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Controversy Erupts in Murshidabad over “Babri Masjid” Construction



- Drive against infiltrators in Uttar Pradesh
- Terrorists unleash bloodbath in Australia
- USA concerned about Chinese and Russian influence in Saudi Arabia
- Former ISI chief Faiz Hameed gets 14 years in jail

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Summary

Suspended MLA from Trinamool Congress Humayun Kabir has laid the foundation of a Babri Masjid at Beldanga in Murshidabad district in West Bengal. The Urdu media has largely opposed this. Urdu newspapers are of the opinion that the Bharatiya Janata Party wants to win the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal at any cost and hence at its behest Humayun Kabir has raised the issue of Babri Masjid construction. These newspapers are also of the opinion that Muslims will not benefit from the construction of this masjid. Some newspapers have raised the question of where the funds will come from for the construction of this mosque, which is planned to cost Rs 100 crore? The interesting thing is that the Ulema from Saudi Arabia and a few other Muslim nations arrived to take part in the foundation-laying ceremony of the masjid. These Ulema laid the foundation of the masjid after reciting the Quran.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has unleashed a state-wide campaign against foreign infiltrators. He has directed all municipal corporations and municipal councils in the state to carry out a special drive to identify Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators. Earlier, he had directed the Uttar Pradesh police and the local intelligence units (LIU) to keep a close watch on the foreigners who take part in the activities of Tablighi Jamaat. Recently, a citizen of Philippines, Mohammad Aron Sarip had arrived in India on a tourist visa. He stayed at the Muslim educational institution Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama in Lucknow. The principal and other authorities of this institution did not provide any information regarding this foreign individual to the government. A case has been registered against the authorities of this institution for violating the directions of the government. It is worth mentioning that before this, no government in the past had displayed the courage to register a case against Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama.

Recently, Indian-origin Islamic terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on Jews celebrating their festival at Bondi beach in Sydney in Australia. Nearly 16 innocent people lost their lives in this attack. Majority of those killed were Jews. It is said the attackers Sajid Akram and Naveed Akram were father and son. They were original residents of Hyderabad. During the investigations, it was revealed that a few days before carrying out the attack in Bondi beach, the two attackers had travelled to the Philippines and received training in terrorist attacks at secret training camps of the dreaded Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS.

In Pakistan, the reins of power have been in the hands of the military from the very beginning. There is constant infighting among various factions within the army to seize power in the country. Recently, a military court has awarded a 14-year-jail term to the former chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, Lt General Faiz Hameed, on charges of colluding with political parties and plotting to seize power. It is said the hands of Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir were behind this decision. Faiz Hameed is considered as close to former prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan. Imran Khan is lodged in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi over several corruption cases.

China and Russia have increased their activities in Saudi Arabia. This has resulted in a fresh trouble for the US. Till now, this region had the domination of the US. Recently, the representatives of China and Russia paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia. The representatives of both these nations had signed several important agreements with the government of Saudi Arabia. Since 2023, China has started taking a special interest in West Asia. Through its mediation, an agreement was reached between the two long-standing rival countries, Iran and Saudi Arabia, on several issues.

National

Controversy over construction of Babri Masjid in Murshidabad



Majority of the Urdu newspapers have prominently published the news related to the foundation-laying of Babri Masjid at Beldanga in Murshidabad district in West Bengal by MLA Humayun Kabir, who has been suspended from the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Urdu Times (December 7) said that a crowd of thousands of people gathered on the occasion and they raised slogans in support of Babri Masjid. This event was organised on the 33rd anniversary of the demolition of Babri structure in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. Communal tension arose across the state following the announcement of the laying of the foundation of Babri Masjid in Murshidabad. In view of it, the administration had to deploy security personnel in huge numbers. Thousands of people from different parts of the state had arrived to take part in the foundation-laying of the masjid. On the occasion, a traffic jam took place which stretched to several kilometres. Thousands of people carried bricks and other material on their heads for the construction of the masjid. The organiser of this programme, Humayun Kabir, claimed this masjid will be constructed at par with the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. Addressing the crowd, he said people of Malda, Murshidabad and 24

Parganas will actively and enthusiastically contribute to the construction of the Babri Masjid. Kabir claimed that he has 25 bigha of land for the construction of the masjid, but the administration has stopped us from building the masjid on the land. We do not need government's money for the construction of Babri Masjid. I will not take even one paise from the government. One person has agreed to give us Rs 80 crore for the construction of the masjid. The newspaper has written that hundreds of tractors carrying the material for construction of the masjid arrived at the site from different localities.

Hamara Samaj (December 7) claimed that the function began with the recitation of Quran by the Ulema. On this occasion, Humayun Kabir alleged that some people had conspired to get this event cancelled. In this connection, he had even approached the high court. However, the court refused to stay the event and directed the state government to make security arrangements. Kabir claimed that at least 90 Muslim candidates will win in the state Assembly elections to be held in 2026. He said that Muslims have all the rights to build the masjid and no power in the world will be able to stop it. On the other hand, the Opposition BJP is trying to corner West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on



this issue. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya described it as a drama of TMC. He said that a BJP government will come into being in West Bengal. If a brick is laid in West Bengal in the name of Babri Masjid, the BJP will uproot and throw it away. Congress MP Imran Masood alleged that Humayun Kabir wants to create riots in the country on the pretext of construction of the masjid, hence stringent legal action should be taken against him. If I, as a Muslim, am demanding his arrest, then what is Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee afraid of? This drama will not work. Masood said that if you want to build a masjid, then definitely make, but it should not be named in a manner that creates hatred in society.

Etemaad (December 7) states that Humayun Kabir said the Ulema from Saudi Arabia came to take part in this event. He alleged that Muslims were dealt a deep wound 33 years ago. Similarly, BJP accused the TMC of dividing the society ahead of the Assembly elections in 2026. Whereas Mamata Banerjee said we have nothing to do with this issue and Humayun Kabir is an agent of a particular party.

Aurangabad Times (December 7) said that a 150-feet-long and 80-feet-wide dais was set up at the event. An arrangement has been made to seat 400 dignitaries on this dais. The Ulema had arrived from Saudi Arabia and other

Muslim nations to take part in this event. BJP leader Amit Malaviya said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is playing with fire and is deliberately spreading disturbance in the state. Senior TMC leader and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said our party does not believe in communal politics. On the other hand, Humayun Kabir announced that he will form a new party and will field its candidates in 135 seats in the forthcoming Assembly elections. He also said he will enter into an electoral alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM. Whereas, Owaisi has rejected the possibility of entering into an electoral alliance with Humayun Kabir.

Urdu Times (December 8) states that the process of religious polarisation has begun rapidly in West Bengal. On one hand, Humayun Kabir has come out on the field to collect the votes of the 30 percent Muslim population in the state. On the other hand, a mass Gita recital programme was organised at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata. West Bengal Governor Dr C V Ananda Bose also took part in this programme. The interesting thing is that in this mass Gita recital programme, apart from BJP leaders, several Hindu leaders including Kartik Maharaj, Sadhvi Rithambhara and Dhirendra Krishna Shastri of Bageshwar Dham also took part. The event was organised by Sanatan



Sanskriti Sansad. This institution is a platform of different Maths and Hindu religious organisations. The event was presided over by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj. Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev was also present at the programme.

Hamara Samaj (December 10) claimed that the Babri Masjid being built in Murshidabad received 11 boxes filled with notes as donation. Humayun Kabir said he will organise a recital of Quran with one lakh people in February as a reply to the Gita recital by the BJP. Along with this, the construction work of the Babri Masjid will also begin.

Urdu Times (December 13) in its editorial alleged that a dangerous political game is being played in the name of Babri Masjid. Had Humayun Kabir built an ordinary mosque or stayed within his party's discipline, this controversy would not have occurred, but several questions have arisen due to the construction of a new masjid in the name of Babar. The question that arises is why Humayun Kabir remained silent on this issue for three decades? Has he taken this step due to religious sentiments or at the behest of somebody else? Humayun Kabir said this is a Rs 300 crore project. It will also include an Islamic Hospital, Medical College and Guest House apart from the construction of the masjid. The newspaper said that it is clear from the political statement of Humayun Kabir after laying the foundation of the masjid that he is walking on the

agenda of the BJP and wants to divide the society on religious lines.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 8) in its editorial alleged that Humayun Kabir is playing the same game that Syed Shahabuddin had played years ago. The rally organized by Shahabuddin paved the way for Hindu leaders to reach power by using religion as a tool. The newspaper also questioned the over Rs 1 crore spent to organise this function. From where did this money come from? Royal biryani had been prepared for over 40,000 guests invited to the function. This apart, biryani was prepared for more than 20,000 local residents. Finally, what is Humayun Kabir going to prove by establishing a masjid once again in the name of Babar? It would be better if the Rs 300 crore collected for this masjid is being spent to set up an industry for the Muslims so that people get jobs.

Urdu Times (December 10) in its editorial said that Humayun Kabir has changed his political colour several times. Now he has adopted a new method to gather the votes of Muslims in the name of Babri Masjid. The newspaper said building a mosque in Babur's name is commendable, but the person doing this has himself been associated with the BJP. The question that arises is whether Humayun Kabir is building the Babri Masjid at the behest of BJP?

Hindustan (December 8) in its editorial said this event organised by suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir could be viewed from two perspectives. The first perspective is that the decision to build the Babri Masjid was made with good intentions and to awaken religious identity, so as to show anti-Muslim forces that Muslims have now entered the fray to fight for their rights. If the Babri structure is demolished in Ayodhya, its reconstruction is done in Murshidabad. Similarly, the



second viewpoint is that Humayun Kabir has started this programme at the behest of the BJP, because it wants to divide the voters on communal lines and seize power in the forthcoming Assembly elections. In such a situation what is needed is that the Muslims in the country should be wary of this programme.

Hamara Samaj (December 11) alleged that Humayun Kabir has laid the foundation of Babri Masjid at the behest of BJP. The BJP wants to win the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal at any cost, hence it raised the issue of Babri Masjid and is destroying the communal atmosphere in the state. This is the only manner in which it could defeat Mamata Banerjee in the elections. The satisfactory thing is that after seeing through the games of Humayun Kabir, Mamata Banerjee expelled him from her party. This is a

testament to Mamata Banerjee's political foresight. There is content in the allegation of Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim that all these are happening at the behest of BJP. The ordinary Muslims in the state do not benefit from it.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq

(December 10) has appealed to the Muslims of West Bengal not to become victims in the conspiracy to construct Babri Masjid. The newspaper asked why a masjid is not constructed at the five acres of land given to Sunni Waqf Board at Dhannipur village by the Supreme Court in place of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Why people like Humayun Kabir are silent on this matter?

Inquilab (December 7) in its editorial said that Humayun Kabir is playing the game of construction of Babri Masjid in Murshidabad at the behest of some other person. The Muslims are not going to get any benefit out of it. The question is how an issue of construction of Babri Masjid came up in West Bengal? Babar had never been to West Bengal and neither there is any masjid present there with this name. This truth is not concealed from anyone that the BJP wants to come to power in West Bengal at any cost. In light of this, Humayun Kabir's intentions are being questioned.

Row over chapter related to Mahmud Ghaznavi in NCERT book

Aurangabad Times (December 8) alleged that the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has given an account of Mahmud Ghaznavi's attacks on India, demolition of Hindu temples and the propagation of Islam in the Class 7 Social Science text book. This is likely to create communal tension in society. The newspaper said that in the previous textbook of NCERT, Ghaznavi's attacks were presented in brief. The new book now provides a detailed account of the destruction, plunder and forced conversion

of Hindus to Islam carried out by Mahmud of Ghaznavi in India. The newspaper alleged that the intention behind the new approach adopted by this government institution is clear.

The newspaper said the NCERT adopted the same stand in Class VIII textbook last year in the chapter related to Delhi Sultanate. In that also, instead of focusing on the peace and good governance established by the Delhi Sultans, the emphasis had been laid on the wars they fought, their victorious campaigns, and the



destructions that took place during this period.

However, governments and historians around the world generally try to avoid presenting the negative aspects of any ruler in detail. It is well-known that the old history can never be erased nor it could be covered up. However, it would be totally wrong to hold anyone guilty today for the same. In the old Class VII textbook on Social Science, there was just one paragraph on Mahmud Ghaznavi. It was stated in this paragraph that the kings had displayed their strength and resources by constructing great temples. But foreign invaders targeted these wealthy temples out of greed for wealth.

The newspaper said that in the new book, there is a six-page detailed chapter on Mahmud Ghaznavi. Several pictures and boxes have been included in this chapter. It has been mentioned in detail that Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked India 17 times. In this new book, it has been mentioned in detail about Ghaznavi's loot of temples of Mathura, destruction of temples in Kannauj and the Somnath temple in Gujarat. As per the book, the current Somnath temple was reconstructed in 1950 and its inauguration was done by the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad. It has also been mentioned that the entire expenses for the reconstruction of this temple was borne by the people.

It has also been said in the book that thousands of people were killed during the attacks by Ghaznavi. Thousands of people

were taken prisoners and sold in the slave markets of Central Asia. They included women and children in huge numbers. The court historian of Ghaznavi Al-Utbi had written in his book that Ghaznavi had killed 'kafirs' for the mass propagation of Islam. The houses of Hindus were looted and children were taken as slaves. He

destroyed temples and constructed mosques in their places. Another writer, Al-Baruni, while mentioning about the Shivling at Somnath temple, said that Mahmud Ghaznavi broke it and took it away with him to Ghazni. Later he buried the Shivling on the steps of the Jama Masjid there. Even today the namazis tamper this Shivling under their feet while entering the masjid. All these details are not there in the old NCERT book.

The book also mentions about Muhammad bin Qasim's attack on Sindh. For the first time in the Class VII book, an account on Muhammad bin Qasim's victory over Sindh have been given. Quoting Persian textbooks, it is said that Mohammad bin Qasim waged a war against the 'kafirs' while abiding with the instructions of Allah for the propagation of Islam and converted Hindus, Buddhists and Jains into Islam. Director of NCERT Dinesh Prasad Saklani said that the material that has been presented in this book are based on historical facts. The new textbooks have been prepared in accordance with National Education Policy, 2020 and National Syllabus Framework, 2023. Earlier, there were three separate books for history, geography and civics in Class VII. Now all of these material have been compiled into one book. The new textbook will be taught in schools across the country from the academic session 2026-27.

Sahafat (December 13) states that the imam of Fatehpuri masjid in Delhi,

Mufti Mukaram Ahmed, while addressing the namazis after the Juma Namaz, said that the chapter on Mahmud Ghaznavi included in NCERT Class VII text book on Social Science is condemnable. He said that students of history should be taught history, but there should not be anything in it which creates a feeling of hatred in the minds of the students. He also suggested

that the masjid being built in Murshidabad shall be named as 'Madina Masjid.'

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 9), while criticising this textbook of NCERT, said this will create a feeling of hatred among students against a particular community. This is not in the interest of the nation. The ruling party is deliberately trying to disrupt social harmony. ■

Drive against infiltrators in Uttar Pradesh



Sahafat (December 15) states that a case has been registered against five persons including the principal of the country's second biggest Muslim educational institution, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow. This case has been registered on charges of allowing a foreign citizen to stay on the premises of Nadwa College and not informing about the activities of Tablighi Jamaat on time. This action has been taken following an information provided by Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Lucknow. As per the information, a Philippines citizen, Mohammad Aron Sarip, had stayed on the premises of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, from November 30 to December 2 after arriving in Delhi. During the investigation, it was found that this foreign citizen had arrived in India on a tourist visa. After landing

here, he took part in the activities of Tablighi Jamaat. In this connection, the principal and other officials of Darul Uloom Nadwa did not provide any information to the state government.

It is to be noted that a few days ago, the Uttar Pradesh government had issued an order stating that foreign citizens arriving in India on a tourist visa cannot take part in any religious activity. If they stay with anyone, then it is mandatory to provide information about the same to the state government. It is noteworthy that as per the Foreigners' Act, if a foreign citizen arriving in India on a tourist visa has taken part in religious activities, then the government could blacklist him and expel him from the country. This apart, a ban could be imposed on his future arrival in India.

According to the newspaper, the Lucknow police investigated this matter for almost a week. It was found during the investigation that the principal of Nadwa College, Maulana Abdul Aziz Nadvi, Deputy Registrar Haroon Rashid, hostel warden Mohammad Qaiser Nadvi and the security personnel deployed at the front door deliberately did not provide the information regarding the stay of foreign citizen on the college premises to the local police station and the FRRO. Later a case has been registered against college officials under different provisions. Incharge of Hasanganj police station Amarnath Varma told correspondents that necessary action is being taken in this connection.

Sahafat (December 8) states that the Uttar Pradesh police have launched a drive in the entire state against Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators. As part of this campaign, a detailed information is being collected on those staying in juggies/huts across the state. In this connection, search teams have been constituted under the supervision of police superintendents in the state. Several people have been taken into custody as part of this campaign. These people have been staying in an illegal manner in different towns of the state.

Inquilab (December 4) states that a campaign to trace Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators has been launched in the entire state on the directions of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. All the municipal corporations and municipal councils have been directed to prepare a list of people having suspicious citizenship. Every municipal corporation will have to provide information regarding foreign infiltrators residing in their respective jurisdiction to the district police chief and the district magistrate so that action could be taken against them. The chief minister has also directed setting up



of detention centres in every district. The infiltrators will be kept in these centres. The government agencies are inquiring into the Aadhaar card, PAN card and other identity certificates of the suspicious persons. The chief minister has given strict instructions to the district magistrates that no negligence will be tolerated in identifying the infiltrators and taking them into custody. Those infiltrators who are taken into custody will be questioned further and expelled from the country.

Inquilab (December 11) in its editorial said that a sense of unease has spread among the Muslims of the country due to the drive against Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims in Uttar Pradesh. The government has announced that all the infiltrators staying illegally in the state will be expelled from the country. This campaign has created discontent among the citizens. A large section of the population fears that due to incomplete or missing documents, the authorities might declare them foreigners and forcibly deport them from India. It is said the population of Uttar Pradesh is 24 crore. A large section among them are not literate. They neither have birth certificates nor any property or residential documents. The government is demanding these very documents. Those who deal with the administration know that it is extremely difficult for an average person to obtain a recognized identity card.

Due to this atmosphere, difficulties may arise for lakhs of families.

It is also being alleged that this campaign might be aimed at targeting a particular community. Whether this allegation is right or wrong, it causes inconvenience to ordinary people and creates a feeling of distrust towards the government. In such a situation, it is necessary that the state government directs its employees not to deliberately target any person nor harass him. The infiltrators should be identified, but no innocent citizen should be targeted in the process. It is very much necessary to



maintain a feeling of trust between the people and the government. This is the basis of the stability of any nation. If this trust is broken, no administrative measure will be effective, nor will social harmony be maintained.

Religious amendment bill put on hold in Uttarakhand



Inquilab (December 18) states that Uttarakhand Governor Lt General Gurmit Singh has returned the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2025 passed by the state government back to the government for reconsideration instead of granting it approval. It is to be noted that the Uttarakhand government has made some changes in religious conversion law in order to make it more stringent. This law provides for life imprisonment for

those who convert people by offering inducements and marriage. In this connection, an amendment bill was passed in the Assembly in August 2025. Later, the bill was sent to the Governor for approval. It is said that some legal and technical shortcomings were found in the draft of this bill and hence the Governor did not grant approval for the same.

According to official sources, there are currently two options before the

Uttarakhand government. First, if the government wants to implement it soon, it could be done so through an ordinance. The second option is to table the amended bill in the next Assembly session again and get it passed and then sent it again for the approval of the Governor. It is worth mentioning that the Uttarakhand government had implemented the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Bill for the first time in 2018. Later in 2022, the law was amended and made it more stringent. The government is making efforts to effectively curb illegal conversions by increasing the penalties and fines.

Recently, In the amendment bill that was passed, the punishment for conversion through deception, coercion, and inducement was increased from three to ten years, which was previously two to seven years.

This apart, now any person can file a complaint with the police for religious conversion. Earlier, only the close relatives of the person concerned had been allowed to register a case. In this new law, a provision has also been made that if a case is filed again against the person involved in religious conversion, the District Magistrate can confiscate all of their property. This law provides for a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of life imprisonment for individuals who deceive people into marriage, engage in conspiracy, trafficking minors, and forcibly convert tribal people. Along with this, the accused will have to pay a fine of Rs 10 lakh as well.

Sahafat (December 10) states that the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition filed by Catholics Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) against the anti-conversion bill of Rajasthan, issued a notice to the Rajasthan government. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that petitions



challenging the anti-conversion laws in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are already pending in the courts. Following this, the bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Augustine George Masih attached this petition with other petitions challenging the anti-conversion laws in other states.

The bench also said that several other petitions like M Hujaifa and others Vs State of Rajasthan, Dashrath Kumar Hinunia Vs State of Rajasthan, PUCL Vs State of Rajasthan and Jaipur Catholic Welfare Society Vs State of Rajasthan are already pending before a bench of Justices Vikramnath and Sandeep Mehta. Hence this petition filed by CBCI shall also be attached with other petitions.

It is to be noted that in these petitions, while questioning the Constitutional validity of sections 5 (6), 10 (3), 12 and 13 of the anti-conversion bill passed by the Rajasthan government, it is being said that it is a violation of the rights given to the minorities by the Constitution of India. This is just the opposite of the spirit of the Constitution. It is also being said in the petition that Section 5(6) of this law empowers a gazetted officer to seize the property of those accused of carrying out mass religious conversions after conducting an investigation. This apart, Section 13 of this law gives the administration the power to demolish the institutes involved in illegal conversion. Under Section 10 (3) of this law, the government has the power to cancel the

registration of institutions involved in illegal conversions. Along with this, the government has the power to seize the assets of these institutions and stop the financial aid being received from abroad. The petition clearly states that these

sections of the anti-conversion law are against Articles 14, 21, 22, and 300 (a) of the Indian Constitution, as the law also prevents challenging it in court. This is against the principles of the supremacy of the Constitution and the law.

Ban on burqa in college in Mumbai



Avadhnama (December 5) states that the issue of banning the burqa in Maharashtra has heated up again. The authorities of Vivek Vidyalaya and Junior College located at Goregaon West in Mumbai issued an order banning the entry of students wearing burqa and naqab on college premises. It has been said in this order that this ban has been imposed because it identifies students belonging to a particular community. Women belonging to Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM organised a protest outside the college against this order of the administration. They demanded the college administration to immediately withdraw the order. The protesters alleged that the college administration has stopped students wearing burqa and naqab from entering the college premises.

On the other hand, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam said the dress code prescribed by the college administration for all the students must be followed. He said that some radicals are deliberately raising this issue. It has been clearly stated in the order of the college administration that students do not come wearing obscene clothes, burqa and naqab. Students had been told through this order that they do

not wear topis or clothes with religious symbols. This order prohibits wearing sleeveless shirts, crop tops, jerseys, and tight-fitting clothing. Girls have been asked to remove burqa or naqab before entering college premises. For boys, it has been made mandatory to wear formal shirt, T-shirt, trouser and jeans. They have also been ordered to come after getting their hair cut and without a beard. Girls have been told to come wearing salwar-kameez and keep their hair tied-up.

Urdu Times (December 5) in its editorial said the ban on burqas and niqabs is not in line with the freedom of dress guaranteed by the Constitution. It has been said in the editorial that it is appropriate for Muslim students to hold a protest outside the college. Their demand is to withdraw the ban imposed on burqa and naqab. Muslim girls say that burqa and naqab are their identity. It is a part of our religion. No one should have any problem with someone wearing this. Earlier, a similar ban was imposed at Acharya College in Chembur. Later it was withdrawn due to protests from students. The newspaper said that some political parties are raising this issue to secure their vote banks, which is condemnable.

Terrorists unleash bloodbath in Australia



Inquilab (December 16) reports that Islamic terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on Jews celebrating 'Hanukkah' festival on Bondi beach in Sydney in Australia. Nearly 16 people were killed in this attack. This apart, more than 60 people were admitted to hospitals, whose condition was stated to be serious. According to Australian police, the terrorists who carried out the attack were father and son. The police shot dead 50-year-old terrorist Sajid Akram at the spot itself. Whereas his 24-year-old son Naveed Akram was sent to hospital from the spot. As per the information, the attacker Sajid Akram had arrived in Australia from India in 1998. Later he married a woman of European origin in Australia. The New South Wales police claimed the attackers belonged to Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. The flag and literature of ISIS were seized from their car. These people were in contact with ISIS for a long time. The two terrorists had the licence to keep six weapons. They used these weapons to open indiscriminate fire on the Jews celebrating their festival. Two bombs were also seized from their car. It could be established from

this that the attackers came fully prepared with the intention to carry out the massacre of the Jews.

As per media reports, earlier these attackers had taken part in several mass protests against the Israeli attacks in Gaza. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that terrorist activities will not be tolerated in Australia. The security agencies are collecting detailed information about terrorists. He said that every person staying in Australia will be provided full security. United Nations General Secretary Antonio Guterres, while condemning this terrorist attack, described it as a brutal massacre. Similarly, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also described it as a horrific terrorist attack and strongly condemned it. He said, "I condemn this horrific terrorist attack. I express my deepest condolences to the affected families and stand with the Australian people during this time of sorrow."

Hindustan (December 16) states that the Home Minister of Australia Tony Burke said that 50-year-old Sajid Akram had arrived in Australia from India in 1998 on a student visa. While his son was born

in Australia itself. He was given a licence to keep weapons in 2015. He had six weapons with him. The Police Commissioner of New South Wales Mal Lanyon said they were closely investigating the attackers' terrorist connections. The investigations have so far revealed that the attackers were in touch with Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. After visiting the spot of the incident, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that some extremist people are fuelling anti-Jewish sentiments in the country. We will make every possible effort to eliminate feelings of hatred against Jews, he said.

Avadhnama (December 16) states that in the wake of this incident, the Australian government has decided to review its policy on the issue of arms licence. The government said the security agencies have been directed to conduct a detailed inquiry into the background of people who keep weapons. US President Donald Trump has also condemned this incident. Addressing people celebrating Christmas at the White House, he said the US security agencies have been put on alert. In US, there is no need for those celebrating the festival to get worried. He expressed concern that a feeling of hatred is being spread against Jews in a deliberate manner across the world.

As per another news, a few weeks before the attack at Bondi beach, the two attackers had gone to Philippines. There they held a meeting with the terrorists of ISIS. The father-son duo received training in terrorist activities there. The Philippines government is conducting an inquiry into their travel. The director general of National Security Council of Philippines confirmed that these attackers had met a few Islamic terrorists. He said that Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS is active in Philippines for a long time now. This terrorist organisation has set up several bases in the southern region of Philippines. In 2017, the ISIS had seized the Marawi



City in Philippines. To free this town from the clutches of the terrorists, the army had carried out a five-month long campaign against the terrorists. Nearly 1,000 terrorists were killed in this action. He said that terrorists belonging to ISIS are active in several areas of Philippines even now. He said the army has been directed to take action against the bases of ISIS.

Etemaad (December 17) states that the Telangana Police have confirmed that 50-year-old Sajid Akram, who carried out the massacre of Jews at Bondi beach in Australia, belongs to Hyderabad. Telangana Police confirmed that Akram had gone to Australia 27 years ago, but he has been using his Indian passport till recently. He had studied B Com in Hyderabad. The Telangana Police said that after leaving for Australia in 1998, Sajid Akram had visited India six times.

Siasat (December 17) states that the immigration department in Philippines confirmed that Sajid Akram had visited Philippines on an Indian passport. Whereas his son Naveed has an Australian passport. The father-son duo had gone to Philippines from Sydney on November 1, 2025 and returned to Australia on November 28, 2025. It is said these two terrorists took training in handling of weapons and making of bombs from the secret training camp of ISIS located at Mindanao island in Philippines. As per latest news, Naveed Akram, who had been admitted to hospital, has come out of coma. The security agencies are conducting his detailed interrogation so that the entire incident could be unravelled.



Urdu Times (December 15) states that an unidentified attacker entered Brown University in the US and opened indiscriminate firing. Two students were killed in this shooting and nearly a dozen people were injured. This incident took place when the students were attending the exams. Vice-President of US J D Vance said the security agencies are investigating this incident.

Siasat (December 5) states that a youth of Pakistani origin has been arrested on charges of conspiring to carry out attacks at Delaware University in the US. A large cache of arms and ammunition were

seized from him. This apart, a video has also been found in his car where he talks about sacrificing his life for Islam and wiping out the enemies of Islam. The name of the arrested youth is 25-year-old Luqmaan Khan. Later the FBI raided his house. According to sources in FBI, the arrested youth himself is a student of Delaware University. A map of the University has also been seized from him.

Inquilab (December 15) states that the Interior ministry of Germany announced that the German police have arrested five Muslims. These people were preparing to carry out a massacre at the Christmas Market in Germany's southern state of Bavaria. Among the arrested people, three are citizens of Morocco, one an Egyptian and another is from Syria. It is said these five persons had infiltrated into Germany in an illegal manner. A truck filled with gunpowder was also seized from them. These people wanted to take the truck to the crowd celebrating Christmas and create an explosion.

Former ISI chief Faiz Hameed gets 14 years in jail



Inquilab (December 12) states that a military court in Pakistan has sentenced the former chief of intelligence agency, ISI, Lt

General Faiz Hameed, to 14 years in jail. As per a press release of the Public Relations Wing (ISPR) of the Pakistani army, a case has been registered against Faiz Hameed on four serious charges. They include taking part in political activities, harming the country's interests by violating the Official Secrets Act and misuse of government authority and resources, and causing harm to people. It is noteworthy that Faiz Hameed was arrested on August 2024. Court martial proceedings were held against him for nearly 15 months.

According to Pakistani journalists, this issue will not end now because Field Marshal Asim Munir has planned to remove his rival former Prime Minister Imran Khan from his path. Imran Khan is lodged in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. Faiz Hameed is alleged to have been involved in planning the attacks carried out by Imran Khan's supporters on various military installations in Pakistan on May 9, 2023. It is noteworthy that a few days ago, Pakistan's National Assembly and the Senate amended the Constitution of the country and made Field Marshal Asim Munir as the most powerful person in the country. He will remain as the life-time chief of the three wings of Pakistani armed forces. This apart, he has also been given the control of nuclear weapons. Now, Asim Munir has emerged as the fifth dictator of Pakistan. Earlier, General Iskander Mirza, General Ayub Khan, General Zia ul Haq and General Pervez Musharraf had ruled the country as the military dictators of Pakistan.

Since the creation of Pakistan, a democratic system has not been able to flourish there, and the reins of power have always remained in the hands of the military. The various wings of the military used to eliminate their rival groups. In 1951, the Pakistani Army had tried to overthrow the government of Liaquat Ali Khan. It is known as 'Rawalpindi Conspiracy episode.' This rebellion was led by Major General Akbar Khan. Akbar Khan had his links in Russia. In this conspiracy case, a case was registered in military court against 15 people. The accused included 11 military officials and the rest prominent Left leaders of Pakistan. Pakistan's renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz was also named in this case.

According to the newspaper, Faiz Hameed joined Pakistan Military Academy in 1987. After graduating from the Academy, he was inducted into the Baloch regiment of Pakistan army. Hameed had also served as Corps Commander of



Peshawar. From 2019 to 2021, he was the chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. In 2021, after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, he went to Kabul to meet Taliban leaders. It is said that a British woman journalist was also present in Kabul at that time. She exposed the secret meeting of Faiz Hameed with Taliban leaders. Following this, Faiz Hameed was compulsorily retired from service due to pressure from the United States. Hameed is considered as very close to former prime minister Imran Khan. Faiz Hameed was arrested in a housing scam case on August 12 last year. It was for the first time in the history of Pakistan that a former chief of ISI has been arrested.

Earlier on March 28, 2025, the relatives of retired Air Marshal Javed Saeed had alleged in Islamabad High Court that last year a few unidentified people broke into the house Javad Saeed and arrested him and he was detained in an unidentified place. In reply to a notice issued by the court, Assistant Attorney General Azmat Bashir Tarar told the court that Javed Saeed was arrested on charges of spying and the military court had sentenced him to 14 years in jail. Now he is in the custody of the army. Javad Saeed retired from the post of Air Marshal in 2021 and he is among the most decorated officers of Pakistan's military.

Similarly, retired Lt General Javed Iqbal of Pakistan army was also sent to 14 years in jail on charges of espionage in May 2019. Earlier, more than a dozen top officials of Pakistan military were compulsorily retired on various charges.

They were accused of conspiring to overthrow the government. In 1995, a conspiracy was hatched to kill the then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, senior cabinet ministers and military chiefs. This conspiracy was given the name 'Operation Khalifa.' In this case, a case had been registered against 40 senior officials of

Pakistan army including Major General Zahirul Islam Abbasi, Brigadier Mustanasi Billah, Colonel Mohammad Azad Minhas and Colonel Inayatullah Khan. According to Pakistani media, Pakistan's former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa could be the next target of Asim Munir. Bajwa is considered as an opponent of Munir. ■

Ban on wearing hijab in schools in Austria



Inquilab (December 13) states that the Austrian Parliament has passed a bill with a huge majority. As per this bill, girls less than 14 years of age are prohibited from wearing hijab. Human rights organisations have criticised this decision. They described this law as against the secular policy of the country. It is to be noted that earlier in 2019 also a ban was imposed on hijab in Austria. Later the court had lifted

this ban. A government spokesperson has claimed that the bill passed by the Parliament is correct from the legal point of view. In the Parliament, the opposition Green Party voted against the bill and described it as a violation of religious rights. Austrian Minister Claudia Plakolm said we have decided not to give permission to use hijab and burqa in our country because it is against the basic rights of women.

Inquilab (December 12) reports that a referendum has been held across the country on this bill. Nearly 60 percent people supported this bill. The government has decided to implement it from next year. The parents who violate this law will have to pay a fine of up to 150-800 Euro. Nearly 12,000 Muslim women will be affected by this law. ■

Huge increase in conversions to Islam in Britain

Hamara Samaj (December 8) states that a British institution, Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL) claimed that after the Israeli attack on Gaza, there has been a huge increase in people converting to Islam in Britain. As per the report, due to persecution of Palestinians by Israel, there has been a huge interest in Arabs and Islam among the Christians of Britain. IIFL has conducted a survey of 2,774 people who had adopted Islam in the recent years after abandoning their religion. As per the survey, nearly 20 percent people had

adopted Islam in order to express solidarity over the persecution of Palestinians. While 18 percent cited mental health issues as the reason for their religious conversion.

Those who adopted Islam said they embraced Islam after careful consideration and thorough study. In Britain, Christianity is rapidly shrinking. According to Britain's National Statistics Department, there has been a 50 percent decrease in the population of Christians in the past one decade in Britain. As per the Census of 2021, the population of Christians in

Britain shrunk to 46.2 percent. Where as in 2001, this data was 59.3 percent.

According to the British newspaper 'The Daily Telegraph,' the increase in the population of Muslims in Britain is an indication of the changes in religious and social structure. According to the managers of East London Masjid, every month approximately 1,000 people are accepting Islam. Those who converted to Islam told the surveyors that the patience of the Palestinians compelled them to read the Quran.

Further, the British media's coverage of the Israeli attacks on Gaza inspired them to



stand up for justice and convert to Islam as a symbolic act of protest against injustice.

Japan government refuses to give land to Kabristan

Etemaad (December 4) states that the Japan government has flatly refused to provide land for the burial of Muslims. This decision by the government has caused concern among Muslims living in Japan. Muslim organisations said that the officials of Japan government indicated to them that there has been an alarming increase in the population of Muslims in Japan. Currently more than 2 lakh Muslims are staying in Japan. The population of Muslims in the country is increasing year after year. Majority among them are migrant workers. In view of the shortage of the land in the country, the Japan government decided that it will not allot land in future for the burial of Muslims.

It is to be noted that in Japan, bodies are cremated as per tradition. Whereas Muslims bury the bodies. Now, Muslims are upset with this decision of Japan government. The government has directed that Muslims sent the bodies of their relatives back to their home countries by plane so that they could be buried there.



Due to this decision of the government, the troubles of poor Muslim families have increased. It is worth mentioning that the population of old people is rapidly growing. Due to this, there is already more pressure in the Kabristan there. The highest number of Muslims stay in Tokyo and Osaka. Muslim organisations have been demanding for a long time that due to the increasing Muslim population, no space has been left in the Kabristan to bury the bodies, hence land should be allocated to them for the construction of new Kabristan. Experts believe that this government decision could have a negative impact on immigration policies.

West Asia

USA concerned over increasing Chinese and Russian influence in Saudi Arabia



Etemaad (December 16) states that Saudi Arabia and China have signed an agreement on visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports. The agreement was signed by China's Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan. Recently, Wang Yi paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia. In the high-level talks held between the foreign affairs ministers of both the countries, it was decided to strengthen strategic partnership. An agreement was also signed to improve the tie-up in financial, trade, investments and energy sectors between the two countries. The Saudi side reiterated its commitment towards its 'One China Policy' and described Taiwan as an integral part of China. Meanwhile, the Chinese side expressed its commitment to developing relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran in order to establish lasting peace in the region. It is said that China has assured Saudi Arabia and Iran of cooperation in defence sector as well. The Chinese side also expressed its interest in taking part at the Expo 2030 to be held in Riyadh. This apart, the two countries also supported the creation of an independent Palestinian state

on the basis of the 1967 border, whose capital will be East Jerusalem.

Etemaad (December 3) states that the Saudi Arabia and Russia have signed an agreement. Under this agreement, there is no need for a visa for the citizens of the two countries to visit each other country. This decision has been taken to improve the economic and diplomatic relationship between Saudi Arabia and Russia. The two countries have also agreed to increase investments. For this, with Russia's cooperation, strategically important industries are being established in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia will also make investments in Russia. According to British news agency 'Reuters,' this agreement took place during a meeting of Saudi-Russia investments and trade forum. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak have signed on this agreement. On this occasion, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdul Aziz bin Salman was also present. Under this agreement, there is no need for passport holders of both the countries to obtain a visa to visit the other country for



tourism, trade and financial matters. The passport holders of both the countries can stay in each other's country without a visa for 90 days.

Avadhnama (December 16) states that Saudi Arabia's relationship with Russia and China became closer in the past few years. This has increased the problems for the US. The relationship between Saudi Arabia and China started in 1990. That time, the leaders of Saudi Arabia had visited China. In January 2016, President of China Xi Jinping had made his first official visit to Saudi Arabia. On this occasion, several agreements were signed between the two countries. Later in December 2022, he had gone to Saudi Arabia to take part in the summit meeting of China-Gulf Cooperation Council. The two countries plan to encourage mutual cooperation in technology, security, basic infrastructure and in cultural and political sectors. This indicates that the Saudi Arabia is reviewing its relationship with the US.

The newspaper said that Saudi Arabia does not want to remain dependent

on the income from oil. It wants foreign direct investment and technology transfer under Vision 2030. Saudi Arabia wants to improve its relations with Eastern nations instead of Western countries. The US sees it as a challenge, because Saudi Arabia's growing relationship with Russia and China could pose a threat to its strategic, geographical, political, and economic relations. Saudi Arabia is world's biggest petroleum exporting nation. China imports 18 percent of its crude oil requirements from Saudi Arabia. This is the reason why a new era has started in the economic and political relations between the two countries. More than three dozen Chinese companies are working in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has given China its full support on sensitive issues such as those concerning Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

On the other hand, China has never adopted a negative stance regarding the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, on the war in Yemen, or human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia. China is also trying to help Saudi Arabia in defence and military technology. Due to this, Saudi Arabia's dependence on the US in defence sector is decreasing day-by-day. Recently, Saudi Arabia purchased drones and missiles in large quantity from China, which is a major threat to the influence of the US. Now, China is making efforts to see that Saudi Arabia undertakes trade with it in Chinese Yuan instead of US dollar. If this effort of China succeeds, it will be a huge blow to the US economy.

Flames of civil war erupts again in Yemen

Inquilab (December 14) reports that the flames of civil war have erupted once again in Yemen. Nearly 32 government soldiers were killed in an attack by Houthi rebels in Hadramaut locality in eastern Yemen. While talking to government news agency 'Sabah,' the chief of Yemen army alleged that at least 32 government soldiers were

killed and more than 50 others were injured. He said that several soldiers are missing. He said that Houthi rebels want to seize the oil depots after violating international ceasefire agreement. Recently, in order to implement the ceasefire, a joint military delegation of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates



reached Adan. This delegation held a meeting with the leader of Yemen's Southern Transitional Council Aidarous Al-Zubaidi. This delegation stressed that the flames of civil war should be doused before getting spread.

Urdu Times (December 12) states that the United Arab Emirates-supported STC has seized the country's petrol producing region Hadramaut and Al Mahra. It is to be noted that the STC wants to separate South Yemen from Yemen and establish an autonomous government there. The United Arab Emirates is extending its political and military support. This separatist militia was founded in 2017. In 2014, Iran-supported Houthi rebels had seized Yemen's capital Sanaa. Following this, the United Nations-recognised government, Presidential Leadership Council, had to flee Yemen and take refuge in Saudi Arabia. Ever since, the internationally recognized government of Yemen is working from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates supported this government for one year. Later, Yemen got divided into two parts. The northern parts of Yemen are under the control of Houthis. Whereas the southern region is under the control of STC.

From the beginning of this month, the STC has all of a sudden seized control of Yemen's biggest oil production

company. Till now, this region was under the control of Saudi-supported government PLC. The STC brought the Adan-located Presidential House under its control and started running the government from there. Now, a dispute has arisen between United Arab Emirates and the Saudi Arabian government over the oil resources of this region. Both the countries want to seize more and more territories of Yemen.

Chattan (December 13) states that last week STC violated the ceasefire and seized several towns of South-Eastern Yemen and oil reserves. Till now, this region was under the control of Saudi Arabia-supported government PLC. Following the ceasefire agreement signed in 2022, there was peace at this front, but now, due to a competition between Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to seize the oil production regions of Yemen, the flames of civil war has erupted once again. The main broadcasters of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates covered this issue in their own manner. The 'Sky News Arabia' run by the United Arab Emirates has broadcasted an interview of STC leader Mansoor Saleh. In this interview, Saleh claimed that the Saudi Arabia's army has deliberately vacated the Adan region. This is not in the interest of STC.

On the other hand, the 'Al Arabia' run by Saudi Arabia alleged that the United



Arab Emirates is occupying Yemen's oil producing regions in an illegal manner by violating the ceasefire agreement. This channel has broadcasted an interview of PLC chief Rashd Al-Alimi. In this interview, Al-Alimi has alleged that UAE is deliberately harming Saudi Arabia's interests in Yemen. From the latest dispute in Yemen, it has become clear that the differences between United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia is increasing. The opinion of these two countries regarding the disputes in Sudan, Yemen and other countries are just the opposite. The two countries are in a competition to increase their influence in African countries. Saudi

Arab's effort is to make investments in African countries and expand their business. Whereas the United Arab Emirates is using financial resources to increase its influence in Africa and Red Sea. Recently, the OPEC countries had decided to reduce oil production. Tension arose between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on this issue as well. Saudi Arabia wants to reduce oil production. Whereas United Arab Emirates is against this decision. There are serious differences between the two countries over declaring Al-Yasat region as a marine protected area. In March 2024, Saudi Arabia has raised its objections with the United Nations against United Arab Emirates declaring Al-Yasat region as marine protected area. It is worth mentioning that the United Arab Emirates consider this region as its integral part. It had issued orders in 2005 and in 2019 declaring Al-Yasat as marine protected area. Whereas Saudi Arabia considers this area to be part of its maritime territory and sovereignty.

Nobel Peace Prize winner arrested in Iran



Urdu Times (December 14) reports that Iran government has arrested Nobel Peace Prize winner Nargis Mohammadi. After her arrest, the wave of protests in Iran has intensified. Nargis Mohammadi's husband alleged that she was arrested when she went to take part in the condolence meeting of human rights lawyer Khosrow Alikordi at Mashhad, nearly 680 kilometres from

Tehran. Recently, Alikordi had died in mysterious circumstances. The Iran government has described his death as suicide. Whereas his family and Nargis Mohammadi claim that he died due to police torture. Fiftythree-year-old Mohammadi is considered as an opponent of Iran government. She alleged that the Iran government is taking its political opponents into custody and killing them. In 2021, she was arrested on charges of spreading misinformation and plotting against the government. Later she was awarded a 13-year-and-nine-months jail term. She was kept in the notorious Evin jail in Tehran.

While inside the jail, she supported the anti-hijab protests that took place in 2022. In December 2024, she was released

on a temporary basis due to health reasons. While being in the jail, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023. The supporters of Nargis Mohammadi alleged that the Iranian army killed 12 anti-government human rights activists. Whereas the Iran government claims that

the government agencies have no role in their killing. Nearly 80 lawyers of Iran sent a memorandum to President Masoud Pezeshkian and the United Nations demanding that a fair investigation shall be held into the mysterious deaths of human rights activists.

Syria threatens Israel

Siasat (December 8) states that Syria's interim president Ahmed Al-Sharaa alleged that Israel wants to reignite the flames of war in Syria. He said we honour the peace agreement signed with Israel in 1974 but there will be serious consequences if they try to create a security zone in southern Syria. He alleged that from December 8, 2024 till now, Israel had carried out more than 1,000 air strikes on Syria and ground forces broke barriers more than 400 times. He warned Israel to refrain from fanning the flames of war in this region. He demanded that Israeli military should withdraw to the position before December 8, 2024. If Israel doesn't accept this proposal, then there would be serious consequences. Al-Sharaa urged US President Donald Trump to put pressure on Israel to abide by the 1974 peace agreement with Syria.

Inquilab (December 16) states that in Palmira region in Syria, an unidentified attacker opened indiscriminate firing on Syrian and US soldiers. Two US soldiers and an interpreter were killed in this firing. In this attack, three other US soldiers and two Syrian soldiers were seriously injured. The US and Syrian soldiers were patrolling during the time of the attack.

Etemaad (December 15) states that US President Trump has strongly reacted to the killing of US soldiers in Syria. He said that it is being said that the attacker belongs



to Islamic terrorist organization ISIS. Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said that this attack took place in Syria's historic town of Palmira. This region is considered as a stronghold of ISIS. According to the US Central Command, the attacker was killed in retaliatory action. It has appealed to Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa to take strong action in this context.

Inquilab (December 16) states that the Syrian government has arrested five suspects. Spokesperson of Syria foreign ministry said that the attacker's links were found to be with the ISIS. The spokesperson said that we are saddened by the killings of US soldiers, but this region is not under our full control. The spokesperson said that the military campaign against the ISIS has been intensified in that region.

170 Pakistanis get death sentence in Saudi Arabia



Urdu Times (December 12) states that Saudi government has started taking stringent action against Pakistanis. Pakistan's senior journalist Zahid Gishkori claimed that Pakistanis topped the list in criminal cases in Saudi Arabia in the past 10 years. The highest number of people sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia are Pakistanis. He said that the Saudi government has awarded death sentence to 170 Pakistanis from 2014 till today. They have been accused of murder, rape and smuggling of drugs. Gishkori urged the Pakistan government to pay attention to this issue.

Zahid Gishkori said that 21 Pakistani prisoners were hanged to death in Saudi

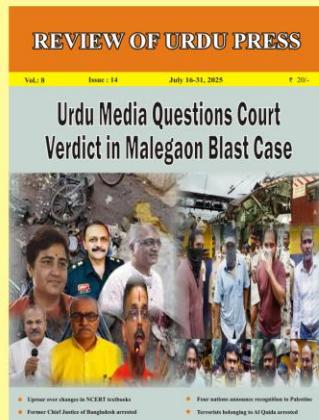
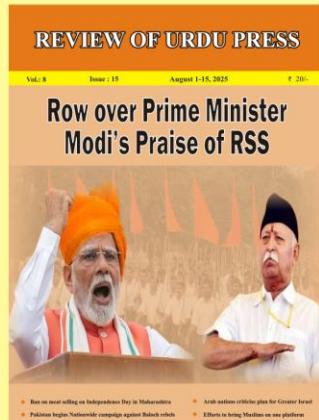
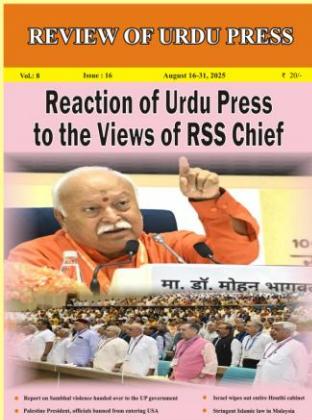
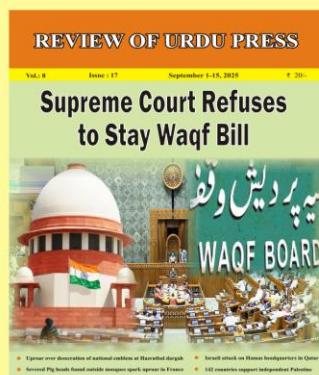
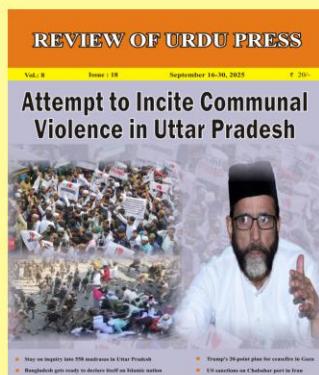
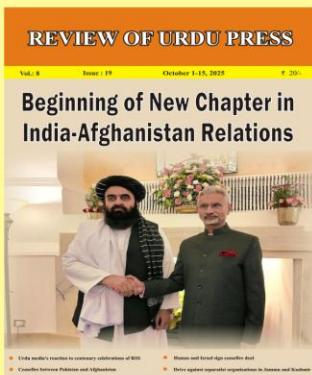
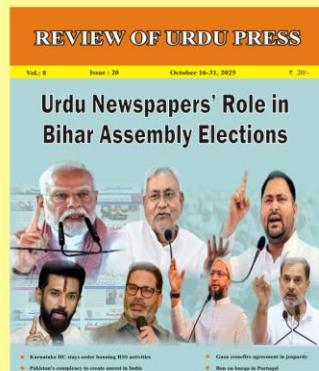
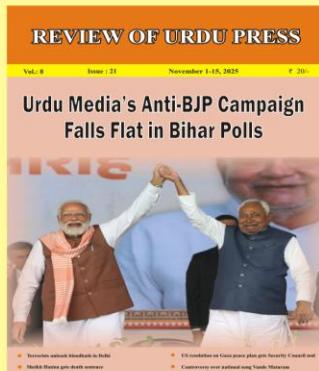
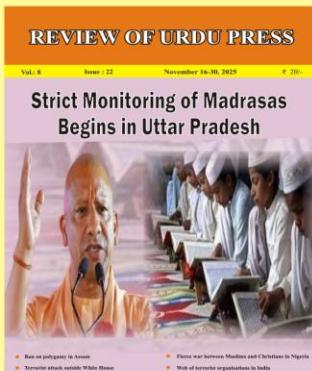
Arabia in 2024. Whereas 12 Pakistani citizens were given death sentence in 2014, 14 in 2015, five in 2016, 13 in 2017, 18 in 2018 and one in 2019. These punishments were given in different cases. Whereas three Pakistanis were hanged to death this year. More than 7,000 Pakistanis are lodged in Saudi jails on various charges. This includes 22 women as well. Among the Pakistani prisoners lodged in Saudi jails, 28

have been awarded death sentence. They include two women as well. Zahid alleged that the Pakistani government and the Pakistan Embassy based in Saudi Arabia are making no effort to save these Pakistanis. This is the reason why Pakistanis are given the highest number of death sentences in Saudi Arabia.

As per another news, 13 Pakistanis were arrested in Saudi Arabia on charges of stealing sheep and goats. The Saudi government has seized the passport of these accused. It is to be noted that stealing is considered as a serious offence in Saudi Arabia. Even the hands of thieves are cut off here.



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