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## Opposition to Implementation of CAA in the Country



- Recommendation to shut down 13,000 illegal madrasas in UP
- Muslim Brotherhood leaders get death sentence in Egypt
- Formation of new government in Pakistan
- High court order to conduct survey of Bhojshala

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## Summary

The Union government has issued the notification to implement the much talked about Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the country. It is to be noted that the Parliament had passed this Act in December 2019. Since then the Muslim as well as the so-called secular organisations have been opposing this law. However, this time due to the vigilance of the administration, a Shaheen Bagh kind of demonstration could not be launched. The government suspected that anti-national elements may try to create disturbances on the pretext of this law and hence security forces were put on alert before issuing the notification.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced that this law was not intended to target anyone on the basis of his or her religion and Muslims can also apply through Constitutional means to secure citizenship of the country. It is hoped that after his clarification, there would be an end to the campaign unleashed by the Muslim and secular forces to target the Modi government.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government has recommended to the state government through its report that it should close down more than 13,000 illegal Islamic madrasas operating in the state. Majority of these madrasas are located near the Indo-Nepal border. The investigation team said that preparations were being made to flare up terrorism in the country on the pretext of these madrasas. In this connection, anti-national elements are getting huge money from Gulf countries through hawala transactions.

The investigation team has given the indication that the illegal madrasas in just one district have received money worth more than one billion rupees so far from foreign sources. The findings of the investigation team were very much shocking. In such a situation, it is necessary that the government immediately announce closure of these illegal madrasas in order to stop terrorism.

Nearly a month after the announcement of election results in Pakistan, the federal government was formed with great difficulty and Shahbaz Sharif took oath as the 24<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of the country. Whereas Pakistan People's Party's Asif Ali Zardari won the Presidential elections. The election results have proved that the people of Pakistan did not support political parties like the Army-supported Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and Pakistan People's Party.

The Army used every tactic to keep former prime minister Imran Khan away from power. The interesting thing is that the Pakistani judiciary has also acted like a puppet in the hands of the Army and after awarding Imran Khan with 34 years in jail on various charges, also declared him as ineligible to contest the elections.

The Pakistani Election Commission had also banned Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from contesting the elections. Due to this reason, the supporters of Imran Khan had to contest the elections as independent candidates, but they won the elections in huge numbers with people's support.

A court in Egypt has sentenced to death eight top leaders of extremist Islamic organisation Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) on various charges. This apart, many leaders of this organisation were sentenced to life-term in jail or for long periods in jail. Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had imposed a ban on this organisation earlier itself.

It is to be noted that Ikhwanul Muslimeen had a major role in overthrowing the King of Egypt, Farouk. In 2011, this organisation had brought Mohamed Morsi to power after provoking public anger against the then President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak. Later, Army chief El-Sisi deposed Morsi from power and took over the reins of Egypt. Morsi later died in jail under suspicious circumstances during a case. Though Ikhwanul Muslimeen tried to flare up public anger against his death across the country, the Army used force to suppress it.

## Opposition against implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act



The Government of India has issued a notification for implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) across the country. Simultaneously, a section of Muslims started opposing it strongly. In order to calm down the protests, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that all foreign Muslims will have the right to get citizenship of the country.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 15) reports that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while giving an interview to media, said that CAA will not be withdrawn under any circumstance. He also made it clear that this law does not have any provision to cancel the citizenship of any person. When Amit Shah was told that the Opposition allegation was that the BJP is creating a new vote bank through this law, he said the Opposition has no other work. Whatever they say, they never complete it. Whereas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has this quality that whatever he says, he fulfils it under any circumstance. Talking about the statement given by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee about not implementing this law in her state, Amit Shah said those days are not far away when

BJP will come to power in West Bengal and will stop the illegal infiltration of foreigners.

**Inquilab** (March 15) states that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said this law is very dangerous for the country and it should be immediately withdrawn. He said that as long as the issue of Rohingya Muslims is concerned, they came to India after 2014 during the BJP regime. Kejriwal asked whether BJP has a hand in the arrival of Rohingya Muslims in the country? As per another news published in the same newspaper, leader of Jan Suraj Abhiyan Prashant Kishor also, while opposing this law, said the law is against the soul of the Constitution. He accused Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of betraying the people of the country as he implemented this black law in collusion with BJP.

In another news published in this newspaper, it has been claimed that student organisations of different universities, Students Collective, has demanded immediate cancellation of this law. Addressing a joint press conference at the Press Club in Delhi, Abdullah Faiz (SIO),



Presenjit Kumar (AISA) and Pushpendra (BAPSA) said it is against the Constitution to issue citizenship on the basis of religion by exempting Muslims. We oppose the conspiracy hatched by BJP to deprive Muslims of citizenship of the country. He alleged that at the behest of the government, the police are crushing student protests against this black law in different universities. In this connection, he specifically mentioned about the protests that took place in Aligarh Muslim University, Ambedkar University and Jamia Millia Islamia.

**Hamara Samaj** (March 15) reports that Amnesty International and the US government have also opposed the implementation of this law. Countering this, the spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry said that it is an internal matter of our country and no external force has any right to interfere in this matter.

**Aurangabad Times** (March 13) states that All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat has expressed concern over the implementation of CAA in the country. It has alleged that this law is indicative of the policy of communal hatred of the Modi government. Through this decision, the government wants to divide the society on the basis of communalism and want to create an anti-Muslim atmosphere in the country.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 13) states that Indian Union Muslim League has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the CAA. It has been said in the petition that this law has been implemented

on the basis of religion which is against the basic spirit of the Constitution.

**Urdu Times** (March 13) states that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that BJP wants to spread disturbance in the country. She said the Union government has deliberately announced the implementation of CAA in the month of Ramzan so that Muslims get provoked and hit the streets and the government

make them the target of its bullets.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 13) states that 30 big leaders of Muslims said in a joint statement that the CAA is against the basic spirit of the Constitution and hence the government should immediately withdraw the same.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 12) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has said that this law is against the Constitution and against the Muslims and demanded that it shall be withdrawn immediately.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 14) states that the governments of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu had announced that they would not implement CAA in their respective states. Whereas, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee organised a dharna against this law in front of Raj Bhawan. Opposition leader in Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan has alleged that the BJP has been making efforts to divide people on communal lines in the guise of this law. He said that this will not be tolerated and we will carry a legal battle against it. Opposition leader in Tripura Assembly Jitendra Chaudhary has alleged that the Central government is implementing this black law in order to polarise the votes in the forthcoming elections. This law is against the Constitution of our country and hence we will oppose it.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that NRC and CAA are linked to each other. She said that this law is not aimed at providing citizenship, but

about taking away citizenship based on religion. This law is a lollipop, which the BJP government is giving to people in order to escape from defeat in the elections. The student organisations in Assam had also announced launching of a nationwide agitation against this law. Former MP and CPI secretary Syed Aziz Pasha said this law is against Article 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution. He said that 230 petitions are pending in the Supreme Court against this law but the government has implemented it in order to divert the attention of people from issues like electoral bond, unemployment and inflation. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said he will not implement this black in his state under any circumstance. Senior leader of BJP Ravi Shankar Prasad told correspondents that opposition parties are opposing the CAA in order to appease Muslims. He said the law is being opposed by those people who brought lakhs of Rohingya Muslims in an illegal manner to the country. He said that all nationalists should support the CAA.



**Roznama Sahara** (March 14) in its editorial, while opposing the CAA, said this law is against the basic spirit of the Constitution. In this law, a provision has been made to grant citizenship to those non-Muslims who arrived in Bharat from only three neighbouring countries--Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan--before December 31, 2014. Whereas this law has overlooked the minority Hindus from Sri Lanka. It has been claimed in the editorial that there are protests against this law across the country for the past several years and the protests by women in Shaheen Bagh had created a new history in the entire world. The North-Eastern states are apprehensive that the government has hatched a conspiracy to deprive them of citizenship rights and expel them from the country.

**Sahafat** (March 14) in its editorial, while opposing the CAA, alleged that despite more than 200 petitions pending

against this law in the Supreme Court, the Central government implemented it in a hurry. The question here is, aren't Muslims subjected to harassment in neighbouring countries? Is the situation of Ahmadiyya Muslims alright in our neighbouring country? If they come to Bharat in order to escape from the harassment of their own government, will they be denied the citizenship of the country because they were Muslims? The newspaper also alleged that the administrative officials have been given power under this law to include the name of any individual in the citizenship list or remove from it. This fact is not hidden from anyone that there is no dearth of any corrupt, communal and fanatic people in the administrative setup in the country. Due to this, there is a fear among the Muslims of the country that somewhere don't these corrupt officials deliberately deprive them the citizenship of the country?

**Hamara Samaj** (March 14) in its editorial alleged that this decision of the BJP government is a major step towards making the country a Hindu Rashtra. The government has made the provision to grant citizenship to the non-Muslim refugees who arrive in the country so that they become the vote bank of BJP. Secondly, the government wants to hang this sword over the head of crores of Muslims who stay in the country that when it wants, it would deprive them of the citizenship of the country. This fear is being created so that the Muslims do not dare to vote against the BJP.

**Hindustan Express** (March 2) in its editorial said that protests against CAA have started across the country and this is most vocal in the north-eastern states. The newspaper has threatened that if any effort is made to crush the agitation, there will be serious consequences.

**Etemaad** (March 12) in its editorial has demanded from the government that it withdraw the CAA because it is against the basic spirit of the Constitution and only Muslims are targeted in it. The BJP government wants to hang the sword of depriving the citizenship of the country permanently above them so that they do not oppose the communal and dictatorial policy of the BJP.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 23) said in its editorial that this was a gift during the Ramzan festival for Muslims on behalf of the BJP government. This law is an important step towards achieving the goal set by the BJP government to make this country a Hindu nation. The surprising thing is that the so-called secular leaders like Nitish Kumar have supported the introduction of such black laws in Parliament. It is often argued that nobody can be given reservation on the basis of religion. But isn't granting citizenship or not on the basis of religion against the concept of secularism and Constitution?

The newspaper said the country will not benefit from CAA and the entire benefit for the same will be for Modi and Shah, whether political or personal. The Sangh Parivar is making preparations to win this year's Lok Sabha elections by creating a wave of hatred against Islam and Muslims by riding the horses of CAA, Ram Mandir and Uniform Civil Code. The newspaper said that CAA is unconstitutional and hence it should be legally opposed.

The newspaper has offered the consolation to Muslims that they should not fear under any circumstance, because the

nation belongs to them. The blood of the ancestors of Muslims is present in every corner of the nation. Muslims will not go anywhere leaving this nation, irrespective of any number of laws that the Modi government bring in this connection.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (March 13) in its editorial has described CAA as unconstitutional and said the sole aim of this law is to deprive Muslims of their citizenship.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 13) in its editorial said that on the occasion of Ramzan festival, the government of Prime Minister Modi has rubbed salt on the wounds of Muslims and has announced the implementation of CAA. The BJP wants to make it an important election issue. The newspaper said the Matua community in West Bengal and the Hindus who had arrived from Bangladesh will benefit from it, majority of whom were Dalits. The newspaper has expressed satisfaction that the chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has announced that this black law will not be implemented in the state. The newspaper has demanded all opposition parties and civil society to oppose the CAA.

**Etemaad** (March 13) in its editorial, while criticising CAA, said the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi, while opposing this law in the Parliament, said this law was brought to target the Muslims. This law has taken inspiration from the ideology of the assassin of Gandhi Nathuram Godse, who wanted to make Muslims as second-class citizens.

**Urdu Times** (March 14) in its editorial has described CAA as anti-Muslim. The newspaper has advised Muslims to desist from opposing it on the streets because if they do so, then the government will get an opportunity to take action against them. Muslims should oppose this law in a legal manner. ■

## Recommendation to close down 13,000 illegal madrasas in UP



**Avadhnama** (March 8) states that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe the madrasas in the state has recommended in its report that the 13,000 illegal madrasas in Uttar Pradesh should be closed down. Majority of these madrasas are located on the Indo-Nepal border. These madrasas were constructed over the past two decades using financial aid from Gulf countries received through illegal means.

It has been said in the report of the SIT that majority of these madrasas are located in the seven districts in Uttar Pradesh, among which five districts are on the Nepal border. They include Maharajganj, Shravasti, Bahraich and Lakhimpur Kheri. During the probe, 500 such madrasas were found in each district. It has been claimed in the report that when the investigation team sought detailed information regarding the income and expenditure of these madrasas from its managers, they did not give a satisfactory answer for the same.

The investigation team has concluded that the money obtained from foreign sources were spent on the construction of these madrasas with the aim of spreading terror in the country. These madrasas have not obtained recognition from the government. Due to non-

recognition of their certificates, the boy and girl students passing out of these madrasas will not be eligible for government jobs. The teachers of these madrasas are also untrained and it has also been alleged that students studying in them are physically tortured.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 8) states that the SIT had said in its report that more than one billion rupees have been spent for the construction of these madrasas which were received through hawala transactions from Gulf countries. It has been said in the report that the number of madrasas in Uttar Pradesh is more than 30,000.

The government had sought information regarding the money received by them as well as about the students and teachers from the managers of 13,000 madrasas several times, but the managers of the madrasas did not give any information in this connection. Intelligence sources had expressed doubts that the money obtained from abroad in an illegal manner are being used to fan the flames of Islamic terrorism in the country.

There were also indications about anti-national activities taking place in these madrasas. Following this, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh had constituted a joint investigation team comprising police, intelligence wing and



madrassa board, which had submitted its report to the government recently.

In this report, it has also been claimed that the managers of these madrasas had said that the madrasas were constructed using the money obtained from people through donations and zakat, but the names and addresses of those who had donated the money cannot be given to the investigation team. In



the preliminary probe, a total of 23,000 madrasas were found to be suspicious. Following this, a detailed investigation into these madrasas has been handed over to the SIT.

**Hindustan** (March 8) has alleged that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh is anti-Muslim. It is deliberately targeting Islamic madrasas due to religious hatred so that Muslims could be separated from Islam. The newspaper has appealed to Muslims that they strongly oppose the anti-Muslim policies of Yogi government and save the madrasas from being shut down.

**Inquilab** (March 8) has claimed that the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Dr Iftikhar Ahmed Javed has expressed anger over the news and said that such news is being deliberately published so that there could be public anger against madrasas and Islam in the society. He said that as of now, no decision has been taken with regard to closing down these madrasas.

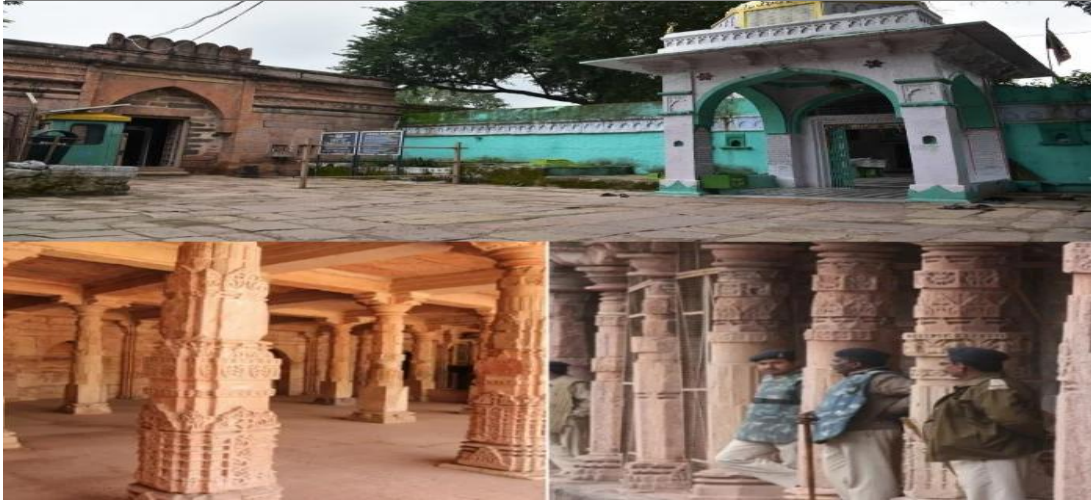
The minorities welfare department of Uttar Pradesh said that during the SIT investigation, some errors have been found in madrasas, and the government has been recommended to remove them. The department said that the Uttar Pradesh government constituted the SIT under the leadership of Additional Director General of Police Mohit Agarwal. The team includes the director of the minorities

welfare department. The director said it is not possible to confirm the news that has been published in newspapers now. More information is being collected in this connection.

General Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Teachers Association Madaris Arabia Jamal Khan said that calling those madrasas which do not have the recognition from the madrasa board as illegal itself is illegal because Right to Education Act is not applicable on madrasas. He rejected the contention that these madrasas are receiving huge money from abroad through hawala transactions in order to spread terrorism in the country. He said that those madrasas which receive funds from abroad have proper FCRA documents and they provide entire information regarding the money they receive to the home ministry.

General secretary of another organisation of madrasa teachers Wahidullah Khan Saeedi said that the news in this connection is deliberately published in media so that a feeling of hatred is created in the society against Islam and Muslims. He said that in Uttar Pradesh, 16,000 madrasas have recognition. Among them, 560 get financial aid from the government. Whereas 8,459 madrasas are not affiliated to Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. Even then calling them as illegal is totally wrong.

## High court orders survey of Bhojshala



**Urdu Times** (March 13) reports that the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court has issued an order to conduct a survey at the Bhojshala located in Dhar. The high court has directed the Archaeological Survey of India to constitute a team of five experts. This team should submit its report to the court within six weeks.

Senior Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, while distributing a copy of the order of the court to the reporters, said the high court has accepted the petition he had submitted before it to conduct a survey of the disputed structure of Bhojshala and the court has directed that a survey shall be conducted on the structure. The high court has also directed that the photography and videography of the survey shall also be held. The court ordered that the survey shall be conducted through GPR-GPS method. The Hindu side has also demanded that the namaz being held here shall also be stopped. Nowadays, the dargah of Maulana Kamaluddin is also located on its premises.

The Hindu side said the Bhojshala was constructed as a Sanskrit University by Maharaja Bhoj, which the Muslim invaders had later converted into a dargah, and the Kabr of a Sufi Maulana Kamaluddin was also constructed there. The Archaeology department, which got a statue of Vagdevi from the ruins of this building, is currently at the British Museum in London. Muslims

have permission to offer namaz at the Bhojshala on the juma day. Whereas Hindus can do puja there on Tuesday.

Like Gyanvapi, the dispute at Bhojshala is also more than a century old. The Hindus call it the mandir of Vagdevi. Whereas, Muslims consider it as the masjid of Maulana Kamaluddin. Often tension simmers here between the two communities on the occasion of Saraswati puja. After hearing the argument of the Hindu side, the Indore bench of the high court had reserved its verdict on February 19, 2024 which it had delivered on March 11. The court has ordered a scientific survey by the ASI in this matter as well, like the Gyanvapi.

The lawyer for Hindu side Shirish Dube said the court has accepted our petition. The carbon dating of this building will also be conducted along with the survey. The survey will be conducted under the leadership of the director of Bhopal range of ASI. As per the court order, the survey will be conducted upto 50 metres from the perimeter of this premises. The court also said the survey shall cover the building pillars as well as the closed and open rooms on the premises.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 13) has alleged that the Hinduvadi elements have staked their claims now even on dargah Maulana Kamaluddin in Dhar. The court, while following the path of the Gyanvapi



Maharaja Bhoj of Parmar dynasty. He had also erected a statue of Goddess of Knowledge, Saraswati, on this premises, which is at the British Museum in London nowadays. Willis confirmed that the pillar of this dargah is of some ancient Hindu temple. On the floor of this dargah, six Sanskrit inscriptions are engraved, which are said to

as well as the dispute at the janmabhoomi of Bhagwan Krishna in Mathura, has directed the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey at the Bhojshala in Dhar as well. The newspaper expressed the doubt that in the forthcoming elections, this issue will be raised with the aim of polarising the Hindu votes.

**Comment:** As per the records of the Archaeology department, the Bhojshala, which is also called Saraswati Sadan, was constructed by the Raja of Parmar dynasty Raja Bhoj in 1034. It is said that Maharaja Bhoj ruled between 1010 and 1055 in CE. It is worth mentioning that this centre of dispute in Dhar is nearly 250 kilometres away from Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal.

Muslims claim that the mazar of Kamaluddin is located on this masjid premises. Kamaluddin Chisti was a sufi and he was the khalifa of Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi. During the reign of Alauddin Khilji, his military commander Dilawar Khan had forcefully converted the Bhojshala into a masjid. Archaeological expert of Royal Asiatic Society, Michael Willis, in his research paper had confirmed that the Bhojshala was constructed by

be of 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Two British archaeologists, John Malcolm and William Kincaid, had also mentioned about this masjid and dargah. They said that this building is definitely a Hindu structure. Director General of Archaeological Survey of India, O C Ganguly, had inspected the Parmar-period murti of Vagdevi kept at the British Museum in 1943. He had claimed that an inscription in Sanskrit language was present on the murti even today. This murti was made during the time of Maharaja Bhoj and it was installed at the Saraswati mandir.

In the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections held in 2003, renovation of Bhojshala was made the main election agenda. Due to this, the power in Madhya Pradesh slipped from the hands of the then Congress Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and the BJP came to power. Former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan had announced in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly in 2022 that the government is making efforts to return the murti of Vagdevi from the museum in London.

## ISIS hand behind Bengaluru bomb blast

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 6) reports that the bomb blast that took place at Rameshwaram Café in Karnataka capital Bengaluru was said to be linked to Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS.

**Urdu Times** (March 14) states that the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

arrested a suspect linked to this blast from Bellary. During the investigation, the NIA got a CCTV footage of the café, which shows a youth wearing a cap entering the café with a bag. This youth kept the bag in the café and left the spot. Later an explosion took place in the bag.



NIA believes that the explosion was triggered by an IED. Nine persons were injured in this blast. The investigation agency found few batteries, the burnt bag and some ID cards on the spot. Director General of Police of Karnataka, Alok Mohan, told reporters that an indication has been received regarding the hands of terrorist organisation ISIS behind the blast and hence the responsibility for the investigation has been handed over to NIA. The appearance of the person who has been caught resembles that of the accused. The CCTV footage shows one person ordering a plate of idli in the café and later he goes out after leaving his bag there. The NIA has announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh on anyone who helps in finding the accused.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 6) states that the NIA raided the house of a suspect, T Nazir, at R T Nagar in Bengaluru. During the raid, the investigation agency got some documents from the house. From these documents, it has been found that T Nazir was in contact with ISIS. Some explosive materials were also seized from his house. The investigation agency also got the indication that T Nazir had persuaded another youth, Junaid Ahmed, to carry out this explosion. Two cases were registered against T Nazir in the past and he is currently in jail. The investigation agency went to Bengaluru

Central Jail and interrogated him. Later, a raid was conducted at the residence of one Shamsuddin in Ramanathapuram in Chennai and five suspects were taken into custody from Siddipet and Batiyar. They are now being interrogated.

**Urdu Times** (March 13) states that the NIA raided more than 30 places in seven states in connection with the blast. The bomb blast was planned by T Nazir, who is associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. Nazir belongs to Kerala and he is lodged in Bengaluru jail these days. He was arrested in January along with eight other persons on charges of keeping links with ISIS.

It is being said that two other accused linked to this blast, Junaid Ahmad and Salman Khan, have fled to a neighbouring country. Earlier, the Bengaluru police had arrested seven persons on charges of having links with ISIS. Illegal weapons, ammunition and material used for making bombs were seized from them.

NIA sources claimed that the Khorasan chapter of ISIS has spread its network in Bharat and they are inciting the youths belonging to a particular community to establish an Islamic state. In this connection, they were being provided training in carrying out violence and bomb making at the secret training camps in Jharkhand.

## Indian Muslim youth killed in Russia-Ukraine war



**Hindustan** (March 7) states that a 30-year-old Muslim youth, Mohammed Asfan, a resident of Hyderabad, was killed in Ukraine while fighting for Russia in the war between the two countries. Asfan was sent to Moscow by an agent. The family members of Asfan said the agent who recruited him had given the assurance that he would be employed in an office in Russia. After reaching Russia, he was sent to the frontline of Russia-Ukraine war after giving him training for 15 days in a camp in Moscow where he was killed along with other Russian soldiers. Before going to Russia, Mohammed Asfan was working as a salesman in a textile showroom. The agent had told him that he would be getting Rs 45,000 per month salary in Russia.

**Siasat** (March 10) states that the Union government had directed the CBI to conduct a detailed investigation into the syndicate which recruited Mohammed Asfan. According to sources in Telangana government, an indication has been received that a gang of human smugglers recruited him by luring him with the offer a high salary in Russia. As per preliminary investigation by CBI, this syndicate has so far recruited 35 people and sent them to Russia.

It is to be noted that before this the India's foreign affairs ministry had claimed that some agents had sent 20 Indian youths

to Russia. There, after giving them military training, they were sent to fight the war in Ukraine at the behest of Russia. As per non-government sources, two youths from Hyderabad among them were killed during the war in Ukraine. The Indian Embassy in Moscow has confirmed that some Indian youths are fighting the war in Ukraine on behalf of Russia, among which some were killed. The death of one among them has been officially confirmed.

As per an investigation by CBI, the 35 people who were recruited by the agents and sent to Moscow were assured that apart from working in different universities in Russia, they could also pursue higher education. Later the Russian government provided them military training and sent them to the war front. Some Indian youths were confirmed to have suffered injuries during the war.

The CBI has raided several places including Delhi and Mumbai in search of people associated with this syndicate. It is being said that during the raid, apart from some documents and electronic equipment, nearly Rs 5 crore in cash was also found, which has been seized. Some people associated with this syndicate have also been taken into custody. The CBI sources, while refusing to provide more information in this connection, said this matter is very sensitive.

In the video that went viral on social media, seven of the Indian citizens who were sent to Russia requested that they should be returned to India. They said that the agents sent them to Russia on a tourist visa, but now they are being forcibly sent to fight at the warfront in Ukraine after being recruited to the Russian Army. The Russian foreign ministry has refused to make any kind of comment on this issue.



**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 10) in its editorial said that after the Russian capture of Crimea in 2014, it became more aggressive and in February 2022, it had attacked Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin had thought that he could capture Ukraine within four days, but the Ukraine Army has given a tough time to the Russians. Ukraine claims that more than one lakh Russian soldiers have been killed in this war so far.

After the death of a large number of Russian soldiers, now Russia has started recruiting people from outside the country to fight the war. Russia has cast its eyes on Bharat as well and many Indian youths were fraudulently recruited through agents and sent to Russia. This issue remained suppressed, but after the death of a Muslim youth from Hyderabad Mohammed Asfan in the war, when his family members were given information in this connection, there was panic reaction from across the country.

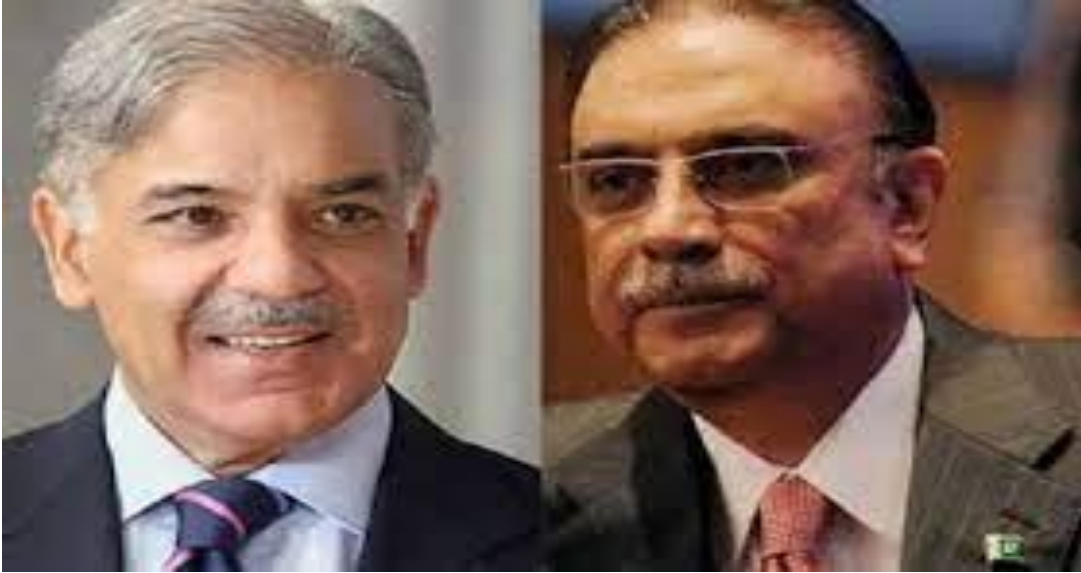
Along with this, India's external affairs ministry also came into action. The external affairs ministry appealed to the family members of the youths sent to Russia that they contact the external affairs ministry so that efforts could be taken to bring back the people concerned to India. According to the external affairs ministry,

so far information about 20 such Indians were received who are fighting in Ukraine along with Russian army. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said we are finding out how many such Indians were fraudulently sent to Russia by the agents and were forcibly recruited by Russian Army and pushed into the Ukraine war. We have established contact with Russian government to release such people, he said.

It has also been confirmed that the CBI conducted raids in seven cities to search for the syndicate which recruited these youths. From the documents seized during these raids, it has been confirmed that at least 35 people have been recruited and sent to Russia. Among them, seven youths belong to Punjab. One of the youths among them belong to Hoshiarpur in Punjab.

This youth was sent to Belarus on a tourist visa by the agents after being lured with the offer of a huge salary. He was arrested there and handed over to the Russian Army. The Russian Army has forcefully sent him to Ukraine to fight the war there. The newspaper demanded that stringent action should be taken against the agents who send these youths to Russia. A CBI spokesperson has confirmed that the network of this syndicate has been spread across many states in the country.

## Formation of new government in Pakistan



**Hindustan Express** (March 10) states that the leader of Pakistan People's Party, Asif Ali Zardari, has been elected as President of Pakistan for the second time. Earlier, he was the President of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013. As per a report in Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn,' 381 members of Pakistan's Parliament cast their votes in the Presidential elections.

The joint candidate of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and Pakistan People's Party, Asif Ali Zardari, got 225 votes out of them. Whereas, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-supported candidate of Sunni Ittehad Council, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, got 119 votes. This apart, Asif Ali Zardari got 246 votes from Punjab Assembly, 151 from Sindh Assembly, 17 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and 47 votes from Balochistan Assembly. On the other hand, Opposition candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai got 100 votes from Punjab Assembly, 9 from Sindh Assembly and 91 votes from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. However, he did not get even a single vote from Balochistan Assembly.

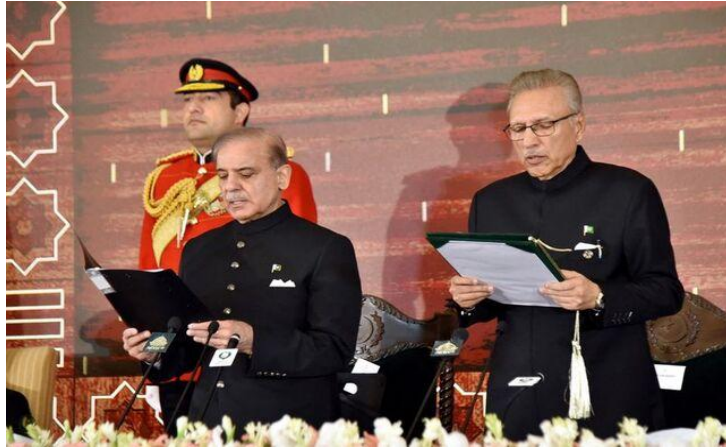
It is to be noted that Asif Ali Zardari had taken some important decisions during his first term in office. They included

returning the power to dissolve the Assembly to the Parliament and giving autonomy to states through 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment and granting autonomy to Gilgit-Baltistan. This apart, during his regime, the North-Western Frontier Province had been renamed as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There were many allegations of corruption against Zardari. In Pakistani political circles, he is also known as 'Mr 10 percent.'

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 4) states that since no party got a clear majority in the Pakistan National Assembly, Mian Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif has been elected as the 24<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Pakistan nearly a month after the announcement of the election results. Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, while announcing the results of the elections held for the post of Prime Minister, said that 201 members had voted in favour of Shahbaz Sharif.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) had boycotted the election of the Prime Minister. Whereas, Sunni Ittehad Council and independent members had described the election of Shahbaz Sharif as a fraud. The Prime Minister candidate of PTI-supported Sunni Ittehad Council, Omar

Ayub Khan, got 92 votes. It is to be noted that Shahbaz Sharif was elected the Prime Minister with the support of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), Pakistan People's Party, Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Balochistan Awami Party, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), National Party and Pakistan Muslim League (Zia). Whereas, Balochistan



National Party had supported the Prime Minister candidate of Sunni Ittehad Council, Omar Ayub Khan, who was supported by PTI.

Newly elected Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, while addressing the National Assembly, said that Pakistan is reeling under an economic crisis these days, but will soon be able to control the situation. He said that he would not rest till Pakistan becomes financially self-sufficient. Shahbaz said that there is a difference of one thousand billion rupees between the income and expenses of Pakistan government, but we will overcome this situation. Though it is very much difficult, it is not impossible. While raising the Kashmir issue, he said we will rest only after giving the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right to self-determination.

**Siasat** (March 2) states that the US Congressmen had written a letter to President Joe Biden and demanded that until the Pakistan government announces an inquiry into the fraud in the elections, the US should not grant recognition to them. In the letter sent to the President, 31 US Congressmen had put their signature.

On the other hand, according to **Avadhnama** (March 6), the US has announced that it wants to maintain a stable and strong relationship with Shahbaz government in Pakistan. It will extend all possible cooperation to the new government in Pakistan with this aim. China and Afghanistan also congratulated

Shahbaz Sharif for becoming the prime minister of Pakistan. Both the countries said they will extend all possible cooperation to the new government for the development of Pakistan.

**Hindustan Express** (March 5) in its editorial said the situation of political instability that has been prevailing in Pakistan has almost ended and Shahbaz Sharif of Muslim League (Nawaz) has been elected the prime minister of Pakistan for the second time. Though the people of Pakistan had supported Imran Khan's party in the elections, the joint candidate of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and Pakistan People's Party, Shahbaz Sharif, seized power with the help of the Army. The new government of Pakistan survives on the pleasure of the Army there and it is very difficult to predict how long it will remain in power.

**Siasat** (March 4) in its editorial said that earlier there was hope that Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif would become the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the fourth time with the help of the Army, but seeing the political uncertainty there, he did not muster courage to take over the prime ministership. Since the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) failed to get majority in the Pakistan National Assembly, it had to enter into an alliance with Pakistan People's Party due to pressure from the Army.

The reality is that the people of Pakistan, while foiling the intentions of the Army, elected supporters of Imran Khan in



huge number. Pakistan's Election Commission and the judiciary also behaved like puppets in the hands of the Army. This apart, Imran Khan has been trapped in three dozen lawsuits. Had the Pakistan Army been fair, it would not have been possible to keep Imran Khan away from power.

**Akhbar-e-Mushriq** (March 7) said in its editorial that though Shahbaz Sharif has become the prime minister of Pakistan

with the help of the Army, his path is full of thorns. Currently, Pakistan is surrounded by problems that are impossible for the new government to deal with. Inflation and unemployment are at their peak in Pakistan and the country has got isolated from the world due to its wrong policies. Similarly, it would not be possible to say how long the Army will continue to support Shahbaz Sharif.

## India tries to improve relationship with Afghanistan



**Hindustan Express** (March 9) states that the spokesperson of Afghanistan's foreign affairs ministry, Abdul Qahar Balkhi said a high-level delegation from Bharat had held a meeting with Afghanistan's foreign affairs minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. During this meeting, detailed discussions were held between the two countries on economic cooperation and on the Chabahar project.

It is to be noted that Taliban had captured power in Afghanistan in August 2021. Ever since no foreign nation in the world has granted recognition to the Taliban government in Afghanistan. It is assumed from the visit of the high-level Indian delegation to Kabul that Bharat has once again started taking interest in establishing a friendly and business relationship with Afghanistan. The Indian delegation was headed by Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, J P Singh.

On this occasion, he said that India has provided assistance to Afghanistan on humanitarian basis in many areas in the past two-and-a-half years. He said the measures taken by Afghanistan government to curb drug trade is commendable. This apart, the Taliban government has taken several important steps against corruption as well. The Afghan government has been also largely successful in its efforts to foil the intentions

of ISIS to play Holi with blood in Afghanistan. He said India's efforts are to encourage trade relations between the two countries on the Chabahar route.

Similarly, Afghanistan's foreign affairs minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has appreciated the efforts of Indian government and said we want to strengthen our diplomatic and economic relations with Bharat because it plays an important role in this region. He urged Bharat that it take efforts to speed up the process of giving visa to Afghan traders, students and terminally ill people. The Indian delegation also held a meeting with former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

It is to be noted that India's high-level delegation visited Afghanistan two times after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan. The Indian government had sent foodgrains, medicines and other items

in large quantity to help the people of Afghanistan. It is to be noted that the Afghanistan government had called a meeting of senior officials of 11 nations in Kabul in January this year in which Bharat also took part. Meanwhile, India is making full strides to enhance relationship with Taliban.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 10) in its editorial said the US wanted to keep Afghanistan trapped in the war in Afghanistan. Whereas India's efforts were in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and its economic development. India is among those five countries who had liberally extended help for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The newspaper said the

Taliban government knows very much about the cooperation of Bharat in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Similarly, the efforts of Pakistan were to ensure that there was no friendly relationship between Afghanistan and Bharat. The Taliban government in Afghanistan has sensed the bad intentions of Pakistan. That is the reason why Afghanistan's relationship with Pakistan is getting sour day-by-day. The Afghanistan government also knows that if it gets trapped in China's hands, its situation will be like that of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In such a situation, it is necessary that the Afghan government gives more attention in restoring its old relationship with Bharat.

## Britain worried about rise of Islamic extremism



This had started with protest rallies, which later took the form of threats and planned violence. He said the Jewish children are now scared of wearing their school uniforms, because they have this fear that the Islamic extremists will attack them.

PM Rishi Sunak said if the foreigners who arrive in Britain from different countries

**Taasir** (March 3) states that British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has expressed concern over the growing Islamic extremism in the country. He has warned Islamic extremists that the government would not tolerate their violent activities and will take stringent steps against them. He said that people have the liberty to express their sentiments through peaceful protests, but if they adopt the path of violence and extremism, those will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

The Prime Minister of Britain said that recently there is a huge increase in the activities of Islamic extremists in Britain.

in the world become a part of its social structure and culture, then nobody would have any problem with it. For example, I am a Hindu and at the same time I am a British citizen. If any religious Muslim, while following Islam, stays here as a nationalist Muslim, then we do not have any problem with it.

The British Prime Minister said that some extremist Muslims have been taking advantage of the situation that has arisen after the attack carried out by Hamas on Israel and are adopting the path of violence and they are trying to create an atmosphere

of hatred. This action by them is totally against Britain's multi-religious and multicultural ethos which the government will not tolerate under any circumstance.

**Etemaad** (March 13) states that seeing the increasing public anger against Islam and Muslims, British Home Minister James Cleverly has announced that the



British government will spend 11.7 lakh pound in the next four years for the security of masjids, community centres and Muslim schools. This step is being taken to remove the feeling of insecurity among Muslims. The British Home Minister has accepted that after the war broken out between Israel and Hamas, a sense of hatred against Islam and Muslims is growing very fast. He said that in British society and culture, there is no space for feeling of hatred against any particular community or religion. We are keen to ensure that the situation in Middle-East is not used against the Muslims staying in Britain.

**Sahafat** (March 3) states that Amnesty International said the manner in which British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had described the pro-Palestine protest marches in Britain as a threat to democracy and the protesters as extremists was not appropriate. Amnesty International said the British government is not ready to bear the public opinion in favour of Hamas and it is creating an atmosphere against it. Amnesty International UK's director (racial justice) Ilyas Nagdee said opposing the aggressive stand of Israel against the Muslims in Gaza is not terrorism or extremism. The surprising thing is that the British government till today has not put pressure on Israel government to take some concrete steps to stop the genocide in Gaza.

**Etemaad** (March 6) states that the British government has decided that any extremist or elements spreading violence will not be given permission to enter

Britain. The British intelligence department has been preparing a list of such Islamic extremist elements from Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia, who will be prohibited from entering Britain. Head of political violence department Lord Bellamy said every political party should ensure that it will not tolerate the extremists who pose a danger to the democracy of Britain. He said that the alliance that took place between the extremists and Islamists during the mass protests taking place in London is of a major concern. Similarly, London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that the atmosphere being created against Islam in Britain is very dangerous.

**Inquilab** (March 9) states that there is a growth in anti-Muslim sentiments in UK following the mass protests against Israel's aggressive actions and support to Palestinians. A non-governmental organisation 'Tell Mama' has claimed that compared to last year, there is a three-fold increase in anti-Muslim activities this year. The reason behind this is that some leaders are carrying out a well-planned campaign against Muslims and Islam in order to make their political career. Many leaders of Conservative Party are among them.

Former Home Minister of Britain Suella Braverman has claimed that there is a rapid increase in the activities of Islamic extremists and opponents of Jews in Britain. She said that a section of Muslims is spreading fundamentalist Islam in Britain, which is totally against the British cultural tradition.

Earlier, leader of Opposition Labour Party Keir Starmer had also alleged that some fundamentalist Muslims are promoting extremist ideology to create an atmosphere favourable for Hamas. He said that such Islamic elements want to trap the British society in their clutches and in order to scare the leaders, they are demonstrating their strength apart from adopting a threatening attitude. Due to this, the British democracy is facing danger.

One could also get an indication of the growing anti-Islam sentiments among British leaders from the statement of former minister Robert Jenrick. While delivering a speech in the House of Commons, he had alleged that our streets are being occupied by extremist Muslims. The newspaper said the anti-Islam elements

got further encouragement when the Scottish National Party presented a proposal in the House of Commons supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. Following this, there was a flood of anti-Islam sentiments.

Nowadays, a blatant propaganda is made through British media that Muslims are destroying the British democracy and they have become a threat to the internal security of the country. The newspaper said that the Conservative Party under the leadership of Rishi Sunak has failed to improve the British economy, and hence they wanted to divert the public anger towards Muslims. He has this fear that due to the ruined economy, the British people will remove him from power in the forthcoming elections.

## Withdrawal of Indian troops from Maldives begins



**Inquilab** (March 13) reports that after a stern warning by Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, the Indian government has started withdrawing its soldiers from Maldives. So far, 25 Indian soldiers have returned to India from Maldives. However, this has not been officially announced till now. As per the announcement of Maldives National Defence Force, all the Indian soldiers will return to India from Maldives by May and the Maldives military will take over their position. The operation and maintenance of the helicopters and drones given to Maldives by India will be

undertaken by the defence ministry of Maldives.

It is to be noted that the President of Maldives had announced that after the month of May, Maldives will not tolerate the presence of any Indian soldier on its soil. He said that some people are spreading this rumour that the Indian soldiers will not return to their native country, instead they will continue to work in the uniform of Maldives military. This rumour is totally wrong.

**Hindustan Express** (March 6) reports that the President of Maldives said his government has succeeded in expelling the Indian soldiers from Maldives. Indian government had sent a civilian team to Maldives so that they could replace the Indian soldiers who take care of the helicopters.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 6) states that the Maldives government has signed an agreement with China over military aid. Last year, during his election campaign, Mohamed Muizzu had announced that he would not allow any Indian soldier to stay

in Maldives. In this connection, he had also held an 'India Out' campaign. The Chinese defence ministry had confirmed that in order to provide military aid to Maldives and to cooperate on matters concerning military, it has signed an agreement with Maldives.

The Maldives government also, while confirming the agreement, said China would provide us the military equipment as gift. A spokesperson of Chinese foreign ministry said that China is striving for partnership in defence sector on the basis of strategic cooperation. Recently, China has started making preparations to set up

naval stations in some islands of Maldives. For this, a team of defence experts had visited Maldives.

**Sahafat** (March 9) states that former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed told reporters in Delhi that the people of Maldives do not like the pro-China policy of the current government and public anger has been rising against the incumbent government. He said the mainstay of Maldives economy is the tourists from India. Now these tourists have started boycotting Maldives. He said due to this, there will be a major setback to the economy of Maldives.

## Campaign against Israel and US in Malaysia



**Roznama Sahara** (March 3) states that due to the boycott of goods made in US and Israel by the people of Malaysia, there has been a huge decline in the income of companies in the two countries. According to Arab News, the people of Malaysia have started boycotting the items manufactured in US and Israel in protest against the attack on Gaza by Israel. The parent companies of US firms in Malaysia has accepted that due to this boycott, there is a 40 percent decline in their income.

The Starbucks company in Malaysia has accepted that due to this boycott, huge mobs attacked more than 400 stores of the company and the products made in US and Israel were set on fire. Many of their employees were injured in this attack. The company has also clarified that it has nothing to do with Israel. The company has

claimed that it has neither got any store in Israel and nor does it provide any financial aid either to the military or the government there. The company said the propaganda being made against it in Malaysia is baseless.

**Hamara Samaj** (March 13) states that the Muslims in Britain has announced that they will not purchase the dates that come from Israel. In this connection, a campaign has been unleashed in entire Europe to create public awareness. It is to be noted that Britain purchases 30 lakh tonne dates from Israel every year, whose value comes to one crore dollar. The dates are used for the roza iftaar in Ramzan and hence there is a huge demand across the world for dates during Ramzan.

According to the newspaper, a prominent organisation of Muslims in Britain, Islamic Association, has announced that a dharna will be organised at the shops selling Israeli dates across the country and they will be boycotted. This organisation said that the Muslims in Britain have taken this decision in protest against the Israeli attack on Gaza. Till now, more than 30,000 Palestinians have died in the Israeli attack in Gaza and more than 70,000 have been injured.

## Five European nations sign deal to stop illegal infiltrators



**Etemaad** (March 12) states that the British government has failed to stop illegal infiltrators entering the country. Recently, more than 400 illegal infiltrators tried to cross the English Channel and enter Britain. These people tried to reach Britain from France using small boats. Following this, the British government decided that an agreement shall be signed with European nations to stop Asians from infiltrating into Britain.

British Home Minister James Cleverly said we have entered into an agreement with France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany in this connection. These countries have assured us that they will undertake a nationwide

campaign to trace those Asians who illegally enter their countries so that in future those infiltrators who enter Britain in an illegal manner could be stopped. He said the British government has taken a firm decision to crush those gangs involved in human trafficking and in this connection, a decision has been made to increase the coordination between the intelligence agencies and police in these countries. According to newspapers, the infiltrators who are illegally staying in Britain have become a headache for the government there and the British government has to spend a huge money of ten crore pounds every year on these people.

## Muslim Brotherhood leaders get death sentence in Egypt



**Sahafat** (March 6) reports that a court in Egypt has awarded death sentence to eight leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) on charges of fanning violence in the country. This apart, its many other leaders were awarded life-term in jail as punishment. According to Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn', the Egyptian government has launched a drive against this extremist Islamic organisation.

The leaders who have been awarded death sentence include the chief of Ikhwanul Muslimeen, Mohammed Badie, and deputy chief Mahmoud Ezzat. While 37 leaders got life-term, six leaders got 15 years in jail and 17 were given 10 years in jail. According to Egyptian media, these people were given punishment on charges of holding nationwide protests in 2013 in support of former president Mohamed Morsi who belonged to Ikhwanul Muslimeen, creating disturbance and taking part in violent activities.

It is to be noted that in 2013, the Army had deposed President Mohamed Morsi, who was supported by Ikhwanul Muslimeen, and declared Ikhwanul

Muslimeen as a banned organisation. Following this, the then Army chief Abdel Fattah El-Sisi took the keys of the power in his own hands. This apart, he had started a nationwide crackdown against Ikhwanul Muslimeen and thousands of activists of Ikhwanul Muslimeen including deposed President Mohamed Morsi were arrested. Morsi was awarded life-term in jail on charges of spying and creating disturbance in the country. Meanwhile, the court awarded him death sentence in another case. Later, he died under mysterious circumstances in jail. This apart, more than 200 leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen were hanged to death.

**Hamara Samaj** (March 13) states that the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami-Hind Syed Sadatullah Hussaini has condemned the death sentence awarded to eight leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen by a court in Egypt. He said that all Muslims of Jamaat-e-Islami-Hind and Hindustan stand with Ikhwanul Muslimeen in these difficult times.

He claimed that Ikhwanul Muslimeen is a peaceful Muslim

organisation, which has been trying to implement a democratic structure in Egypt. For the first time, fair elections were held in Egypt through this organisation and Mohamed Morsi received immense support from the people of Egypt for the post of President. Later he was deposed of at the behest of foreigners. He said that the Egyptian government has targeted the leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen at the behest of the US because they were supporting the people of Palestine and were opposed to the anti-Muslim policies of the US and Israel.



Hussaini said the Arab people are on the side of Ikhwanul Muslimeen even today and it is the most popular organisation of the people there. A campaign to crush this organisation at the behest of the US and Israel is taking place in Egypt and this so called decision of the court is a proof of this. He asked the various countries in the world and human rights organisations to condemn this decision of the Egyptian court and exert pressure on the government there to release thousands of innocent people incarcerated in the jails in Egypt. Hussaini said the important leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen who have been awarded death sentence include Mohammad Badie, Mahmoud Ezzat, Mohamed El-Beltagy, Safwat Hegazy, Amr Zaki, Assem Abdel Majed, Mohamad Abdel Maqsood and Osama Yassin.

### **What is Ikhwanul Muslimeen?**

Ikhwanul Muslimeen or Muslim Brotherhood is the oldest and biggest Islamic organisation in Egypt, whose branches are spread in all Arab countries. Ikhwanul Muslimeen was established by Hassan Al-Banna in the year 1928. The aim of this organisation is to unite the Muslim society on the basis of Shariah and Quran. The organisation had opposed the British influence in Egypt and had run a campaign against the then king of Egypt, Farouk. Ikhwanul Muslimeen had alleged that

Farouk had been working as a puppet in the hands of the British and he was taking Egypt towards Christianity and Western culture. In 1952, Farouk had to flee Egypt. Following this, clashes erupted between Ikhwanul Muslimeen and the Army over power. Ikhwanul Muslimeen opposed socialism, secularism and pan-Arab agitation.

In 1954, Ikhwanul Muslimeen tried to kill Egypt President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Following this, Nasser launched a nationwide campaign to crush Ikhwanul Muslimeen. As part of this drive, senior leader of Muslim Brotherhood, Sayyid Qutb, and his other colleagues were sent to jail. Sayyid Qutb is considered as the father of Islamic terrorist organisation Al-Qaida and Hamas. In 1996, the Egyptian government hanged to death Sayyid Qutb.

Later, an agreement was reached between Egypt President Anwar Sadat and the leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen. The leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen had announced that they would keep away from violence in future and will limit their work to social reforms. In 1981, an organisation linked to Ikhwanul Muslimeen, Al Jihad, murdered Sadat. Later, Ikhwanul Muslimeen started openly taking part in politics. They took part in the elections held in Egypt in 1984 and supported a political party named Wafd Party. In this elections, Wafd party registered their victory in 65 seats out of the total 450 seats in Egypt Parliament. This apart, a number of people associated with this organisation have won as independent candidates.





Following this, the influence of Ikhwanul Muslimeen in the politics of Egypt has increased and they deposed the then president of Egypt Hosni Mubarak from power in 2011. In the elections held in Egypt in 2012, they entered into an agreement with Freedom and Justice Party and won nearly half of the seats in the People's Assembly of Egypt and also registered victory in 84 percent seats in the Upper House. This apart, the candidate of Ikhwanul Muslimeen, Mohamed Morsi, was elected as President.

Later differences cropped up between the Army and Ikhwanul Muslimeen. It is being said that Mohamed Morsi had appointed a few people associated with Jamaat-Al-Islamia as Governors in different states. This extremist organisation has been found guilty for the killing of dozens of tourists in 1997. In the year 2013, differences arose between the then President Mohamed Morsi and Army chief Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who was also the defence minister in

the Morsi government, and Abdel Fattah El-Sisi dissolved the Constitution and took over the reins of the power. Ikhwanul Muslimeen opposed this and launched a nationwide agitation. The Army shot dead 1,150 protesters.

El-Sisi imposed a ban on this organisation and arrested thousands of activists of Ikhwanul Muslimeen including Morsi. A case for treason was registered against Morsi and Mohamad Morsi died in mysterious circumstances in the

jail itself in 2019. Following this, a split took place in Ikhwanul Muslimeen and one of its factions followed the path of violence. It is being said the governments of Qatar and Turkiye had secretly supported Ikhwanul Muslimeen and provided refuge to many leaders of Muslim Brotherhood in their country.

In 2019, El-Sisi visited the United States. Following this, the US had declared Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation. The leaders of Muslim Brotherhood allege that Egyptian President El-Sisi is running a campaign to crush this Islamic organisation due to pressure from the United States. Recently, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Egypt. Following this visit, there was a new turn in the policy of Turkiye. The Turkish government cancelled the citizenship of Ikhwanul Muslimeen leaders who took refuge in the country. It is being said that now these leaders are trying to take refuge in other Arab countries. ■

## Extremists get majority in elections in Iran

**Siasat** (March 5) states that in the elections held in Iran for the Parliament and the Assembly of Experts, candidates belonging to the extremist ideology secured a massive victory. As per a report of Al Jazeera, lakhs of voters on March 1 voted for 290 seats of Iranian Parliament and for the 88 seats in the Assembly of Experts. Out of the total 8.5

crore population, 6.1 crore were eligible to take part in the voting.

According to Iranian media, nearly 25 percent voters in Iranian capital Tehran took part in the voting. Whereas, it has been claimed that nearly 40 percent voting took place. In this elections, two extremists, Mahmoud Nabawian and Hamid Razai, got



the highest number of votes. After them, the highest number of votes were secured by Television anchor Amir Hussain Sabeti. He has been elected as an MP for the first time at the age of 35. Secondly, liberal newspaper Ham-Mihan said these elections were not held in a fair manner and majority of the people in the country have boycotted it because they did not trust the transparency in the elections.

It is to be noted that in the parliamentary elections held in 2020, nearly 42 percent people took part, which is the smallest ever since the Islamic revolution in 1979. Liberal leader and former president Hassan Rouhani also took part in the elections. However, after being an MP for 24 years, now he cannot fight the elections on his own.

**Avadhnama** (March 6) states that the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that the people of Iran actively took part in the elections. However, Iran's enemies have been propagating for the past one year that the people of Iran will boycott the polls, but the people threw cold war on their intentions. He expressed gratitude to the people of Iran for taking part in this jihad.

**Etemaad** (March 4) in its editorial said the Iran government has claimed that the voters exercised their franchise in huge numbers in this election. Whereas the newspapers claimed that the people hardly displayed any interest in this elections. There were 15,200 candidates in the field for the 290 seats in the Parliament. Whereas, there were 144 candidates for the 88 seats in the Assembly of Experts. Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said the anti-Iran propaganda of foreign

powers have been exposed in the elections and the enemies of Iran had to face defeat.

On the other hand, liberal newspapers claimed that the voting percentage this time was much lower compared to other elections. In 2020, 42 percent people had exercised their franchise. Then the government had claimed that the voting percentage this time was much lower compared to the previous elections. In 17 seats out of the

total 30 seats in Iranian capital Tehran, candidates belonging to extremist ideology have registered their victory. Whereas the voting percentage in Tehran was less than 24 percent.

After the Islamic revolution in Iran, the post of Supreme Leader was constituted in the country and the Late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini assumed this post. After his death, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei continues to grace this post. The Supreme Leader is the chief of Iran's military and he also monitors the security of the country. He appoints the judges of the Supreme Court, the imams in the country and also appoints the chief of the official TV network. There are thousands of institutions in the country which are in his control, whose budget runs into billions of dollars.

In Iran, the President is elected for a term of four years and no person can continue on this post for more than three terms. The President is the head of the Iranian Parliament and he formulates the national and foreign policies, but Iran's Supreme Leader has the power to veto these policies. The most powerful institution in Iran is Shura-e-Nigahban (Guardian Council). It has the power to cancel all the laws passed by the Parliament. It can also stop any individual from contesting for the post of President or in the elections to the Assembly of Experts apart from to the Parliament. In these elections, only those candidates can take part about whom there is an opinion that he is loyal to Islamic system and Shariah. Nearly 275 prominent leaders have boycotted the recent elections because they were suspicious about the transparency in the elections. ■

## Saudi government accused of adopting anti-Islam policy



**Urdu Times** (March 7) has alleged that after coming under the influence of Western nations, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, is following an anti-Islam policy. Recently, he imposed a ban on the use of loudspeakers in masjids during Ramzan. This apart, organising iftaars in masjids has also been banned. Directions have been given to shorten *namaz* and *dawah* as well.

Also, a ban has been announced on bringing children to masjids. The newspaper said the Saudi government had given a direction to the imams of all masjids to submit a draft of their khutba (speech) to the government and deliver the khutba in masjids only after getting permission for the same from the government.

The newspaper said that as soon as Ramzan month started, the Saudi government has imposed different kinds of restrictions on Islamic activities in madrasas. The number of loudspeakers in masjids has been reduced to four. There will be no permission to use loudspeakers more than this number. These loudspeakers can be used only for *azaan* and a ban has also been imposed on the direct broadcast of *tarawih* prayers. Those who sit in masjid for i'tikaf will be allowed to enter only after they produce their identity card. The newspaper said that the general public will definitely feel the trouble as people come

to the masjid in the traditional manner for i'tikaf.

The newspaper said that following the footsteps of Saudi Arabia, the Tunisian government has also imposed different kinds of restrictions in masjids. The people of Saudi have also been directed that they do not bring their children to masjids. It is to be noted

that earlier this ban was imposed in Russia. Its aim was to keep children away from Islam so that when they grow up they do not follow Islamic teachings and Shariah. Saudi Arabia's ministry for Islamic matters has directed all imams to offer *namaz* and *dawah* in short. This apart, the madrasas have been directed not to collect donation from any citizen.

It is to be noted that till now people used to liberally donate money for the food for namazis for *iftaar* in order to break the *roza*. All imams have also been directed that they do not take donation from anyone for *roza iftaar* parties and desist from organising iftaar parties in masjids. In case if it is necessary to do so, they can organise it outside the masjid at the designated place. A ban has also been imposed on doing videography of namaz and other activities related to Islam.

The newspaper said the way in which Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has been taking anti-Islam or anti-Shariah decisions, it is difficult to believe an Islamic nation could formulate such policies. It is clear from it that the Saudi Crown Prince is driving Muslims away from Islam and Shariah by adopting such anti-Islam policies at the behest of the US. Earlier also the Saudi Crown Prince for the first time had granted permission to establish cinema halls and show films by

ignoring Shariah. Recently he had given permission to open liquor outlets in capital Riyadh. In Islam, music is considered as haram but despite that he had given permission to Bollywood and Hollywood actors, actresses and musicians to organise public programmes.

As per a news published in **Qaumi Tanzeem** (March 9), the Saudi government has rejected the claim that it has given a free hand to women to wear Western dress and visit public places. The newspaper said the Global News had claimed on February 25 that the Saudi Crown Prince had said in a *farman* that there is no ban on Saudi women from wearing any particular dress. They can wear the dress which they feel like wearing.

It is to be noted that earlier the Saudi Arabian women could not appear in public places and in places like malls without wearing a burqa. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in an interview given to CBS News on March 19, 2018,

had made it clear that in Shariah, the women had been directed only to wear decent dress and there is no such direction that they use black colour burqa, abaya or scarf.

The newspaper said that in Saudi Arabia, the religious police have the responsibility to implement Shariah even today. However, though this organisation is present even now, they have been directed not to interfere in the activities of people. Earlier, the officials belonging to this organisation used to arrest men and women who violated Shariah and send them to jail. Later, they used to be produced in religious courts and the court used to punish them with public lashes on charges of violating the Shariah. Later, they used to be sent to jail again. There they had to spend at least six months. The newspaper has confirmed that for the first time, Saudi women have been given permission to drive vehicles, but they do not have the permission to travel alone even now.

## Ceasefire announcement in Sudan during Ramzan



**Siasat** (March 11) states that the United Nations Security Council has approved a proposal for ceasefire in Sudan on the occasion of Ramzan. The proposal was mooted by Britain. Fourteen out of the total 15 members of the Security Council supported the proposal. Whereas Russia abstained from it. The deputy representative of Russia in United Nations said we clearly understand the intentions of western nations. At one level, they have

closed their eyes on the question of ceasefire in Gaza. Whereas more than 30,000 people have been killed there.

On the other hand, they have supported the proposal for a ceasefire in Sudan. The Russian representative has expressed surprise that the US has vetoed three times a proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza and put the matter to rest. The Russian representative said the people of Sudan should resolve the dispute

through mutual discussions and should not give any opportunity to foreign powers to interfere in it.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 9) states that a civil war is raging in Sudan for the past nine months. Now it looks like the situation of Sudan's Army Chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan has weakened and the situation of his opponent, the chief of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Mohamed

Hamdan Dagalo, has been getting stronger day by day. Recently, he visited many countries.

However, the Sudanese people's organisation has been continuously putting pressure to restore democracy in Sudan. Dagalo's efforts are to ensure that the power remains in the hands of the Army. He made efforts to reach an agreement with Army chief Al-Burhan through the organisation of eastern African nations, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, but Al-Burhan rejected the proposal for ceasefire and efforts for a deal by saying that the civil war that is taking place in Sudan is an internal matter of the country and we will not tolerate foreign interference on this issue. Recently, Dagalo visited Uganda as well.

The newspaper said that it looks like Army Chief General Al-Burhan is getting isolated on the world stage. Due to the civil war that has been taking place in Sudan for the past nine months, 13,000 people have been killed so far. As per the data of United Nations, 70 lakh people have been forced to flee their homes due to this civil war. The economy of the country has got ruined due to the civil war.

It has also been alleged that the Army and the RSF are torturing the public



and killing them. Recently, Iran had exerted pressure on Sudan government to support the activities of Houthis in Red Sea, but the Sudan government could not take any decision in this connection as it has already fallen into civil war. In Sudan, none of the groups are in a position to annoy either Israel or the US.

The US efforts are to ensure a ceasefire in Sudan. The efforts of US and Saudi Arabia are to exert pressure on Al-Burhan and General Dagalo and agree to a deal. The civil war is raging in Sudan since April 2023. Though efforts had been made several times to reach an agreement between the two sides, those did not succeed. The civil war has mostly affected Turkiye, Lebanon and Ethiopia. The refugees from Sudan have become a headache in these nations.

## Boko Haram kidnaps hundreds of students in Nigeria

**Sahafat** (March 9) states that Islamic terrorist organisation Boko Haram has kidnapped more than 100 students and teachers in Nigeria. This incident took place in Kuriga city in north western region in Nigeria. It is being said that nearly two dozen terrorists belonging to Boko Haram entered a local school riding motorcycles. These terrorists were equipped with modern weapons. This apart, the terrorists attacked a refugee camp in Ngala located

near the border of Cameroon and kidnapped nearly 200 women and girls.

**Avadhnama** (March 9) states that this is the second big incident involving kidnaping of students in the past one week. These terrorists are active in northern Nigeria since 2014 and till now they have kidnapped thousands of youths and girls. In order to free the hostages, the terrorist organisation extracts huge money from the relatives of those people taken hostage. The



Governor of Kaduna, after visiting the spot of the incident, confirmed that the number of students kidnapped from the school is more than 300. Majority of them are girls. He said that we will bring back every kidnapped child.

The Nigerian Army is taking action against these terrorists. It is to be noted that a civil war is raging in Nigeria for the past one year. The Boko Haram, affiliated to terrorist organisation Al-Shabab, has been dominating the northern region of Nigeria. The Army has been trying to liberate this area for the past one year. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu has assured the media that the Army will be carrying out a nationwide drive against the terrorists. He has also sought help from the United Nations in this connection.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 12) said that meanwhile, Islam is spreading fast in Africa and the number of Christians and Muslims has almost become equal in many countries. In those countries were Muslims are in a majority, most are at the receiving end of political instability, civil war and terrorism. Civil war has flared up in Muslim-majority nations like Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Male. Thousands of people have died due to this civil war and lakhs have become homeless.

In the beginning of this month, ISIS and Al Qaida had attacked a church in Burkina Faso. Twentyfive Christians were killed in this attack and many dozens were injured. The attack was carried out at a time when mass prayers were taking place in the church. In Burkina Faso, the Muslim

population is 63 percent and the same is 95 percent in Male. Despite this, the terrorist organisation is playing Holi with the blood of innocents there on the pretext of establishing a rule based on Shariah. The terrorists have captured one-third region in Burkina Faso.

The newspaper has expressed surprise that Sunni terrorist organisations like ISIS and Al-Qaida are playing Holi with the blood of Shia Muslims, because they consider them as Kafirs. These two terrorist organisations are active in Male as well. They are targeting both Muslims and Christians there. In Burkina Faso, different units of the Army overthrew the government three times in the past one year.

In the Middle East, due to the strong stand of the United States, the ISIS had to pack their bags from there and take refuge in Africa. Then this terrorist organisation had claimed that they would remove Kafirs from power in Africa and establish a rule based on Islamic Khilafat and Shariah.

Nigeria is also a Muslim majority nation. The Boko Haram has made life difficult for the people here since 2010. The meaning of Boko Haram is 'Western Education Haram.' According to this Islamic terrorist organisation, the education that has been imparted in the educational institutions in this country is not in tune with Islam. Hence education should be based entirely on Shariah.

Till now, Boko Haram has killed more than 40,000 people. Due to the military operation launched against these

terrorists by the Nigerian government with the help of the US, the strength of Boko Haram has weakened. Similarly, Niger is a small country. There the Muslim population is 100 percent. Niger got independence in 1960. Since then, the military coup took place at least 20 times. Whereas in Sudan, the military has been in power for the past three decades.

In order to suppress public anger, the military has killed 3 lakh to 4 lakh people till now. Some terrorist organisations are wreaking havoc in the name of establishing Islamic Khilafat in Africa. The military has held power for decades in these Muslim nations. Due to this, Muslims have lagged



behind in education and in economic field. Terrorist organisations like ISIS, Al Qaida and Boko Haram are responsible for this misery of African Muslims. These organisations do not want Muslims to receive modern education.

## More than 800 people hanged to death in Iran in past one year

**Hindustan Express** (March 8) states that human rights organisations have claimed that at least 834 people have been given death sentence in Iran in the past one year, which is the biggest number since 2015. The United Nations and human rights activists have expressed concern over the manner in which people have been awarded death sentence in Iran. The Iran government said that it is their duty to take stringent action against those involved in smuggling drugs and spying in order to maintain peace in the country.

Secondly, an institution in Norway, Together Against the Death Penalty, in its report said there is a 43 percent increase in the number of death penalties awarded in the year 2023 compared to 2022. Earlier, the highest number of people awarded death sentence was in the year 2015. The government had put their number at 972.

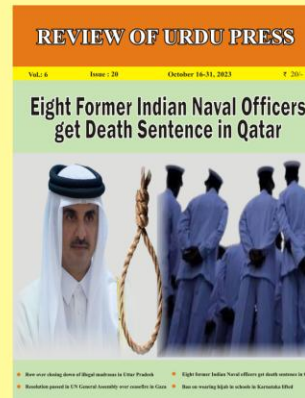
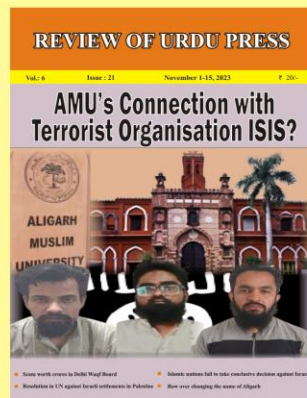
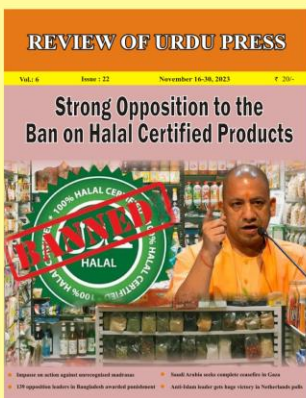
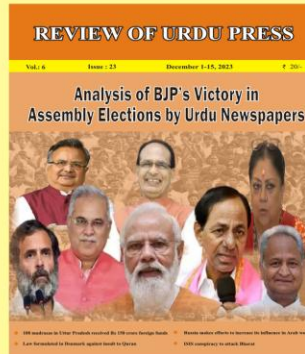
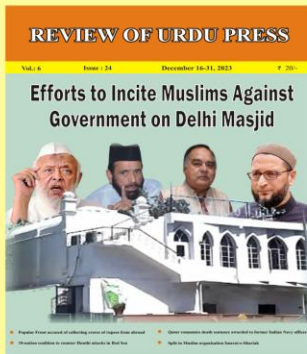
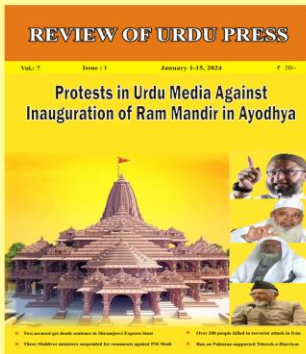
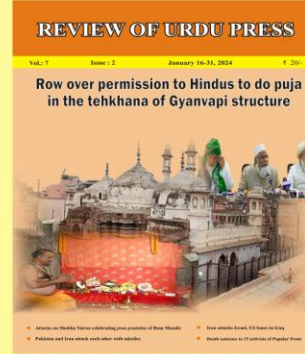
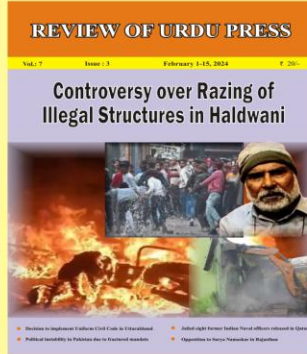
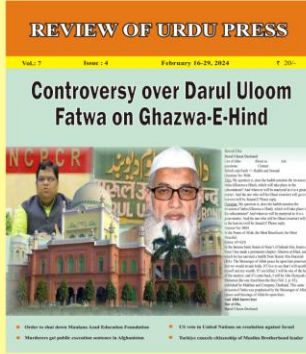
The organisation has alleged that after the death of a Kurd woman, Mehsa Amini, in police custody in September 2022, nationwide protests erupted across Iran and the government got freaked out and it wanted to scare people by giving them indiscriminate death penalty.

In its report, the organisation said that 471 people were hanged to death on charges

of smuggling drugs in the year 2023. The surprising thing is that majority of those who were given the punishment were Baloch, who belong to the Sunni Sect. Whereas, the Iranian government is Shia. Last year, among those who were hanged to death on charges of smuggling drugs, 167 of them belonged to the Sunni sect.

In Iran, people are generally hanged to death inside the jails. However, from last year, the Iranian government started the new system of publically hanging to death the accused near masjids and intersections. The surprising thing is that there were 22 women among the accused who were hanged to death. Human rights organisations claim that the highest number of death sentences are awarded in China. Whereas Iran is in second position in this matter. This year, so far 83 people have been hanged to death in Iran.

**Siasat** (March 11) states that two women were arrested on charges of dancing in public places while celebrating Jashn-e-Nowruz (New Year). These women were arrested from Tehran. The government has alleged that the women had worked against Shariah by dancing in public places and broke social conventions. The government has also refused to release them on bail.



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