Muslims to boycott Surya Namaskar en masse and not to send their children to school. In a resolution adopted in the meeting, it has been stated that this decision of the state government is a violation of the Constitution and it is also against the religious freedom guaranteed to the minorities in it. Jamiat Ulema said that worshipping anybody other than Allah is against Islamic principles. Jamiat Ulema has demanded in a petition filed in the Rajasthan High Court that the government's decision to make Surya Namaskar mandatory in all schools in the state should be cancelled.

In the resolution of Jamiat Ulema, it has been stated that in Hindu religion, Surya is worshipped as a devata and the shlok which is recited is a part of the

puja. Whereas in Islam, no one except Allah can be worshipped and hence Muslims will not accept it under any circumstance. It looks like the government is forcefully imposing Hindu religion on people of other communities. This apart, forcing students to worship Sun is an open violation of child rights and hence the government should withdraw its order. As per media reports, the Rajasthan High Court has rejected this petition of Jamiat Ulema.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 14) states that the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, had directed the Muslims in Rajasthan that they do not send their children to school and boycott the Surya Namaskar function. He said that worshipping the Sun is haram in the eyes of Islam and it is against Islamic Shariah. Rahmani has appealed to Rajasthan government not to force Muslims to take part in Surya Namaskar programmes.

Siasat (February 15) in its editorial has alleged that ever since BJP came to power in Rajasthan, the situation has been getting worse for Muslims daily. Balmukund Acharya, who has been elected from Hawa Mahal constituency,

has started targeting Muslim traders in his constituency as soon as he took the oath as an MLA. He put pressure to close down meat shops and the hotels of Muslims. The sad thing is that the police and the administration are siding with him. Later, the same MLA has opposed Muslim students from wearing hijab on the occasion of Republic Day. The newspaper alleged that one could see only one aim for this campaign and that

is to impose Hindutva on all people and to make life difficult for those who oppose it. The newspaper appealed to the government that it should not force Muslims to take part in Surya Namaskar.

Avadhnama (February 17) also in its editorial demanded the Rajasthan government not to force Muslim boy and girl students to take part in Surya Namaskar programmes because it is against their religious beliefs. ■

Mahabharat-period Lakshagriha or mazaar of Peer?

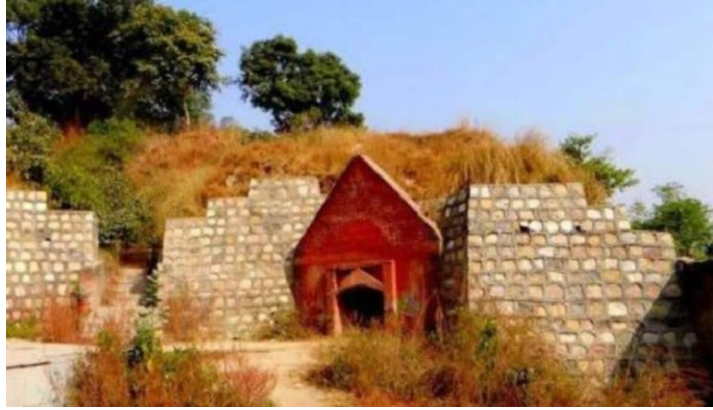


Akhbar-e-Mashriq (February 6) states that the court has delivered its verdict in a dispute over a Lakshagriha of Mahabharat-period and a mazaar of the Peer that has been going on for the past 50 years in Baghpat district in Uttar Pradesh. The court said the Waqf Board has no right over this place as it has failed to produce any credible documentary evidence in this connection. The court of Additional District Judge in its verdict said the Hindus hold right over this 100 bigha land and the mazaar. It is to be noted that a case has been running in the court for the past 50 years over a Mahabharat-period Lakshagriha and mazaar of Badruddin Shah in Baghpat district in Uttar Pradesh. This dispute started in 1970. That time, a

man named Mukim Khan, on behalf of the Muslim side, described the Lakshagriha mound as a mazaar of Badruddin Shah and a Kabristan and registered a case in the court over the claim of Muslims. In this case, a Hindu sanyasi named Brahmachari Krishnadatt Maharaj has been made as defendant at the behest of the Muslim side.

Lawyer for Hindu side, Ranveer Singh, said the Muslim side wanted to seize 100 bigha land after describing it as Kabristan and a mazaar. He has produced several documentary evidence before the court, in which it has been stated that the Lakshagriha was even mentioned in the religious text of Hindus namely Mahabharat and even a Sanskrit school was present on this mound. This apart, several

pieces of pots made of grey ware were found when renowned archaeologist Prof B B Lal conducted the excavations in 1952, which were said to be of Mahabharat period. These kinds of pottery were found during excavations done in other Mahabharat-period places as well. He said that these kind of pottery were found during the digging in Hastinapur and the Purana Qila in Delhi, which is also called Indraprastha. All these three places are said to be of Mahabharat-period. On the basis of the excavations done by archaeology department, Hindus have claimed in the court that this ruins, which is in the form of a mound, shall be handed over to Hindus since they belong to the Mahabharat period. Whereas, the Muslim side claims that there is a mazaar of Badruddin Shah built on this mound in the 15th century and along with it there is a Kabristan as well and hence it is a property of Muslims.



According to Mahabharat, Dhruatarashtra's son Duryodhan had constructed a building in Barnawa or Varanavat using inflammable material. A conspiracy was hatched to set ablaze and kill the Panch Pandavas including Maharani Kunti in this building (Lakshagriha). However, Mahatma Vidhur got a whiff of this conspiracy by Duryodhan. In this connection, he alerted dharmaraj Yudhishtir. Following this, the Pandavas built a tunnel inside Lakshagriha so that in case Duryodhan sets fire to the Lakshagriha, then the Pandavas including Maharani Kunti could escape from there. Even before Duryodhan could set fire to Lakshagriha, Kunti's son Bhimsena set fire to Lakshagriha and the Pandavas safely moved out through the tunnel.

There is a massive mound built at the confluence of Krishni and Hindon river in Baghpat district in the present-day Uttar Pradesh which is considered as the ruins of Lakshagriha. During the Muslim rule, the

mazaar of a Sufi, Badruddhin Shah, was built on this mound in the 15th century. Along with this, a Kabristan was also built there. The manager of the dargah, Mukim Khan, in his capacity as the office-bearer of Waqf Board, filed a case before the civil judge in Baghpat in 1970. It has been claimed in it that it was Waqf land, which has been handed over by the Muslim nawab to the Muslims as a gift to build a mazaar and now Hindus want to forcefully occupy it. Mukim Khan, while making a local sanyasi and the founder of Lakshagriha Gurukul Brahmachari Krishnadutt Maharaj as defendant, said the Hindus want to illegally occupy this Muslim dargah under the leadership of Brahmachari. However, the Muslim side did not produce any such evidence in the court which could establish that any Nawab had handed over this spot to the Muslims to build a mazaar.

The Hindu side produced the report of a survey conducted by Archeological Survey of India in 1952 in the court. It has been said in this report that this mound located in Barnawa village is the ruins of the Lakshagriha of the Mahabharat period. In this survey report, there is no mention of any mazaar or Kabristan there. It is to be noted that many places in Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are said to belong to Mahabharat period. In 2005, few ruins of Harappan period were found in a village named Sinauli, a little away from Barnawa. That time it was claimed that the cache of weapons found during the excavations there belonged to Mahabharat period. The

district judge delivered his verdict on the basis of this survey report.

Sahafat (February 6) reports that the lawyer of Muslim side told reporters that they were preparing to file an appeal in the high court against this verdict. Muslim Personal Law Board also expressed

dissatisfaction over this verdict of the court and said we will question this matter in the high court.

Siasat (February 7) states that the Sunni Central Waqf Board has claimed that this mazaar and the Kabristan are registered with them. ■

Mufti Salman Azhari arrested for delivering hate speech



Siasat (February 5) states that the Gujarat ATS has arrested Islamic preacher Mufti Salman Azhari on charges of delivering hate speech. According to Gujarat police, Mufti Salman Azhari, while addressing a public gathering in Junagadh on January 31, delivered a provocative speech which could lead to tension between different communities in society. In this connection, the police registered a case against Azhari in Junagadh in Gujarat and two organisers of this public meeting were also arrested. Later, the Gujarat police raided the house of the Mufti in Mumbai and took him into custody. When the news of the arrest of Mufti spread in the region, a Muslim crowd gheraoed the Ghatkopar police station in Mumbai and the people started demanding the release of the Mufti. A huge crowd staged a dharna outside the police station

due to which the traffic came to a standstill. Looking at the mood of the crowd, the police asked the Mufti to try and pacify the angry crowd so that peace is not disturbed.

It is being said that when the supporters of Mufti Azhari pelted stones at police station, the Mufti appealed to his supporters, due to the pressure of police, that they do not take law into their hands. If the peaceful atmosphere is disturbed, then the administration and the police will get an opportunity to take action against Muslims. Mufti Azhari's lawyer Wahid Sheikh told reporters that the Gujarat Police in plainclothes raided the house of the Maulana at midnight and took him into custody. The Gujarat police said that a case has been registered against Mufti and the organisers of the public meeting under Section 153 B of Indian Penal Code.



Sahafat (February 6) states that after the arrest of Mufti Salman Azhari, the Gujarat police produced him before a court in Mumbai. After this, the police obtained a transit remand for two days and took him to Junagadh. There the Gujarat police will question him. The lawyer of Salman Azhari, Arif Siddiqui, told journalists that they, while opposing the transit remand in the court, had said that the police had taken Mufti Azhari into custody in an illegal manner. Before the arrest of Mufti, he was not given any kind of notice. The lawyer of the Mufti said that Mufti Azhari is ready to cooperate with police in the investigation. DCP Hemraj Rajput appealed to the people that they do not fall prey to rumours and maintain peace. Spokesperson of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Waris Pathan said the Gujarat police has deliberately trapped Mufti Salman in a fake case. Along with Mufti, an FIR has been registered against two organisers of this public meeting, Mohammad Yusuf Malik and Azim Habib, under Sections 153 B and 505 (2) of Indian Penal Code. In the video of Mufti that has gone viral on social media, the Maulana was heard saying, “The last phase of the war in Karbala is pending. This silence is only for some time, then

there will be noise in the ears. Today it is the day of the dogs, our time will come tomorrow.”

Urdu Times (February 6) states that when Mufti Salman was kept at Ghatkopar police station, his supporters pelted stones at the police station. According to Mumbai police, cases have been registered against 16 persons on charges of pelting stones at police station, disrupting government work and illegal gathering of crowd. Later, the police raided the houses of the suspected people at midnight and took all the accused into custody.

As per a news published in the edition of this newspaper on February 5, former minister Nasim Khan tried to release the Mufti on bail, but the police said that the matter is dealt by Gujarat police and hence they are helpless in this issue. The police claimed that the organisers took permission for the public meeting of Mufti Azhari by stating that the Mufti will speak about religion and will make efforts to create awareness among people against drug addiction. The newspaper said the arrest of the Mufti created anxiety among the Muslims in Mumbai. Maulana Abdul Jabbar Azmi, while condemning the arrest of Mufti



Salman, said that currently an atmosphere is being created against the Muslims in the country and fake cases are being deliberately registered against them. This issue is also a part of this campaign. Leader of Raza Academy Muhammad Saeed Noori said the arrest of the Maulana is shameful. The Maulana is not a terrorist that he should be arrested at midnight. He said the Gujarat government, due to Muslim enmity, is insulting the religious leaders of Muslims by registering fake cases against them.

As per an editorial published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (February 7), the BJP government has been registering fake cases against Muslims in order to harass them. The police have assured the crowd that gathered outside the Ghatkopar police station that Mufti Salman will be released immediately, but he was produced before a magistrate on the night itself by violating the law and the Gujarat police took the Mufti away to Junagadh by obtaining a transit remand. The police also resorted to lathicharge in order to disperse the crowd. The newspaper said that BJP MLA T Raja Singh and the leader of BJP in Maharashtra Nilesh Rane have been venting venom against the Muslims but the administration has not taken any step against them. The Muslims being weak and disorganised, the administration has been targeting them so that an atmosphere of fear could be created among them. The newspaper said the BJP is making the entire Muslim community its

target. Muslims should organise themselves and take on the BJP.

The same newspaper has claimed in another news that one more case has been registered against Mufti Azahri in Modasa in Gujarat on charges of making an objectionable speech.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 6) in its editorial, while condemning the arrest of Mufti Salman Azhari, said the attitude of today's

rulers is anti-Muslim and they want to harass Muslims and their leaders on one pretext or the other. This fake case has been registered against Mufti Azhari so that no Muslim organisation or its leaders dare to raise their voice against the efforts to torture Muslims in the country. There is no such word in the speech of the Mufti on the basis of which it could be said that he tried to spread hatred among different communities of the society. This case is a wrong use of government's power. In order to scare the Muslims of the country, the drama of the arrest of the Mufti has been staged and nearly 100 personnel of Gujarat police raided the house of Maulana at midnight. The newspaper said that it is clear from the manner in which a judge, who recently delivered his controversial verdict in the Gyanvapi case just a few hours before his superannuation, that the administration has been deliberately harassing the Muslims due to the pressure of the ruling party. Many leaders of BJP and Sangh Parivar and Sudarshan TV have been continuously spitting venom against Muslims, but till now no action has been taken against them. It looks like the justice system is deliberately thrown to the winds in view of the election. This is a challenge for the entire Muslim community. This is not just the arrest of a single individual. It is necessary for Muslims to get united to take on the nefarious intentions of the government.

Political instability in Pakistan due to fractured verdict



Ten days have passed ever since the results of the elections were announced in Pakistan, but a government could not be formed there so far. The reason for this is that no single party has got a clear majority in the elections. Various parties tried to form alliances and come to power, but they did not materialise due to internal conflicts. There are 336 seats in the National Assembly in Pakistan. Among them, 60 seats are reserved for women and 10 seats are reserved for religious minorities. In such a situation, the leader of that party becomes the prime minister, which has the support of 169 members in the House. As per the latest report, the highest number of independent candidates ever have won in this elections. Majority of these candidates are said to be linked to the party of former prime minister Imran Khan, namely Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The Supreme Court of Pakistan had banned PTI from taking part in the elections and had frozen its election symbol 'cricket bat.'

In the recent elections, 93 independent candidates linked to PTI got elected. Whereas in the previous elections, 116 candidates of this party had won. This way, the number of MPs supporting Imran

Khan has come down by 23. Last time, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) had won in 64 seats and this time it has registered success in 75 seats. In this way, the party has got 11 more seats. As six independent MPs joined Muslim League (Nawaz), now their seats have gone up to 81. In the previous elections, Pakistan People's Party had won 43 seats. This time it has won 54 seats. This way, the number of their MPs has increased by 11. Similarly, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has won 17 seats. The banned PTI has announced that the independent MPs linked to it will join Sunni Ittehad Council.

Siasat (February 12) states that the Election Commission had said that the number of independent members in the National Assembly of Pakistan has gone up to 101. This apart, a few other small parties also registered their victory in the elections. They include four candidates of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JeI), three of Pakistan Muslim League (Q), three of Istehkam-e-Pakistan party and two members of Balochistan National Party (Mengal). Whereas National Party, Balochistan Awami Party, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party,

Pakistan Muslim League (Zia) and Majlis Wahadat-e-Muslimeen had to satisfy with one seat each.

Inquilab (February 10) states that many veterans had to face defeat in the elections in Pakistan. They include the chief of JuI, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Khawaja Saad Rafique, IPP chief Jahangir Tareen, PTI leader Chaudhry



Pervaiz Elahi, PTI leader Pervez Khattak, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq, chief of Awami National Party Wali Khan and ANP leader Amir Haider Khan Hoti. This apart, former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan, daughter of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Meher Bano Qureshi, PTI leader Alia Hamza Malik, Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Jawed Latif also had to face defeat.

As per another news published in this edition of **Inquilab**, in Shangla district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa division of Malakand, three workers of PTI were killed in clashes with police and 10 were injured. As per another news, 51 terrorist attacks took place on the polling day in Pakistan in which 12 people including 10 soldiers were killed. As per an official statement, more than 1.5 lakh soldiers of Pakistani Army were deployed in 6,000 sensitive polling booths.

Avadhnama (February 4) states that one person was killed in clashes between political workers in Karachi.

Pakistani newspaper **Mashriq** (February 9) states that more than 40 people were killed and nearly two dozen others were injured in two explosions that took place during polling in Balochistan. These explosions took place in Qila Saifullah and in Pishin. In Pishin, the explosion took place outside the office of independent candidate Asfand Yar Khan Kakar. The explosion took place due to a bomb kept outside a motorcycle in which 25 people were killed on the spot itself.

The other explosion took place outside the office of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Qila Saifullah, where also there were reports of the death of 25 people. Similarly, in Sibi district, terrorist organisation ISIS resorted to indiscriminate firing on an election rally of PTI, in which there were reports of death of 10 people.

Siasat (February 4) in its editorial said the nikah of former prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi had been declared as 'haram' and they were awarded a punishment of seven years each in jail. This apart, in another case where he was accused of making official secrets public, Imran Khan has been awarded 10 years in jail. Similarly, a court in Islamabad awarded 14 years in jail each to Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshkhana case. This apart, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 78 crore on him. The court also said that Imran Khan cannot contest in any election for the next 10 years. The newspaper has written that the decision of the court against Imran Khan indicates that the Pakistani judiciary has become a puppet in the hands of the Army. This is a dangerous sign, which is extremely harmful to the democracy of Pakistan. This apart, due to this decision, the credibility of judiciary has gone in the eyes of the people.

Hindustan Express (February 5) states that due to the ban imposed on Imran Khan from contesting the elections, the elections in Pakistan has become controversial. At one level, the noose is tightened around Imran Khan. On the other



people there are with Imran Khan. Despite the Army using every opportunity, the people there did not like Mian Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. The democracy in Pakistan has become a hostage in the hands of the Army. Whoever forms the government there, calling it a

hand, all kinds of facilities are being extended to the leaders of Muslim League (Nawaz) to contest the elections. Nawaz Sharif had been leading a life of exile in London for the past three years. Now he has returned. All the corruption cases which were pending against him were also withdrawn. The most interesting thing is that the Supreme Court of Pakistan had imposed a life-ban on Nawaz Sharif from contesting the elections. Now this decision has also been changed.

Siasat (February 1) in its editorial said that the history of Pakistan is witness to the fact that whichever leader had assumed power in the past in Pakistan, they had not only harassed their predecessors, but even hanged them to death and also banished them from the country. From the first President of Pakistan Iskandar Mirza to Imran Khan, the disgusting journey of revenge politics still continues. PTI's media advisor Syed Zulfikhar Bukhari said the cases against Imran Khan have become a joke. Imran Khan's lawyer was not given permission to question the witnesses. Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Sharat Sabharwal said the Pakistani Army is sending each and every such leader to the jail, who are not willing to dance to their tunes. Though elections are over in Pakistan, the political crisis there will not end because the Pakistan Army wants to keep the power in their hands.

Siasat (February 12) states that despite the efforts of Pakistani Army to finish off the political career of Imran Khan, more than 100 of his supporters have been elected as independents in the elections. It is clear from this that the

people's government will be a mockery of democracy. The government there works only at the behest of the Army.

Hindustan Express (February 8) states that the High Commissioner of United Nations Human Rights Council asked the rulers of Pakistan that they conduct the elections in an independent atmosphere. He said that at the behest of Pakistan Army, Imran Khan has been given a punishment of 34 years in jail in different cases and a ban has also been imposed on him from contesting the elections. The powerful Army is targeting Imran Khan because he had accused the Pakistani generals of serious charges of corruption. Similarly, the Army said that Imran Khan and the activists of his party had attacked the military outposts on May 9 and incited people against the Army. The United Nations Human Rights Council said that minorities, especially Ahmadiyyas, have been deprived of taking part in the elections.

The same newspaper has published the findings of a survey conducted by an American company in its edition on February 9, in which it has been stated that 70 percent of Pakistanis do not believe that a free and fair elections would be held in the country.

Urdu Times (February 14) states that a spokesperson of US State department said that a fair investigation shall be conducted into the allegations of fraud in the elections held in Pakistan. The spokesperson has condemned the election violence and the ban imposed on mobile and internet services.

Siasat (February 12) states that the US, Britain and European Union have

expressed doubts over the credibility and fairness of the elections held in Pakistan. They demanded that the Pakistan government conduct a judicial inquiry into the election fraud.

Inquilab (February 13) states that Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul Haq Kakkar had said that they will not conduct any kind of investigations into the elections held in our country just because some foreign agency or a leader demanded so. Addressing reporters, he said that just because there is a delay in announcing the election results doesn't mean that some fraud took place in it. In Pakistan, due to the issue of terrorism, the mobile services have been stopped. International observers were present during the elections. He said that the election results were announced within 36 hours of the polling. Whereas in 2018, the election results were announced after



64 hours. He also said that the Election Commission honestly fulfilled its responsibility. We cannot conduct an investigation into the elections on the demand of US, Britain and European Union. We understand that the elections were held in the country in a free and fair atmosphere and all the political parties were given full opportunity to take part in the elections. ■

Al Qaida spreads its network in Afghanistan

Inquilab (February 3) states that the United Nations Security Council in a report has claimed that Al Qaida is once again spreading its network in Afghanistan. Recently, it has established madrasas in many provinces in Afghanistan. This apart, it has also started the work to setup terrorist training camps and amass most modern weapon systems. It has also been claimed in the report that Al Qaida has close relationship with Taliban. The Al Qaida has seized majority of the most modern weapon systems left behind when the US military withdrew from Afghanistan. It has also been claimed in this report that more than ten commanders of Al Qaida are holding important positions in the ruling Taliban government. Recently, the Al Qaida established eight new terrorist training camps in Ghazni, Laghman, Parwan and in Uruzgan provinces. It has also been claimed in the report of the Security Council that banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is rapidly setting up relationship

with Al Qaida. Senior commander of Al Qaida Hakim al-Masri has taken over the command of these training camps and suicide squads. This apart, in these training camps, the cadre of TTP are also been given training.

Urdu Times (February 6) states that Islamic organisation Al Qaida is giving terrorist training to students studying in Islamic madrasas in Afghanistan. This apart, terrorist organisation ISIS is also involved in increasing their sphere of influence in Afghanistan. Both these terrorist organisations have stepped up their violent activities in Afghanistan's neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan. These Islamic terrorist organisations are continuously increasing their military capabilities and attacking abilities. It is to be noted that there used to be a strong relationship between Al Qaida and ISIS at one point of time but now there is a strain in their relationship. This is the reason why the ISIS carried out nearly a dozen terrorist activities in many areas in Afghanistan and



Iran recently in which nearly 500 people were killed. Due to the mutual conflict between the two organisations, the situation in this region is becoming more and more explosive.

As per a news published in **Roznama Sahara** (February 2), the hands of Taliban, which is in power in Afghanistan, are behind the terror strikes taking place in Pakistan and Iran. The weapons left behind by the US military in Afghanistan are being used in these attacks. The Pakistan government had drawn the attention of Afghanistan government regarding the same many a times but they have not taken any action against Al Qaida so far. Due to this, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has become quite tense. The Pakistan government claims that due to the callousness of the Afghan government, terrorist organisation linked to Al Qaida namely TTP is using the territory of Afghanistan. Since the Taliban government considers it as a part of Islamic jihad, it extends full cooperation to banned terrorist organisation TTP. Due to the pressure of Pakistan government, the Afghan government recently took into custody nearly 200 terrorists belonging to Al Qaida and send them away from Pakistan-Afghanistan border to the northern region. With the purpose of stepping up terrorist activities in Pakistan,

Al Qaida has formed yet another terrorist organisation named Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan. This organisation is said to have close relationship with two other Islamic terrorist organisations namely East Turkistan Islamic Movement and Turkistan Islamic Party. Recently, the Majeed Brigade of Al Qaida has also entered into a secret agreement with TTP. This apart, women and girls were recruited to Al Qaida for giving training in terrorist activities.

Inqilab (February 3) states that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has described the report of the United Nations Security Council as baseless in which it had been claimed that there are bases of other Islamic terrorist organisations including Al Qaida in Afghanistan. Afghanistan government spokesman Zabiulla Mujahid said those elements facing defeat in Afghanistan are now running a campaign to give a bad name to the Taliban government in Afghanistan. He said that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan rejects all these false allegations and describe it as part of propaganda. Mujahid said that it's unfortunate that the United Nations has been making baseless charges against Afghanistan government for a long time. He said that the Al Qaida has no presence in Afghanistan and neither our

administration gives permission to any terrorist organisation to run a terror campaign against any neighbouring country. Unfortunately, the United Nations Security Council is playing in the hands of

those elements which had seized the administration of Afghanistan for nearly 20 years and now due to the awareness of people, they had to pack their bags and flee Afghanistan.

Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar new King of Malaysia



Roznama Sahara (February) states that the Sultan of Johor princely state, Ibrahim Iskandar, has taken oath as the 17th King of Malaysia at the royal palace in Kuala Lumpur. Whereas the Sultan of Perak state, Nazrin Shah, will work as the deputy King for the next five years. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, was present at the swearing-in ceremony of the King along with his cabinet. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar took oath of office following the retirement of the reigning King Sultan Abdullah Ahmed Shah. It is to be noted that there is Constitutional Monarchy in Malaysia. Malaysia was formed following the unification of nine princely states in this region. The rulers of these states are known as Sultan and they are sworn-in as the King of Malaysia on rotational basis every five years. The Sultan who is

selected as the next in line to the throne is sworn in as the Deputy King. On completion of the five-year tenure, the King retires from his post. Following this, his successor Sultan gets the post of the King.

The new King of Malaysia, 65-year-old Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, is counted among the world's richest rulers. As per an estimate, his assets are worth more than 5.7 billion dollars which includes luxury cars, private army, aircraft etc. The present King has properties abroad as well which include land, mines, palm oil orchards etc. As per media reports, the new King has more than 300 luxury cars and many aircraft including a private plane, Boeing 737. King Iskandar is also the owner of mobile service companies in many countries. This apart, he has made investments worth 58.8 crore dollars in different companies. The King has many multi-storey buildings and malls including property worth four billion dollars in Singapore. As per the administrative system in Malaysia, the role of King Ibrahim is mostly technical. The entire administrative system there is in the hands of the Prime Minister and the cabinet. The new King has close relationship with China. Recently, he made investments in several countries in the world with the cooperation of Chinese companies. Due to the takeover of King Ibrahim, there is a possibility of China increasing its dominance in Malaysia.

Ilham Aliyev elected President of Azerbaijan



Avadhnama (February 9) reports that in an election held recently, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev polled 92 percent votes and took over as the President of the country for the fifth time. The chairman of central election commission of Azerbaijan, Mazahir Panahov, told reporters that the people of the country have elected Aliyev as President consistently for the fifth time. After the announcement of Aliyev's victory, thousands of his supporters gathered on the streets of capital Baku for celebrations. Aliyev conducted elections in the country one year before the scheduled time. In the elections held previously, he had managed to get 85 percent votes. It was being alleged that before the elections, President Aliyev took action against a major section of the media. Along with this, the President announced elections in the country all of a sudden ahead of the scheduled time. The Opposition parties, while describing the announcement of the President as undemocratic, declared the boycott of the elections. The president of main Opposition party of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijani Popular Front party, Ali Karimali, while describing the elections as a 'pretend of democracy' alleged that there's no space for fair elections in the country. The five candidates in the election field against Aliyev were the old workers of his party. These candidates during their election speeches had described Aliyev as a great leader and a liberator of Azerbaijan.

Following the liberation of Karabakh from the separatists of Armenia, 26 polling centres were established there for the first time. In the polling centre in the Khankedi region in Karabakh, President Aliyev and his wife exercised their franchise. Following the Islamic takeover in capital Baku, the entire Armenian population there, which was nearly one lakh, left Karabakh and went to Armenia. After this, the entire region became deserted.

After becoming eligible to take part in elections for lifetime, Aliyev had amended the constitution of Azerbaijan in 2009. The Opposition parties in Azerbaijan, while criticising this decision of the President, said that the Constitution was amended to ensure that Aliyev remains as the President for lifetime.

Similarly, several controversial Constitutional changes were made in Azerbaijan in 2016. Along with this, the tenure of President has been increased from five years to seven years. This apart, the President has also been given the power to appoint any individual as Vice President, who will be eligible to take over as the President in future. Taking advantage of these amendments, Aliyev has declared his wife Meharban Aliyev as the Vice President. Through this controversial decision, President Aliyev has further tightened his lineage grip on power.

Comment: Following the death of his father Haider Aliyev in 2003, Ilham Aliyev became the President of Azerbaijan. Ever since, he has been getting elected in every election with a huge majority. Haider Aliyev was a top official of Russian intelligence agency KGB. Following the disintegration of Soviet Union, he captured power in Azerbaijan. Since then, the entire region is being ruled by the Aliyev family. The critics of President Ilham Aliyev allege that he has totally wiped out the Opposition as well as independent media. He has been

amassing huge wealth for his family by exploiting the financial resources of the country. In 2010, Washington Post had alleged that the Aliyev family had purchased properties worth 7.5 crore dollars in Dubai in the name of Ilham Aliyev's son Haider and his two daughters Arzu and Leyla. This family has properties in many other Arab nations as well.

The most interesting thing is that Ilham Aliyev has close relationship with Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

When the Christians of Nagorno Karabakh rebelled against Aliyev government, Erdogan had strongly supported Aliyev. Following this, a military campaign was launched against Armenian Christians. As a result of this military campaign, the Christians of Nagorno Karabakh had to pack up their bags and flee. In order to crush the rebellion of Christians, the Air Force of Azerbaijan had resorted to huge bombing in the region, during which many separatists were killed.

Prabowo Subianto elected President of Indonesia

Roznama Sahara (February 15) reports that a military General, Prabowo Subianto, has registered victory in the presidential elections in Indonesia. Currently, Subianto is functioning as the defence minister of Indonesia. It is being said that he got 58 percent votes. Addressing his supporters who gathered at a local stadium, Subianto said that this is a victory of the people of Indonesia. Subianto's opponents Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranawo got 25 percent and 17 percent votes respectively. These leaders alleged that Subianto won the elections due to the fraud committed in the elections.

With the victory of a military General in the presidential elections held in the world's third largest democracy namely Indonesia, a new chapter has begun in the politics of East Asia. Seventy-two year-old former General Subianto said that after securing 58 percent votes, now there is no doubt about his victory. He said that democracy is functioning in a proper manner in Indonesia and he will protect the interests of the citizens of Indonesia. It is to be noted that in Indonesia, the parliamentary and Assembly elections were



held simultaneously. In the world's biggest one-day elections, 2,59,000 candidates were in the field for 20,600 posts in 17,000 islands. In Indonesia, along with the President, the Vice President is also elected by the people. In order to become the President of Indonesia, it is mandatory for a candidate to win at least 50 percent votes at national level and at least 20 percent votes in each province. It is to be noted that last time, there was 75 percent polling in Indonesia. After that elections, large-scale riots had broken out in the country. In order to deal with such a situation, this time the elections were held under the supervision of Army.

Eight former Indian Naval officers jailed in Qatar released



Siasat (February 13) states that a court in Qatar has released eight former Indian Naval officers from jail. Seven among them have returned to Bharat. This information was given via a press statement issued by India's external affairs ministry. It is to be noted that a court in Qatar had awarded death sentence to these former officers of Indian Navy on charges of spying. There were strong reactions over it in Bharat. Following this, the Indian government had launched diplomatic efforts to ensure their release. Later, after filing an appeal in another court, their death sentence was commuted to life-term in jail. Now, due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Modi and India's external affairs ministry, the Qatar government decided to release these officials. Spokesperson of external affairs ministry said we appreciate the decision of the Emir of the Qatar for the release of these Indian citizens and their return.

It is to be noted that these eight former officials of Qatar were working with a private company in Qatar. This company used to give training to the Navy personnel of Qatar. These officials were

arrested in August 2022 on charges of spying for Israel in connection with the submarine project of Qatar. However, the owner of the company was released within a month of his arrest and no case was also registered against him. The Qatar government has not given any official clarification on what allegation they have been given death sentence.

Etemaad (February 13) states that India's foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra said that the Prime Minister had been taking a personnel interest in this case and was trying to ensure their release and safe return to home. He said the Indian government is grateful to the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The foreign secretary said that seven out of the eight former Indian Navy officers have returned to the country. One official, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, has not returned home due to some paperwork. According to government sources, these officials were awarded death sentence on October 26, 2023. Their death sentences were commuted to life-term in jail on December 28, 2023. During this time, Narendra Modi visited Dubai to take part in



an international conference organised there and in this connection he also held talks with the Emir of Qatar. It is also being said that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had also played an important role in the release of these officials. In this connection, he had also visited Doha many times to hold talks with the officials of Qatar.

Aurangabad Times (February 14) states that BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has claimed that film actor Shah Rukh Khan also played a significant role in the release of these officials. He said that Shah Rukh recently held talks with the Emir of Qatar in this connection. Later, while rejecting this claim of Swami, Shah Rukh said this claim of Swami was baseless. He had no role in the release of these officials and their release took place due to the efforts of Indian government officials and the personal effort of Prime Minister Modi.

Roznama Sahara (February 13) in its editorial said that India's influence is increasing abroad day by day under the leadership of Narendra Modi. In this connection, the success of G-20 conference and the release of Indian officials by the Qatar government could be mentioned. The

Qatar government has felt that in case these accused are given death sentence, then its relationship with Indian government will turn sour and hence they tried to resolve this issue. The newspaper has thanked the Modi government for its efforts and said that the results of the efforts made by Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in

this connection were positive. The release of these former officers of Indian Navy gives a clear indication that India's standing in the world is going up. Earlier, only the US and European nations had this kind of standing in the Middle-East countries. For Indians, thinking about such things were like a dream. Prime Minister Modi visited Dubai in December 2023 to take part in Cope-28 conference. That time he also held a meeting with the Emir of Qatar. During this meeting, he had also given indication about the release of these accused. The interesting thing is that the Qatar government released these accused when Narendra Modi was about to visit Qatar as well during his visit to United Arab Emirates. Due to this incident, a new chapter has begun in the friendly relationship between Qatar and India.

Hindustan Express (February 16) states that the Emir of Qatar hosted a dinner at the royal palace in honour of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi also held a meeting with the father of Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, in Doha.

Inauguration of grand Hindu mandir in Abu Dhabi

Urdu Times (February 15) states that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a grand temple constructed by Bochasanwasi Sri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) in Abu Dhabi. A total of Rs 700 crore has been

incurred in the construction of this temple. The temple stands on 27 acres of land. This land was given as gift by the Emir of United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi had laid the *shilanyas* of this



temple. It is to be noted that Prime Minister Modi had visited United Arab Emirates seven times from 2015 till now. On reaching UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed Prime Minister Modi with a warm embrace. He was also given a 'Guard of Honour' on this occasion. Narendra Modi also addressed a meeting of Indians staying in United Arab Emirates at Zayed Sports City Stadium, which was named as 'Ahlan Modi' (Hello Modi).

Inquilab (February 15) reports that after the inauguration of the mandir, Prime Minister Modi also took part in the puja and aarti as well. After doing the puja, he also inspected the mandir. According to the officials of the temple, seven spires have been built for the temple, which represent the seven Emirates that constitutes the United Arab Emirates. Many scenes related to Ramayan and Mahabharat have been engraved in the temple. A dome that symbolises peace and harmony has also been built in the temple.

Roznama Sahara (February 15) states that during the puja at the mandir in Abu Dhabi, Prime Minister Modi also took part in a 'Vaishvik Aarti.' This maha aarti was organised simultaneously at the more than 1,200 mandirs of Swaminarayan sect across the world. Prime Minister Modi

poured water into the virtual Ganga and Yamuna rivers before the inauguration of the mandir. More than 300 most-modern sensors have been installed in this temple. No metal has been used in the construction of the temple and fly ash has been used to fill up the foundation, replacing 55 per cent of cement in the concrete mix. The manager for the construction of the temple, Madhusudhan Patel, said that in view of the hot climate in Abu Dhabi, special types of tiles and glasses have been used in the mandir. The mandir was constructed in *nagar* style. The more than 20,000 tonnes of stones used for the construction of the mandir were carved in Rajasthan and brought to Abu Dhabi stacked in 700 containers.

Prime Minister Modi said our special relationship with United Arab Emirates could also be inferred from my experience during my visit to Abu Dhabi in 2015 when I mentioned about the construction of the mandir. When I sought the cooperation of the rulers here, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that whichever place you point out using your fingers, you will get that place. The unique relationship between the two countries could be inferred from this. He said that Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Gujarat on my invitation and he had given a fresh

impetus to 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit.' Modi said that this was the fifth meeting between us in the past seven months.

The two nations also signed nine agreements on this occasion, which were related to trade, investments, digital infrastructure, energy, tourism and culture. The Prime Minister said that he did not know whether he was eligible to be the pujari of a mandir or not, but he is very much proud of being a pujari of the Bharat Mata. He said that this grand Hindu mandir is built in a Muslim nation where 36 lakh Indians stay. This Indian population is 30 percent of the total population of United Arab Emirates. It is to be noted that the construction work of this mandir has been taking place from 2019. This mandir was constructed on the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway. Nearly 18 lakh bricks and 1.8 lakh cubic metres of sandstone have been used in the construction of this temple. The carving work was done by artisans from Rajasthan. The height of this temple is 108 feet. On the two sides of the *mandir*, holy water flows from *Ganga and Yamuna*, which was brought from India in huge containers. This

first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi represents the idea of coexistence, because a Muslim ruler has gifted land for this Hindu temple. The chief architect of this temple was a Catholic Christian, whereas the project manager was a Sikh. Similarly, the foundational designer was a Buddhist. The company which constructed this temple belongs to the Parsi community and the director of this temple belongs to the Jain religion. In this way, one could get a glimpse of people from all religions in the construction of this Hindu temple.

Siasat (February 17) in its editorial said that Prime Minister Modi in his speech had used Arabic words and sentences as well. The newspaper said that the Prime Minister should not forget that Indian Muslims make a special contribution in bringing foreign currency to India. In view of this, it is necessary that he should do justice to the country's largest minority community namely Muslims in every sector so that an atmosphere of harmony prevails. This will help the country to strengthen its relationship with Muslim countries and provide a new direction to the same.

US resorts to heavy bombing in many places in Iraq and Syria

Inquilab (January 29) reports that three US soldiers were killed and dozens were injured in a drone strike near Syrian border in North-East Jordan. Talking about this attack, US President Joe Biden alleged that this attack was made by the Iran-supported militia group. He announced that the US will give a befitting reply to this attack. Whereas, Iran has clarified that it has nothing to do with this attack.

Urdu Times (February 1) states that US President Joe Biden said the US has decided to retaliate against the death of its three soldiers in Jordan. In this connection, a strategy has also been prepared. The accused who attacked the US soldiers will have to pay a heavy price. A journalist asked President Biden what will happen if

the hands of Iran were found to be behind this attack? On this, the US President said that Iran has been supplying arms and ammunition to the militia organisation active in Lebanon and Jordan, namely Hezbollah. If we get evidence that Iran's hands were behind this attack, then we will prepare a long term strategy for future in this connection. However, currently we are not in favour of expanding the war. Similarly, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the US will retaliate to the attacks in different phases and in various locations and this will continue for a long time.

Earlier, a spokesperson of Pentagon had said the finger print of Hezbollah was visible in the attacks that were carried out



on US bases in Jordan. The spokesperson said Iran has been providing arms and ammunition and funds to Hezbollah. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign ministry said Iran has no role in this attack. This fake information is being spread by such elements who want to expand war in this region. After the US threatened to give a befitting reply to the attack, Iran has announced that it will give a strong and decisive reply to any kind of attack on its territory, national interests and citizens. Iran's Permanent Representative to United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani in a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations said his nation is not responsible for the activities of any group or individual in this region. The US had passed on the responsibility for the attack on US soldiers and its bases in Iraq and Syria to Iran, which is irresponsible and baseless.

Mumbai Urdu News (January 30) reports that the spokesperson of Iranian foreign ministry, Nasir Kanani, said the US is making such false allegations in order to cover up the Israeli attacks. Iran considers these allegations as baseless. If the US launches attacks on military bases in Syria and Iraq, the war will spread to other countries outside Israel and because of that peace in the entire region will be disturbed. He said that the militia groups that are

fighting in Iraq and Syria do not take any kind of directions from Iran.

Urdu Times (February 5) states that in order to take revenge over the death of its three soldiers, the US Air Force resorted to indiscriminate bombing on 85 bases of Iran's Pasdaran-e-Inquilab, Hezbollah and its allied militia organisations. More than 40 people were killed in this bombing. The security forces of Iran have confirmed that 16 people belonging to Pasdaran-e-Inquilab were killed in the bombing by US B-1 bomber aircraft. Whereas, the number of people killed in Syria in US attacks was said to be 23. The US has also claimed to have destroyed huge cache of weapons of Pasdaran-e-Inquilab in Iraq and Syria.

The US defence secretary said this was a beginning of our retaliation. We do not want war with Iran or any other nation, but we will not tolerate any kind of attack on the US military. The foreign minister of Iraq summoned the US Ambassador in Baghdad and registered its strong protest over the attack. Syria also handed over a protest letter to the US Embassy in this connection. As per a report of Al Arabia, in a statement issued by the Islamic Resistance which has been active in Iraq, it has been said they carried out attacks on several US bases and these attacks will continue. This apart, they have also carried



out attacks on many US bases in Erbil in Iraq.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 9) states that the US military has claimed that after getting information from intelligence sources, they carried out many drone

attacks in Baghdad in which a senior commander of Katai'b Hezbollah, Wissam Muhammad Sabir Al-Saadi was killed. It is being said that the US military targeted Al-Saadi when he was travelling in a car on Baghdad Highway.

Urdu Times (February 5) states that Jordan's government spokesperson has rejected the claim that the fighter jets of Jordan's Royal Air Force took part in the attacks which were carried out on the bases of Iran-supported militia groups in Syria and Iraq. The spokesperson said that the Jordan's military respects the sovereignty of Iran and it doesn't have any role in these attacks. ■

US and Britain attack Houthi bases in Yemen

Mumbai Urdu News (February 5) states that the US and Britain attacked 36 bases of Houthi rebels in Yemen in the past one week. US military headquarters Pentagon claimed that the weapon stores of Houthis were targeted in these attacks, which the Houthi rebels were using to target ships in the Red Sea. Earlier, after the war broke out between Israel and Palestine, the Houthis had targeted the ships of Israel and its allied nations in October as well. The US Defense Secretary said that this action has been taken to give a clear message to the Houthis that if they don't stop their illegal attacks on ships in the Red Sea, then they will have to bear serious consequences.

Etemaad (February 3) states that the series of attacks on Yemen by the US and Britain are still continuing. A senior commander of Yemen, Abdul Malik Al-Azari, has warned the United States that we do not get scared of such attacks and we will continue with the issue of supporting the people of Palestine. He said that we will give a befitting reply to these attacks. Another Yemeni commander said that we are not scared of the US or Britain and neither they can stop us from supporting the Palestinians. It is to be noted that after the adoption of a resolution in the United Nations Security Council against the

Houthis on January 11, the US and Britain started a series of military attacks in Yemen. The Yemen Army said that until the Jewish government stops its attacks in Gaza, they will continue to target the ships of Israel and its allied nations in Red Sea or Bab el Mandeb. The Yemeni military said we will not attack the ships of any other nation except Israel and its allied nations.

Hindustan Express (February 15) states that Human Rights Watch has claimed that Iran-supported Houthi rebels have been recruiting children less than 13 years of age for war. Till now, the Houthis have recruited thousands of children to its Army. These children are recruited from different schools. However, as per a resolution of United Nations, recruiting children less than 15 years of age is a war crime. During the recruitment of these children, it was being assured that they were being sent to liberate Palestine, but these children were sent to fight the war against the soldiers supported by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

Urdu Times (February 7) states that the Houthis are counted among the powerful fighting forces in the world. Due to their attacks, hundreds of ships had to abandon their journey through Red Sea. Majority of the people do not know who these Houthis are. In reality, the Houthis



are a tribe which stays in the North-Western mountain region of Yemen. The leader of this tribe was Hussain Al-Houthi. In year 2,000, they fought a war against the Saudi-supported rulers of Yemen. Due to this war, the Saudi-supported ruling group had to pack their bags and flee from Yemen capital Sana'a. In year 2014, the Houthis captured Sana'a. Due to this civil war, more than 1.5 lakh people were killed and nearly 20 lakh people are on the verge of starvation. In the past seven years, the Houthis are fighting against Saudi Arabia and the US. The US claims that Houthis are getting support from Iran and it provides them with weapons and financial resources. From November 2023, the Houthis have started a war against the nations which support Israel and they are targeting the ships that pass through Red Sea using missile and drone attacks. The Houthis are also opposing the attacks of the grand alliance of 20 nations formed under the leadership of the US.

Etemaad (February 5) said in its editorial said that despite the joint military campaign in Yemen by the US and Britain,

there is no decrease in the attacks by the Houthis on the ships. Due to these attacks by the Houthis, there is a 30 percent reduction in the number of ships that pass through Red Sea. After January, the Houthis started targeting the ships of Britain and the US as well and till now they have sunk 20 ships. Red Sea is the main shipping route between Asia and Europe. Due to

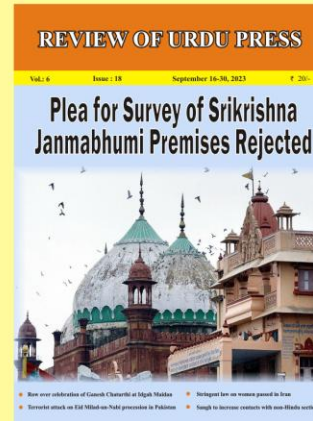
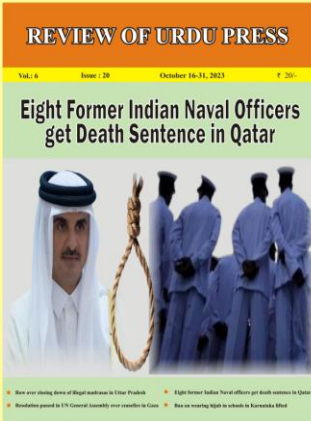
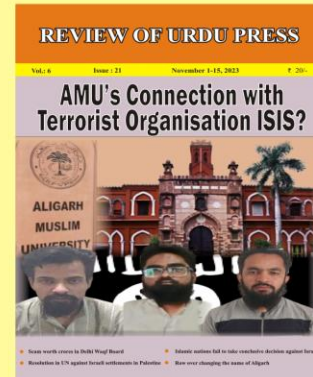
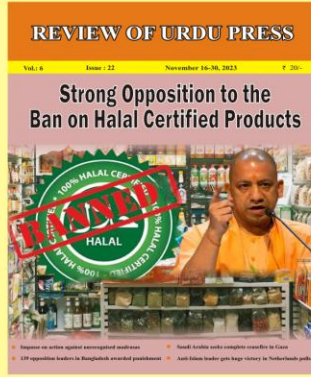
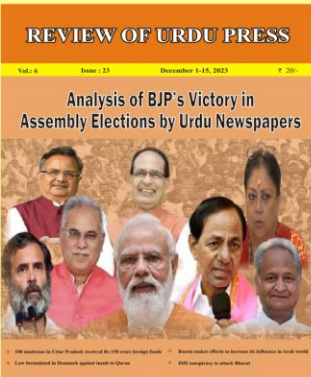
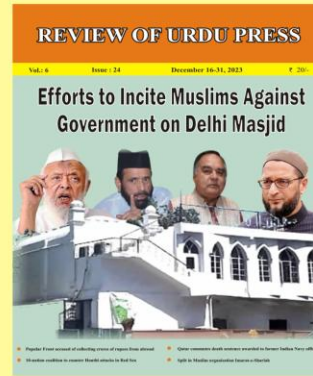
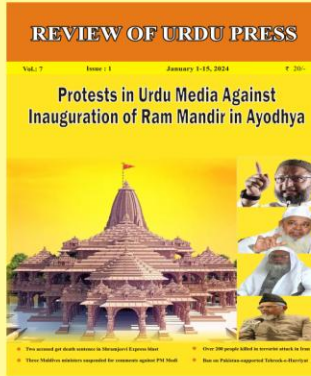
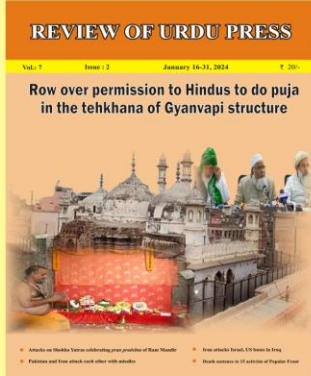
the Houthi attacks in Red Sea, now the ships have to take a round through the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. This route is quite lengthy and lot of fuel needs to be spent for this. For example, the expenses of a container that starts from Shanghai in China to Netherlands and passing through the Red Sea is nearly 1,200 US dollars, but if it travels via the Cape of Good Hope, then it has to spend 5,000 US dollars. This apart, an extra three weeks has to spend for delivering the goods. Recently, many nations have started using Chinese vessels, because the Houthis had announced that they will not attack Chinese ships.

Urdu Times (February 17) states that the US has announced that a US Naval ship had seized a cache of weapons that arrived from Iran. This cache of weapons was seized from the Arabian Sea at the beginning of this month. These weapons were being sent from Iran to the Houthis. These weapons included more than 200 ballistic missiles, driver-less drone, communication equipment, rocket launchers, anti-tank guided missiles etc.

Iran announces Visa-free entry to Indians

Sahafat (February 7) states that Iran government has announced that there would be no need for Indians who arrive in Iran after February 4, 2024, to seek a Visa. Every Indian citizen who holds a passport can stay in Iran for 15 days once in every six months without a Visa. According to Iran government, the condition for no-Visa rule will be applicable to only those people

who enter Iran for a tourist visit. They will not be allowed to stay in Iran after fifteen days and neither their period of stay will be extended. If any Indian citizen wants to visit Iran more than once in six months or want to stay for more than 15 days in one go, then he has to apply for Visa and he has to obtain the Visa from the Iranian Embassy in India.



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