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Chargesheet Filed Against Popular Front on Conspiracy Charges



- Law against Love Jihad in Maharashtra
- University doors shut for girl students in Afghanistan
- Iran expelled from UN women's commission
- First Muslim woman fighter pilot

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Summary

As soon as the new chief of Pakistan Army, General Asim Munir Ahmed, assumed office, it became clear that the Pakistani Army will step up its anti-India activities in order to curtail its eroding image among the people of the country. Asim Munir Ahmed had functioned as the chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and he is experienced in sparking the flames of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India. After taking over as the Army chief, Asim Munir visited the border regions of Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir. After this, he started spitting venom against India.

In the past few months, there is an increase in Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and there is also a steep rise in incidents of targeted killings. Recently, a high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah to foil the nefarious intentions of Pakistan. After this, the security apparatus has been tightened in Jammu Kashmir.

The National Investigation Agency has intensified its nationwide drive against foreign-funded Islamic organisation Popular Front of India and its affiliated organisations. Recently, the NIA had filed a chargesheet in a special court in Hyderabad against the members of Popular Front, in which it has been alleged that this organisation had been giving training to Muslim youths on jihad and terrorism under the garb of yoga classes. This apart, the NIA has started taking stringent action to break the network of Popular Front in different states in South India and Northeastern states.

The campaign unleashed by Congress, Leftists and the so-called secular intellectuals against the Gujarat government in the name of Bilkis Bano case for the past some time has received a major jolt recently. Bilkis Bano had filed a review petition in the Supreme Court. The petition had questioned the decision of the Supreme Court which had upheld the decision of the Gujarat government to release the 11 accused under the jail rules of 1992. However, the Supreme Court has rejected this petition.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban government has started strictly implementing the Sharia law. The doors of educational institutions and job opportunities have been shut for women. This apart, punishment in the form of public beheading and flogging have been introduced for both men and women. When the Western nations criticised these inhuman decisions of Taliban, the spokesperson of Taliban government, while rejecting their protest, bluntly said they do not have any right to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims and they will implement Sharia law under any circumstance.

The interesting thing is that at one level, the Muslims in India are running a campaign seeking hijab for women. At another level, Saudi Arabia has banned the wearing of Abaya (a type of burqa) by students in that country. The Urdu newspapers claim that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has been openly flouting Islamic laws on the pretext of liberalisation due to pressure from the United States. Women are being recruited to the military and employment opportunities have also been opened for women. Women are now permitted to drive vehicles and the country has also seen a network of cinema halls being set up.

In Iran, the protests started by women against hijab in the past four months is gaining strength day by day despite government curbs. According to sources in Iran government, at least 500 people have been killed in these protests so far and more than 14,000 people have been put behind bars. Hundreds of people have been hanged to death. Recently, Iran's popular actress Taraneh Alidoosti was also arrested. The Oscar-winning actress had openly supported the protests taking place in Iran and also posted her photos without hijab and scarf on social media.



Chargesheet filed against Popular Front on conspiracy charges



Roznama Sahara (December 31) states that the National Investigation Agency has filed a chargesheet against 11 members of banned organisation Popular Front in a court in Telangana. According to the spokesperson of NIA, the chargesheet was filed before a special NIA court in Hyderabad. In the chargesheet, the arrested persons have been accused of organising secret training camps to train youths in terrorism and also recruiting youths for terrorist activities. Among those named in the chargesheet, 10 of them belong to Telangana while one belongs to Andhra Pradesh.

A spokesperson of NIA said that a case was filed in this connection at a police station in Nizamabad district on July 4. When the incident was confirmed during a police investigation, the NIA also registered a case on August 26. It has been found during an investigation by the NIA that the leaders of Popular Front have been instigating Muslim youths against the Union government as well as against some

other organisations and also filling their minds with the poison of terrorism at training camps.

Initially, they were given training in handling of sharp-edged weapons in training camps so that they could attack any one on their neck, stomach or head and kill them. Those against whom the chargesheet has been filed include Abdul Khader, Abdul Ahad, Abdul Salim, Sheikh Abdullah, Firoz Khan, Mohammad Usman, Syed Yahia Samir, Sheikh Imran, Mohammad Abdul Mubin and Mohammad Irfan of Telangana and Sheikh Ilyas Ahmad from Andhra Pradesh.

Roznama Sahara (December 30) states that the NIA simultaneously raided 56 places in Kerala as part of its nationwide crackdown on Popular Front. The districts where the raids were conducted include Ernakulam, Kollam, Alappuzha, Malappuram and Thiruvananthapuram. The raids were conducted on the basis of information that the Popular Front is getting huge funds from Gulf countries to

promote terrorist activities in India. In connection with this financial help received from foreign countries in an illegal manner, more than 100 bank accounts of Popular Front and its leaders were being scrutinised. Before this, in September also the NIA had got information that the leaders of banned organisation Popular Front had organised secret meetings in different places and had been planning to spread terror network in the country.



It is to be noted that the NIA, in a joint operation with Enforcement Directorate, raided 70 places in Kerala on September 22. In protest against this raid, the activists of Popular Front held violent protests in many places in Kerala on September 23 during which there was huge destruction of public property. After this, nearly 200 people were arrested on charges of taking part in violent activities. Later the Kerala High Court had directed the state government to recover the cost of the damages suffered to the public property from the leaders of the Popular Front. It is to be noted that the Union government banned Popular Front and eight other organisations linked to it on September 28.

Roznama Sahara (December 29) states that following largescale reshuffle in Pakistan Army, Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI has once again started an effort to spark violence in Jammu and Kashmir. In a fight that took place between security personnel and terrorists in Jammu, four terrorists were killed and a huge cache of arms and ammunition were seized including A K -47 rifle, M4 rifle and three pistols.

It is being said that these terrorists entered Jammu and Kashmir through Pakistan border and they were heading to Srinagar on a truck. When the security personnel stopped them for checking near Sidhra in Jammu, the truck driver fled from the spot. Following this, the Pakistani terrorists in the truck opened indiscriminate

firing at soldiers. During the shooting, all the four terrorists travelling in the truck were killed.

Following this incident, a high alert was sounded in Jammu Kashmir. The Army and BSF deployed in Jammu and Kashmir on Pakistan border and LoC were put on alert. The security forces suspect that more terrorists had infiltrated into India from Pakistan. Hence a search operation was launched in border regions. The police and paramilitary forces were deployed in huge strength in Jammu and its adjoining areas and vehicles were also being searched.

Inquilab (December 29) states that a high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in which the security system in Jammu and Kashmir had been reviewed. Lt Governor of Jammu-Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary and senior officials of security agencies took part in the meeting. It was being stated in the meeting that there was an increase in terrorist incidents in Jammu-Kashmir.

Earlier, four terrorists belonging to terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad were arrested and huge quantities of arms and ammunition concealed in an oil tanker were seized from Narwal Bypass. Due to the increase in incidents of target killing in Jammu Kashmir, the security agencies have been put on alert as a special measure. The terrorists have been targeting Kashmir Pandits and non-Kashmiri labourers for quite some time. Home Minister Amit Shah said the Central government is on full alert and the mechanisations of terrorists will be foiled.

Preparations on for Haj by 2 lakh pilgrims in 2023



Saudi Arabia costs nearly Rs 30,000 only but during the time of Haj, the ticket prices are hiked to nearly Rs 1.3 lakh. Hence the government has been making efforts to get a global tender for the Hajis for travel to Saudi Arabia. In this connection, talks are being held with Saudi government. Till now, Haj yatris are given 2,100 Riyals on behalf of the Haj committee. Now this

process will be discontinued. In future, those proceeding for Haj will have to purchase Saudi Riyal directly from the airport. Till now, Haj yatris had to purchase items of daily use like sim card, bedsheet, umbrella etc from the Haj committee only. Now they will have permission to purchase them from the market. Also, those interested in going for Haj can send their passport online to Mumbai and they will get the Visa also online so that they need not travel to Mumbai for this purpose.

According to **Chattan** (December 21) published from Srinagar, the Saudi government has increased the quota of Haj pilgrims from India to 2 lakh pilgrims. Earlier, this quota was 1.75 lakh.

Inquilab (December 29) states that the Ministry for Minorities Welfare has been making efforts to reduce the expenses incurred for Haj. According to sources in the ministry, in 2023, there is a possibility of reducing the expenses of pilgrims travelling for Haj by Rs 1 crore to 1.5 crore. Sources in the ministry said the yatra is generally for five to six days. However, Hajis can stay there for nearly 40 days. The Indian government is making efforts through the Saudi government to reduce the number of days that the Hajis can stay in Saudi Arabia so that the expenses on Haj pilgrimage can be brought down.

Hamara Samaj (December 16) states that the Supreme Court, while hearing a public interest petition filed by former member of Haj committee, Hafiz Naushad Ahmad Azmi, directed the Delhi and Maharashtra governments to form state Haj committees at the beginning of the next year. During the argument on the petition, Advocate Sanjay Hegde and Talha Abdul Rahman pointed out that the Haj committees have not been constituted in these states, whereas the Haj committee has been formed in all other states in the country. The lawyer for Delhi government said that they have completed all the work for the constitution of the Haj committee and the file has been sent to the Lt Governor and it is pending with him. The lawyer for Maharashtra government said that they have been taking necessary steps for the constitution of Haj committee and it will be formed soon.

The government has also decided that a fee of Rs 300 shall be extracted only from those whose names appear in the lottery drawn for those interested in going for Haj. The fee of the rest of them will be returned. This apart, it has also been decided that one Khadim (helper) can take the pilgrims for Haj only once so that other Khadims also will get an opportunity to take pilgrims to Haj. It is to be noted that one Khadim has been taking pilgrims to Haj for several years till now.

The Haj committees have also complained that generally an air ticket to

Bilkis Bano's review petition rejected

Avadhnama (December 18) states that Bilkis Bano, the victim in the gang-rape incident that took place during the Gujarat riots in 2002, had filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against the decision of the Gujarat government to release the 11 accused in the gang-rape and murder case. The Supreme Court has rejected this petition. In this connection, the Supreme Court has sent a communique to the lawyer of the Bilkis Bano, Shobha Gupta.



It is to be noted that earlier Justice Bela M Trivedi had recused herself from hearing in the case. In a petition filed in the Supreme Court, Bilkis Bano said that the manner in which state government released the convicts from the jail before the completion of the life sentence is against the directions of the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court did not accept her contention. It is to be noted that the Gujarat government had released 11 convicted persons on August 15, 2022, who were given life-term by the court, as per a policy of the state government.

During the Gujarat riots in March 2002, Bilkis Bano was gangraped and many of her family members were killed. The petition filed by Bilkis Bano was rejected by a bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi. In her petition, Bilkis Bano had also demanded that a new bench be constituted to hear her petition, which the Supreme Court had rejected earlier itself.

Etemaad (December 18) reports that Bilkis Bano in her petition against the commutation of sentence given to the accused said that the state government had hurriedly taken a decision in this connection without considering the directions given by the Supreme Court.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 15) states that Bahujan Samaj Party MP

Kunwar Danish Ali had demanded in Lok Sabha that the decision to release the accused in the Bilkis Bano case before the completion of their term shall be cancelled, otherwise it would be a morale booster to the accused.

Etemaad (December 19) in its editorial, while commenting about the rejection of her petition by the Supreme Court, said that Bilkis Bano has lost the last opportunity to get justice for her. Such incidents will lead to losing of people's trust on the judiciary in the country. The newspaper said that earlier the Supreme Court had similarly rejected the petition of Zakia Jafri, the widow of Ehsan Jafri in connection with the Gujarat riots. In her petition, Zakia Jafri had questioned the clean chit given to 59 people including the then chief minister by the Special Investigation Team.

In the editorial, it has been stated that in fact, though several riots have taken place in the country, every time Muslims are being targeted in these riots. Every time, only Muslims are being victimised. However, the Gujarat riots of 2002 was very vicious and it can never be forgotten. The vigour displayed during the nationwide protests on issues like the Nirbhaya incident was not seen in the Bilkis Bano case. What is necessary is that instead of seeing the Bilkis Bano case through a

Hindu-Muslim eye, it shall be seen as a heinous crime.

The newspaper said that when the entire country was celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on August 15, 2022, the Gujarat government had released the accused in the Bilkis Bano case before completion of their term on the basis of their good conduct in jail. The Gujarat government took this decision when state

was preparing for the Assembly elections. What is surprising is that these accused were given a reception after their release from the jail. It is a fact that the decision to release them was taken on the interest of the Gujarat government. Had the government not wanted, it would have never taken place. This decision has exposed the claims being made by the government on women's issues. ■

Private member bill seeking ban on halal meat in Karnataka

Aurangabad Times (December 21) states that after the controversy over hijab in Karnataka, the government is now thinking about imposing a ban on halal meat. In this connection, preparations are on to bring a private



member bill in the Assembly. The Opposition has accused the BJP government in the state of playing Hindutva card ahead of the elections. BJP legislator N Ravikumar through this private bill has demanded from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India that a ban shall be imposed on halal meat. The newspaper said that the political atmosphere is already tense in the state due to the controversy over the hijab issue. Now preparations are afoot to create a fresh controversy by imposing a ban on halal meat.

This demand of BJP is linked to the forthcoming Assembly elections in Karnataka. This apart, there is possibility of a discussion on anti-conversion bill in the Assembly. The Opposition has announced that if any bill proposing a ban on halal meat is presented in the House, then it will strongly oppose it. In Karnataka Vidhan Parishad, Opposition leader B K Hariprasad said they would urge the

speaker of the Assembly not to grant permission for the private bill seeking a ban on halal meat to be presented in the House. Another Congress leader, U T Khader, said that they understand the strategy of BJP. They wanted to divert the attention of people from their failures.

It is to be noted that the controversy over halal meat started with Ugadi festival. The Karnataka Hindu Janjagrata Samiti, Bajrang Dal, Shriram Sena and other Hindu organisations have demanded a ban on halal meat and they urged Hindus not to purchase halal meat from the shops of Muslims. They also demanded that the restaurants that serve halal meat shall be boycotted by Hindus.

Siasat (December 21) in its editorial said the BJP and its leaders have decided to turn Karnataka into a Hindutva laboratory. A few months ago, there was a huge ruckus over the hijab issue. Muslim students who were wearing hijab were stopped from entering colleges. That time also there were talks about imposing a ban on halal meat, but the issue was kept under wraps. Now, since elections are taking place, the BJP has started making preparations to play the card of a ban on halal meat. It is being said that the BJP wants to make it the main

election issue. The BJP has been trying to spread its influence in south India for a long time, but except in Karnataka, it has not got any opportunity to get a foothold in other states. Now the BJP has decided to adopt an offensive strategy in south India and such cases are being kicked up so that differences widen in society and hatred increases.

The newspaper said that the BJP is not worried that such efforts would lead to disturbance in society. As far as the issue of halal is concerned, it is very important for Muslims. If people want, they can use

halal meat or not use it. But for Muslims, the issue of halal is a part of his religion and on issues related to religion, interference by others is not acceptable. Nobody has any right to stop Muslims from using halal meat. The BJP has already provoked the sentiments of people by bringing a private member bill in Rajya Sabha on Uniform Civil Code. Now this system is being implemented in south India. These efforts are being made to reap political benefits. Hence the BJP is trying to hurt the religious sentiments, which is a threat to the social unity. ■

Law against Love Jihad in Maharashtra



Mumbai Urdu News (December 21) states that following the Shraddha Walkar murder case, there is a consistent demand from BJP and Hindu organisations that a law shall be formed against Love Jihad in Maharashtra. Massive protests were held in several places in the state in support of this demand. Following this, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced in Maharashtra Assembly that the state government is thinking about creating a law against Love Jihad in the state.

While mentioning about the Shraddha Walkar case in the Assembly session held in Nagpur, a legislator of BJP, Atul Bhatkalkar, demanded that the state

government make a law in order to stop the increasing incidents of Love Jihad. He said that Shraddha had filed a complaint with police in 2020 stating that her life was in danger, but despite that the then Uddhav Thackeray government did nothing on it. On this, the Deputy Chief Minister said that as per the investigations done so far, there is no evidence to prove that the police did not take any action on it due to some political pressure. However, we will surely investigate why Shraddha withdrew her complaint.

Fadnavis said the government is not against inter-religious marriages, but looking at the way girls are being trapped

in a well-planned conspiracy under Love Jihad, we are thinking about forming a law against Love Jihad. Many states have already made laws against Love Jihad. This incident was reported for the first time in Kerala and it was the Kerala government that had given the name Love Jihad. The state government will make a comprehensive law in this connection only after studying the various laws created by different state governments against Love Jihad. The state government's policy is that no boy shall commit fraud on a girl on the promise of marriage as part of a conspiracy.



Opposition leader in the Assembly, Ajit Pawar said that as far as the issue of Shraddha Walkar is concerned, the state government should collect information from the Union home ministry. The Shraddha incident was very embarrassing. In case if one tells a butcher to cut a chicken into 35 pieces, he will hesitate. Here it was a case of a living girl. He said the home ministry should form a fast-track court to conduct hearing in the case. He also demanded that Aftab Poonawala should be awarded death sentence and said that Shraddha Walkar is daughter of Maharashtra and hence we need to seriously think about this issue.

Aurangabad Times (December 23) states that though Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had given an indication in the Vidhan Sabha to create a law against Love Jihad, the stand of Abdul Sattar, a minister in the same government, is different from that of the government. He said that the definition 'Love Jihad' itself is wrong. Are only Muslim boys marrying Hindu girls? Are Hindu youths not marrying Muslim girls? This issue is not a Hindu-Muslim one and this issue shall not be seen through the prism of Hindu-Muslim conflict. He said that creation of a

law against Love Jihad gives boost to communalism and it will curb personal freedom. Will Constitution be amended for this? He demanded that Muslims shall be given 5% reservation in education. This is because Muslims are backward from the financial and educational point of view.

Aurangabad Times (December 22) states that Samajwadi Party legislator Abu Azim Azmi has demanded that Muslims shall be given 5% reservation as per the recommendations of Ranganath Mishra Commission and Mahmoud-ur Rahman committee reports. He said that despite these recommendations, Muslims are not given reservations till now. However, Congress and the NCP governments had promised to provide reservations to Muslims. He demanded Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to implement the direction of the high court to grant 5% reservation to Muslims in education. In Nagpur, a rally was taken out under the leadership of Ittehadul Muslimeen MP from Aurangabad, Imtiaz Jaleel demanding reservation to Muslims and seeking to remove illegal encroachments in Waqf property. In this connection, he submitted a memorandum to the chief minister.

Siasat (December 21) states that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has decided to launch a nationwide campaign against religious conversion and Love Jihad and the aim of this campaign is to create awareness in society.

Doors of universities closed for girl students in Afghanistan



Avadhnama (December 22) states that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has imposed a ban on university-level education for girl students across the country in the name of Shariah. In this connection, Afghanistan's officiating higher education minister Nida Mohammad Nadim has issued an order. The Secretary General of United Nations has criticised this decision of Afghanistan government and demanded that the Afghan government review its decision. Depriving women of their education is an infringement of their rights and this decision will be of serious consequences to Afghanistan's future. Earlier, the Afghanistan government had banned high school-level education also for girls.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 22) states that the US and Britain have condemned this decision of Afghanistan government and said that till the Afghanistan government does not remove the restrictions imposed on the rights of women, it will not be admitted into United Nations. The interesting thing is that Muslim nations like Qatar also condemned this decision and urged Afghanistan government to review its decision.

Pakistan's foreign affairs minister Bilawal Bhutto said that he was disappointed about this decision of

Afghanistan government. He said that the Taliban had earlier promised that it would not strictly implement the Shariah law. Now they have reneged on their promise.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 24) states that women held a massive protest in Kabul against the ban imposed on the education of women in Afghanistan and demanded to lift the ban. Many women were arrested on charges of taking part in protest.

Siasat (December 24) states that the chief of the largest religious education institute in Islamic world, Jamia Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyib, while criticising this decision of Afghanistan government, said that their decision is against Islamic Shariah. This is because Islam has stressed that every individual has the right to get education and Quran itself starts by saying that everyone should get educated.

Commenting on this statement of Islamic scholar, Afghanistan's higher education minister said that in these universities several such subjects are being taught which are against the principles of Islam. This apart, in Islam, mingling of men and women are not allowed.

Salar (December 26) states that the Afghan government has imposed a ban on women from doing jobs and also directed all government schools and NGOs not to



spokesperson of Taliban said that since women are not wearing libas as per Sharia, they have been banned from working in colleges and other places.

As per another news, protests took place in different cities of Afghanistan against this decision of Afghan government in which men also took part. The security personnel of Afghan government fired in the air and also resorted to lathicharge to disperse the mob.

employ any woman. Otherwise they will not be allowed to operate in the country. A

Suicide attack in Islamabad

Etemaad (December 24) reports that a policeman was killed and 13 others were injured in a suicide attack that took place in Sector I-10 in Islamabad. The policeman who was killed has been identified as Adil Hussain. Whereas the condition of two other injured policemen was stated to be serious. According to a police spokesman, the blast took place when the policemen tried to stop a suspicious vehicle. Following this, the suicide attackers travelling in the vehicle triggered a blast. Following the blast, an alert was declared in entire Pakistan.



Commenting on the blast, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said the Pakistan government will not rest till terrorist activities are stopped and the

Pakistani people's endeavour against terrorism will remain till the problem ends. Former President Asif Ali Zardari condemned this incident and appealed to the Pakistan government to crush anti-national terrorist elements with an iron hand.

Plot to assassinate German Chancellor exposed

Siasat (December 16) states that the government has confirmed a conspiracy to overthrow the German government and assassinate the Chancellor of the country. As per a government report, some right wing elements had conspired to overthrow the elected government and seize power. This gang had the support of several retired senior military officers. This gang had stocked up weapons in thousands in order to spark violence.

According to New York Times, in this connection, the police conducted more than 100 raids in different cities of Germany and seized secret documents, weapons and ammunition in huge quantity. It is being said that this gang wanted to launch an armed attack on German Parliament and kill members of parliament and the Chancellor of Germany and wanted to declare a person belonging to an old royal family of Germany as the Chancellor. The German security

forces arrested several people from Australia and Italy as well, whose number is said to be more than 25. In these countries, 27 places were raided with the cooperation of local police and seized several incriminating documents, ammunition and weapons.



The German government has confirmed that nearly 14 people involved in this conspiracy were linked to German military and they were retired senior officials. Their plan was to create a temporary military administration.

This apart, they also made a plan to dissolve the present military and conduct fresh recruitment to create a new military. The German interior ministry told German newspaper 'Bild am Sonntag' that these people belong to rebel group 'Reich Citizens.' This organisation is active in Germany for the past five years and the number of their supporters is said to be 25,000. This gang had also made efforts to hire soldiers in large numbers.

General Bajwa's hand behind ouster of Imran government



Aurangabad Times (December 16) reports that former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan alleged that former Army Chief General Qamar Jawed Bajwa's hand was behind the ouster of his government, on whose behalf his government was accused of fake corruption charges. Addressing a press meeting through video conferencing, he said that currently those who are in power in Pakistan are thieves and looters and they are looting the country using both hands with the help of military. Due to this robbery, there is huge price rise and unemployment in Pakistan and the country is fastly becoming bankrupt.

He said that it is a misery that when ordinary people commit robbery, they are sent to jail but when efforts are made to catch big thieves involved in looting the country, they flee Pakistan and take refuge in foreign countries. Later they reach an understanding with the political thieves who seize the country and then return to Pakistan. Such thieves had first entered into friendship with Pervez Musharraf and now with General Bajwa.

Commenting on this statement of Imran Khan, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said it was General Bajwa who brought Imran Khan to power. Later Imran Khan had betrayed Bajwa. Imran Khan's government looted the country using both hands.

It is to be noted that the new government has made as Army chief the same man whom the Imran Khan government had removed from the post of ISI chief. This has given rise to huge differences between the Opposition and the Army.

Recommendation to file case against former US President Donald Trump

Etemaad (December 21) states that a parliamentary committee of US Congress, inquiring into the attacks and riots that took place at the Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, has recommended to the legal department of the country that a case shall be registered against former US President Donald Trump for trying to change the election results of 2020 and spark violence. It is for the first time in the history of US that a panel of Democrats and Republicans in the US House of Representatives has unitedly made a recommendation to file a case against a former US President.

This panel said that after demitting the office of the President in January 2021, he incited people to revolt against an elected government and tried to tamper with the election results by deceiving people on the issue Joe Biden's victory.

It is to be noted that even before this, a lawyer deputed by US justice ministry, Jack Smith, was already conducting an investigation against Trump. This investigation was being done under the supervision of US Attorney General Merrick Garland. This apart, the US government was conducting an investigation against Trump in US' southern state of Georgia.

Former President Trump has alleged that the purpose of this investigation is political, so that he could be prevented from contesting the Presidential election again. He also alleged that the panel created by the House of Representatives was one-sided and a prejudiced one. The panel had also recommended legal action against five colleagues of Trump. They include the former chief of staff of White House, former Mayor of New York and



three other senior former officials. The panel alleged that these five colleagues of Trump had tried to do foul play in the Presidential elections.

The panel said that Trump's hands were behind the attack on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, organised at the behest of the people of the US. Capitol Hill is a symbol of American democracy and hence Trump tried to break the US democratic system. Hence legal action should be taken against him.

It is to be noted that in the Presidential elections held in November 2020 in the US, present President Joe Biden had emerged victorious. When the counting for this elections was being held at the Congress office situated in Capitol Hill, nearly 2,000 supporters of Trump attacked the US Parliament Building and inflicted heavy damages. During this time, they also clashed with police. Due to this attack, the announcement of Biden's victory got delayed by several hours. Later, 960 people were arrested on charges of attacking the Parliament Building, out of which half of the people confessed to the crime, and they were punished for the same.

Iran expelled from UN women's commission



Roznama Sahara (December 16) states that the United Nations, expressing displeasure over the harassment meted out to the protesters against hijab in Iran, has announced expulsion of Iran from the 'Commission on the Status of Women.' According to French news agency AFP, 29 members out of the total 54 members in the United Nations Economic and Social Council, under the leadership of United States, decided to expel Iran from the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) for three years. During the voting, eight nations voted against this resolution whereas 16 countries did not take part in the voting.

The resolution to expel Iran was presented at the behest of United States. It was stated in the resolution that the Iranian leadership is continuously violating the rights of women and girls. Due to the

ruthless use of Iranian military and police against women who have been peacefully protesting against the fundamentalist religious policies of Iranian government, a large number of girls and women have been killed.

It is to be noted that last month, US Vice President Kamala Harris had warned Iran that it would take strong action against Iran if it

continues to violate the fundamental rights of Iranians. Iran has alleged that this decision was taken due to political compulsions and due to US pressure.

Siasat (December 19) states that Iran's most popular film actress Taranah Alidoosti has been arrested. This Oscar-winning actress had openly extended her support to the mass protests taking place in the country and also posted her own photo without a hijab and scarf on social media. Taranah Ali was awarded Oscar in 2017 for her role in the film 'The Salesman.'

It is to be noted that a Kurd woman, Mahsa Amini, had died in police custody on September 16. Ever since the incident, massive protests are taking place in Iran in which more than 500 people including 63 children were killed and at least 14,000 people had been arrested.

17 members of ISIS sent to gallows in Libya

Avadhnama (December 21) states that as per a government statement, a court in Tripoli had sentenced to death 17 people belonging to ISIS. These people were accused of indulging in violence at the behest of Islamic State and killing of several people in Libya's western city of

Sabradha. The court said they had killed at least 53 innocent people and destroyed dozens of government buildings. This apart, they had kidnapped dozens of people whose whereabouts are not known till date. There is no mention about the citizenship of those who have been awarded the



sentence. However, it is assumed that these people belong to Syria, Iraq and other countries.

It is to be noted that in 2011, the government of Libyan dictator Muammar Al-Gaddafi was overthrown and he was killed. Following this, riots erupted in the entire country. Taking advantage of this situation, the Islamic State in alliance with some local Islamic terrorists, killed hundreds of people and also seized huge

swathes of land in the country. In 2015, the government soldiers launched a major operation against the terrorists of Islamic State in which hundreds of terrorists were killed while some fled to the desert.

In February 2016, the terrorists of Islamic State had seized Sabradha and killed several innocent people there. Following the retaliation by government soldiers, hundreds of people belonging to Islamic State were arrested and they were hanged to death in public. The United Nations had condemned this step of the Libyan government. In the past also, several terrorists belonging to Islamic State were hanged to death. However, they were not hanged to death in public, but were secretly executed.

Ban on wearing Abaya in Saudi Arabia



Aurangabad Times (December 21) states that in Saudi Arabia, the traditional Islamic culture is being thrown to the winds and Western culture is being imposed due to US pressure on the pretext of liberalization, causing a daily concern among Islamic nations across the world.

Recently, the Saudi government banned the wearing of Abaya (a type of

burqa) by girls in examination halls. As per a royal decree, women or girls wearing Abaya will not be allowed to write examinations. This decision was taken by Saudi Arabia's Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC). It is to be noted that Abaya is a type of burqa which is a traditional dress of Saudi women. Fundamentalist Muslims held protests against this decision of the government at several places which the Saudi government has suppressed.

In its order, the commission said that only those students who come in the uniform prescribed by the schools and colleges will be allowed to sit in for exam at the centres. When the uniform is worn, care should be taken that it does not cover the entire body and a major portion of the body should be clearly visible. It is to be noted that this

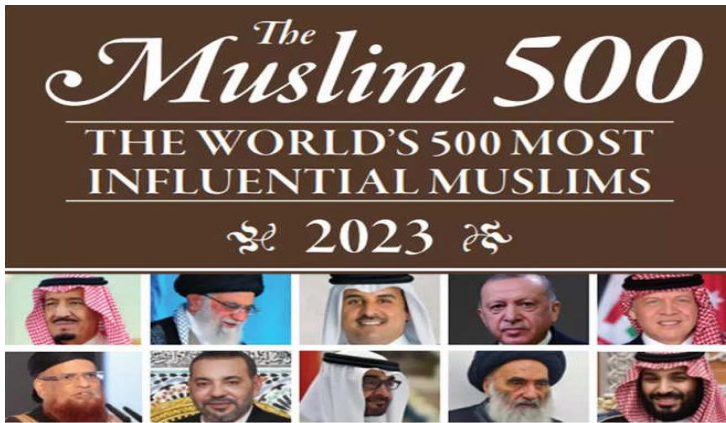
commission takes care of the syllabus of the education and also controls the schools and colleges and it works under the ministry of education. It was constituted in 2017. This order was issued because the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, wants to modernize Saudi education system. This will be applicable across the country and will be strictly implemented.

The newspaper alleged that Mohammad bin Salman, due to the influence of US, is imposing Western culture in the country on the pretext of making Saudi Arabia a modern nation. It is to be noted that Mohammad bin Salman, in an interview to a US television channel on March 19, 2018, said that it is not mandatory for Saudi women to wear black Abaya or burqa. He had also given permission for women to drive vehicles and take up jobs in malls. This apart, he had

also cancelled an old order of the Saudi government that banned any woman or girl from appearing in public without wearing a burqa.

The Saudi government, for the first time, also granted permission to set up cinema halls where women can watch films without wearing a purdah. As per the data of the Saudi government, due to the liberalization policy, the number of employed women in the country has doubled in the past five years. As per government data, the number of women who were working was 20% in 2018, which has increased to 40% in 2021. First of all, this decision of the Saudi government is important in the sense that a ban has been imposed on wearing of burqa and hijab in an Islamic world. Secondly, the fundamentalists in India are opposed to any kind of restrictions on wearing a hijab or veil.

List of most influential Muslims in the world released



Inqilab (December 24) states that Jordan's 'The Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought' has released a list of the 500 most influential Muslims in the world for next year. This organisation is an Islamic NGO headquartered in Amman. In this list, the first position is occupied by the King of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud. In the second spot is Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. On the third spot is the ruler of

Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. On the fourth position is the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In the eighth position is the ruler of UAE, Sheikh Mohamad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and at the tenth position is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman.

The President of world's largest Muslim nation Indonesia, Joko Widodo, is on 13th position in this list and on the 15th position is the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani. Maulana Madani was also declared as 'Man of the year'. In its report, the organization had written that currently there are 2 billion Muslims in the world. This number is one-fourth of the total population of the world. However, Muslims are citizens of different countries.

However, they are linked together as per Islamic millat (Ummah). This identity is linked to Islamic culture, thought, politics and finance. In the report, it is also said that we were not in favour of glorifying the personality of any individual. We have selected them on the basis of how influential they were in the Muslim world.

The newspaper said the top 50 people in the list include those who are either rulers of Islamic nations or Islamic scholars and their influence among Muslims cannot be refuted. In the report, it is said that the ruler of Saudi Arabia holds the biggest influence in Arab world and also among the Muslims of the world. Nearly 88 experts from Islamic world took part in preparing this list.

The newspaper said that Qatar is the richest Muslim nation. The per capita income of an individual is 63,505 dollars.

The Qatar ruler is greatly influenced by his mother. Sheikh Tamim received his education from the public school in Britain. Later, he also got his higher education from the Royal Military Academy (England).

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was also the prime minister of Turkey for 11 years. He had got huge victory in the 2002, 2007 and 2011 elections. In 2014, he was elected as the President of Turkey. In 2018, he once again became the President and continues to remain in the post till now. In 1994, he became the first mayor of Istanbul. In 2003, after becoming the Prime Minister of Turkey, while giving an interview to New York Times, he said that he was a Muslim first and keeps faith on Islam, the Prophet and Quran as a Muslim. The responsibility that Allah had given, I will fulfill it with total responsibility, he had said. ■

Israel ready for peace agreement with Saudi Arabia



Mumbai Urdu News (December 17) reports that Benjamin Netanyahu, who has become the Prime Minister of Israel for the sixth time, said Israel is ready to sign a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia. In an interview to 'Al Arabia,' he

talked in detail about issues like Israel's relationship with Arab nations, influence of US in Middle-East, violence in Iran, establishment of extremist government in Israel and agreement with Lebanon over ocean border. He said they wanted to

improve their relationship with Saudi Arabia. It will be a revolutionary step in improving the Arab-Israel relationship.

He said that he believes in an open deal. It is possible that there could be some extremists in my cabinet, but I am in favour of improving relationships with Arab nations. He said that instead of holding direct talks with Palestinian leaders, it is necessary that the 'Abraham Accord' signed with Arab nations in 2020, is taken forward. It is a serious path for peace between Israel, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and other Arab nations. He alleged that Palestinian leaders were not ready to give recognition to Israel and if we enter into a peace deal with Saudi Arabia, then it will be a long leap towards peace between Israel and Arab world. He said that due to the adamant stand of Palestinian leaders, efforts to establish peace with them did not succeed.

Mumbai Urdu News (December 22) states that the US has started its efforts for a peace process between Israel and Arabs following the formation of a cabinet in Israel. There is a possibility of a high-level talks between the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Israel next year, following which a peace agreement is likely to be signed between the two nations. In this peace agreement, all those nations who signed the 'Abraham Accord' with Israel will be included. They include nations like United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bahrain and Qatar. Apart from this, efforts would also be made to include those Arab countries



which were not part of the earlier accord. Netanyahu said this deal would help resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Inquilab (December 17) states that Netanyahu said we are in favour of resolving all conflicts. He said that since 20 years have gone, now we need to think out of the box. The newspaper said that till now Saudi Arabia is the biggest supporter of Palestine and it has been stressing all the while that until Palestine is recognized as a nation, it will not enter into any deal with Israel. However, it seems that due to pressure from the US, it is willing to change its stand old stand.

As per another news, the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas said that it is against an armed conflict with Israel. He said that we are in favour of a peaceful protest. He said that he was not in favour of the division of Palestinian Authority. This is because it was established due to years of efforts. We are firm on our demand for an independent Palestine and no one can force us to change our stand. ■

First Muslim woman fighter pilot



Aurangabad Times (December 24) states that a Muslim girl from Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh, Sania Mirza, will become the first woman fighter pilot in Indian Air

Force. After clearing the NDA examination, she has got admission to the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla (Pune). She is the second woman who will get the opportunity to fly a fighter plane. Earlier, Avani Chaturvedi was selected for such a role. Sania Mirza's father is a TV mechanic. It is to be noted that in the National Defence Academy examination 2022, there are 400 seats out of which 19 seats have been reserved for women. Out of the 19, two seats are for fighter pilots, and Sania Mirza has been selected for one of them. ■

Action against principal after recital of Iqbal's poem in school

Siasat (December 24) states that asking students to recite a poem by Allama Iqbal cost dearly for the principal of a school in Bareilly. The police have registered a case against the principal and removed him from his job. As per the news, this Muslim principal had made the students recite a poem by Iqbal during the morning prayers. Vishwa Hindu Parishad sensed danger in the poem and alleged that it is a namaz at a madrasa, due to which the religious sentiments of people in the Hindu majority area have got hurt.

Following this complaint, the administration filed an FIR against principal Nahid Siddiqui and Shiksha Mitra Waziruddin on charges of hurting religious sentiments and for



disturbing the peaceful atmosphere in the area. Basic Shiksha Adhikari Vinay Kumar removed principal and the shiksha mitra from their posts. ■

Muslim Nawab constructed Rashtrapati Nilayam

Siasat (December 25) states that President Droupadi Murmu is on a visit to south India. During this visit, she will stay at the 'Rashtrapati Nilayam' in Hyderabad. The state government has tightened the security system for the visit of the President and has beautified the building with fresh colours.

It is to be noted that Rashtrapati Nilayam is of historical importance and its construction was started by Nizam Nazir-ud-Daulah in 1850 and it was completed in

1860. Following the merger of the princely state of Hyderabad, the Indian government took this historical building under its control in 1950. During the winter in 1952, Dr Rajendra Prasad started staying in this building. This system continued till the time of former President Pranab Mukherjee. This building was constructed on a 90-acre land whereas the original building was constructed on a 2,500 square metre area.

Sikh soldiers permitted to grow beard in US



Mumbai Urdu News (December 26) states that the federal court in US has issued an order, as per which the Sikh soldiers of US military can grow beard and wear turban as per their religious belief. It is to be noted

that as per the rules of the US military, they are not permitted to grow beard. This apart, they have to wear the prescribed uniform. Recently, three Sikh soldiers questioned this rules of the US military in the federal court of Columbia stating that shaving off beard and not wearing of turban are against their religious belief. Following this decision, the US government decided that the religious belief of the Sikhs serving in the US military and coast guard will be respected and no such decision will be taken which will offend their religious sentiments.

Accused in Godhra case released on bail

Siasat (December 16) states that the Supreme Court has issued an order to release an accused, Farooq, in the Godhra train burning incident of 2002, on bail after 17 years. It is to be noted that the lower court had awarded rigorous imprisonment for life-term to Farooq and he is in jail for the past 17 years. A petition was filed before the Supreme Court seeking his release on bail, following which the court has ordered his release on bail.


On behalf of the Gujarat government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed the release of Farooq on bail and said that it was a very heinous crime in which 59 people including women and children were burned alive. Mehta said

that many people including Farooq were found guilty for pelting stones at Sabarmati Express. Generally, pelting of stones is a minor offence, but in this incident, the bogies of the train were locked from outside so that people should not escape from the train while it is being set ablaze. Following this inferno, communal violence broke out in Gujarat.

In 2011, the local court found 31 people guilty while 63 people were acquitted. Out of them, 11 people were awarded death sentence and the rest were awarded life-term in jail. In 2017, the Gujarat High Court commuted the death sentence of 11 accused into life-term in jail and they included Farooq.

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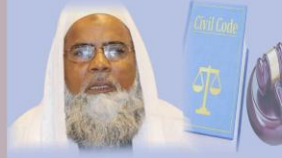
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