

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 7

Issue : 7

April 1-15, 2024

₹ 20/-

Muslim Candidates Get Big Success in Civil Services Exam

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग



- Ban on polygamy in Assam after elections
- Threat of nuclear war between Israel and Iran
- Nine Punjabi travellers abducted and murdered in Balochistan
- Erdogan suffers huge setback in local polls in Turkiye

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

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Summary

The truth about the propaganda unleashed by a section of minorities in the past one decade against the Modi government claiming neglect of Muslims has been exposed in the list of the results of civil services examination conducted recently by the Union Public Service Commission. This year, more than 50 Muslim candidates have cleared the exam. There are 21 women among them. The data show that after Narendra Modi came to power, there is a huge increase in the number of Muslim candidates who have cleared the civil services exam. In 1981, the representation of Muslim candidates out of the total candidates who cleared the exam was 0.79 per cent, which has now gone up to approximately 5 per cent. In 2010, 21 Muslim candidates had cleared this exam. Whereas 30 Muslim candidates cleared the exam in 2012, 34 in 2013 and 38 in 2014. In 2016, a total of 52 Muslim candidates passed the exam and this year also their number has crossed 50.

The situation in Middle-East is turning explosive day-by-day. Six months ago, an Islamic terrorist organisation like Hamas suddenly attacked Israel. Later due to the retaliatory action of Israel, their condition has become worse. The Islamic world tried to build pressure against Israel on the world platform. The Arab media started a blatant propaganda that the Israelis are committing genocide of Palestinians and so far they have killed more than 30,000 people. The United Nations recently started active efforts to end the war in Gaza, but the situation turned explosive after Iran attacked Israel using missiles and rockets all of a sudden. Iran claimed it took this action in retaliation to the Israeli attack on the Iranian embassy in Syria in which seven military advisors including two senior commanders of Iran's militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab were killed along with that of Iran-supported Hamas. Now since the way Israel has also threatened of retaliatory action against Iran, there is increased possibility of the situation turning explosive. The US has given the indication that it would extend support to Israel in this hour of crisis. Whereas China is also making preparations to come out on the ground in support of Iran. This has increased the danger of a world war breaking out.

In Pakistan, there is a steady increase in the activities of terrorists. Afghanistan and Iran allege that Islamic terrorist organisations active in the territory of Pakistan are regularly targeting their citizens. Recently Iran targeted a few border areas of Pakistan using rockets in which a few people were killed. When the Pakistan government protested against this action, Iran claimed that it had targeted only the bases of Sunni Islamic terrorist organisation Jaish al Adl. This organisation has been targeting the military outposts of Iran for the past several years. The Taliban government in Afghanistan had also alleged that Islamic terrorist organisations are using Pakistani territory to spread violence in Afghanistan. Recently, nine Punjabi passengers travelling in a bus in Balochistan were massacred. It is alleged that the hands of Balochistan Liberation Army were behind this attack. The relationship between Punjab and Balochistan became stressful following the incident.

Muslim candidates register huge victory in civil services exam



Aurangabad Times (April 17) states that the list of the candidates who have cleared the civil services examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission has been released. *Aurangabad Times* has said that 53 Muslim candidates have tasted success in this year's civil services exam. Nausheen from Uttar Pradesh is among the top 10 successful candidates. She has got the 9th rank.

Urdu Times (April 17) states that 51 Muslim candidates have cleared the civil services exam 2023. Whereas, according to **Mumbai Urdu News** (April 17), the number of successful Muslim candidates is 52.

According to **Etemaad**, there are a total of 1,016 successful candidates in this competitive examination, among whom 51 are Muslims.

Avadhnama (April 17) states that 31 candidates who received training from the residential coaching academy of Jamia Millia Islamia have successfully cleared the exam. They include Nausheen, a resident of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. She graduated from Delhi University. Later she did post-

graduation in social work from Jamia Millia Islamia. This year, a total of 71 students from Jamia Millia Islamia's institute appeared for the civil services examination. This institution provides facilities like free accommodation, training, food and study material for the students.

Roznama Sahara (April 17) states that there are 21 women among the successful Muslim candidates. Incharge Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Iqbal Hussain, said that Shruti Sharma had topped the civil services exam in 2021. She was also given training by the residential coaching academy of Jamia Millia Islamia. This apart, the student who topped in 2022, Ishita Kishore, also received training from this institution. He said there is a consistent increase in the participation of women in this exam in the past five years. In 2018 and 2019, their representation was 24 percent, which increased to 29 percent in 2020. However, this fell to 26 percent in 2021. In 2022, this number reached 34 percent. Last year, among the 933 candidates selected, 320 were women.

Inquilab (April 17) states that due to the huge success of Muslim candidates, there is satisfaction in Muslim regions. The newspaper said that Muslim leaders had been expressing concern over the constant decrease in the number of Muslims in competitive examinations in the past few years. Though the atmosphere for Muslims was not good last year, Muslim candidates still registered success in large numbers due to their hard work. In this year's results, the representation of Muslim candidates is 5 percent. Altogether 51 candidates of Zakat Foundation of India had appeared for interview after clearing the written examination, among which 24 emerged victorious. The chairman of the foundation, Dr Syed Zafar Mahmood, said the representation of Muslims in the country's administrative structure is sharply declining. It is necessary that Muslim candidates take the situation seriously and prepare for the exams with full might. Muslim candidates should also seriously participate in the competitive examinations conducted by the state governments as well apart from the Union Public Service Examination, because it is necessary that there is adequate representation of Muslims in the employee cadre of different states also so that their community get justice.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 18) in its editorial said more than 50 Muslim candidates have passed the civil services exam this year and thereby clearing that fog of despair to a great extent which had enveloped the entire Muslim community. Muslim children keep themselves away from education and their parents are responsible for this who neither make them dream about looking forward nor inspire them to make the future of the community great. Muslim students do not register success as per expectations because there is a lack of training, opportunity, guidance and good schools. The newspaper expressed satisfaction that some Muslim institutions are giving guidance to students for these examinations. This year, 41 students of Jamia Millia Islamia registered

victory, among which 23 are Muslims. It is very much necessary that a regular drive is undertaken for the success of Muslim students in these examinations.

Etemaad (April 21) states that this year 10.16 lakh candidates had filled the forms to take part in the examination. Out of them, 2,856 candidates had cleared the Mains examination. The difficulty level of this examination could be assumed from the fact that only 1,016 students out of the 10 lakh candidates have cleared the examination this year. Out of them, 664 are men and 352 are women. The newspaper expressed satisfaction that there is a consistent increase in the number of Muslim girls and boys clearing the civil services examination. It is to be noted that the Sachar Committee had specifically mentioned in its report about Muslims lagging behind in these examinations. In its report in November 2006, the Sachar Committee said that out of the total 3,209 IPS officers in the country, the number of Muslims is only 128. Now, looking at the current data, it looks like that the number of Muslim students clearing this exam is slowly increasing. It cannot be denied that in the current times, an effort is being made to keep Muslims backward in every respect, especially in the education sector.

Urdu Times (April 18) in its editorial said that this year, the highest number of Muslim candidates have secured victory in the civil services examination. However, their representation among the total number of candidates is nearly 5 percent only. Whereas the Muslim population is nearly 14 percent of the total population in the country. It is clear from this that we need to do lot of hard work to realise our aim.

Comment: A concern is being expressed over the past several decades over the decreasing representation of Muslims in the country's administrative structure. In 1983, the Union government had constituted the Dr Gopal Singh Committee to study the representation of minorities in the higher government jobs. In the report, it had been concluded that the

contribution of Sikhs and Christians in the administrative structure of the country was satisfactory. Whereas the representation of Muslims is constantly declining. The committee in its report said that the total number of IAS officers in the country is 3,975. Among them 165 are Sikhs, 128 are Muslims and 109 are Christians. Whereas the total number of IPS officers is 2,159, among whom 117 are Sikh, 57 are Muslims and 49 are Christians. This means the representation of Muslims in IAS is 3.22 percent and in IPS it is 2.64 percent. Whereas the population of Muslims in the country is 12 percent. As per this report, from 1981 till 2000, the representation of Muslims in Indian Administrative Service was 3.15 percent. Whereas their representation in Indian Police Service was 2 percent. On the basis of this data, the Rajinder Sachar Committee in its report had concluded that the representation of

Muslims in All India Services was much lower compared to their population.

As per the data, the highest number of 52 Muslim candidates cleared the civil services exam in the year 2016. Whereas 31 Muslim candidates cleared the exam in 2009, 21 in 2010, 31 in 2011, 30 in 2012, 34 in 2013, 38 in 2014, 34 in 2015, 50 in 2017, 28 in 2018, 44 in 2019, 31 in 2020, 25 in 2021, and 29 in 2022. The interesting thing is that 10 Muslim institutions in the country are running 51 centres to help Muslim candidates prepare for competitive examinations where the Muslim candidates are given free accommodation, food and study material. This apart, retired senior Muslim officials are also giving them guidance as free service. Students taking part in these competitive examinations are given Rs 1.5 lakh as special financial aid from the minorities welfare department of the Central government.

Supreme Court stays order repealing Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Act



Mumbai Urdu News (April 6) states that the Supreme Court has issued an interim stay order on the judgment of the Allahabad High Court repealing Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004. The Supreme Court said the Allahabad High Court had failed to understand the provisions of madrasa law. Earlier, the Allahabad High Court, while

describing this law as against the basic principles of secularism, ordered its repeal. Following this, the madrasa board questioned the verdict of the high court in the Supreme Court. Arguing this petition in the Supreme Court, lawyer of madrasa board, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, said the high court has no power to scrap this law. He said this law is 120 years old and due to

the sudden cancellation of this law now, nearly 17 lakh students studying in these madrasas and their 10,000 teachers will be affected.

The Supreme Court, while accepting a plea of madrasa board and other petitioners, issued a notice to the Central government, Uttar Pradesh government and the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. The court has granted them time till May 31 to file their reply. The next date of hearing in this case will be in the second week of July. Till then a stay will remain on the implementation of the verdict of Allahabad High Court. Senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, while arguing the case in the court, said that today Gurukuls are famous because they do good work. There are very good gurukuls in Haridwar and Rishikesh. Even my own father has a degree from them. Can we argue that these gurukuls give religious education to Hindus and should we shut down these gurukuls? He said that if the madrasa law is cancelled, then there will be a crackdown on madrasas. Singhvi said if I provide information regarding Islam or Hindu religion, then it doesn't mean that I provide religious education.

On behalf of madrasas, senior lawyer Mukul Rohtagi said these institutions teach different subjects. He said that no religious education is being provided in these madrasas. Yes, Quran is definitely taught in them. On the other hand, senior lawyer Huzefa Ahmadi said that religious education and religious subjects are two different things, hence the verdict of the high court should be cancelled. The Supreme Court asked the Uttar Pradesh government whether it had supported the Madrasa law before the high court? On this, Additional Solicitor General K M Natraj, who was present in the court representing the Uttar Pradesh government, said that yes, we had supported this law in the high court, but since the court cancelled it, the government accepted the verdict. Now, since the government has accepted this verdict, the burden of debt arising out of the legal expenses cannot be put on the

state. He asked whether the provisions of the Madrasa Act stand the test of secularism? An effort is being made to create the impression that religious education is not imparted in these madrasas. However, this is totally wrong. Natraj said that if madrasas are operating, then let them be allowed to run, but their expenses should not be put on the state. He said that the state government incurs a financial burden of Rs 10.96 billion by extending help to madrasas.

Roznama Sahara (April 6) states that a three-judge bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Mishra said the responsibility for selection of education is always in the hands of the students and their parents. It is the duty of the state to ensure that students are not deprived of quality education. Is it necessary to scrap the entire law to achieve this aim? The bench said the high court had arrived at the conclusion that the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004 was against secularism and the basic structure of the Constitution, but this conclusion by the court is not in accordance with the regulatory powers which have been entrusted to the madrasa board.

Attorney General R Venkataramani said the matter has become quite complicated and there is a need to seriously examine the issue. The lawyers of the petitioners told the bench that gurukuls and Sanskrit schools are there throughout the country. In a village in Shivamogga district in Karnataka, people do not speak any other language other than Sanskrit. Isn't the government extending help to these Sanskrit schools and gurukuls? If we provide Islamic education, then we are accused of providing religious education in our institutions. The Supreme Court told the state government that they file their reply affidavit by May 31. Whereas the petitioners have been given time till June 30 to file their reply.

Roznama Sahara (April 7) in its editorial said that due to this verdict of the Supreme Court, lakhs of students and

thousands of teachers in the madrasas in Uttar Pradesh have heaved a sigh of relief. They are hopeful that injustice will not be done with them and the education of the students in the madrasas will continue like before. The newspaper said that whenever the Muslims in the country try to come out of some dilemma, another issue is created for them. Sometimes, the hijab is



made an issue sometimes halal meat is an issue. After the verdict was delivered in the Ram Janmabhumi-Babri Masjid issue, the Muslims were satisfied that any of their places of worship will not be entangled in dispute in future due to the Places of Worship Act, 1991, but it did not happen like that. Various courts have issued directions to conduct survey of the places of worship of Muslims. This has increased the troubles of Muslims. The newspaper, while discussing about the dispute regarding the madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, said that due to this there is concern among ordinary Muslims because unlike schools, the madrasas provide accommodation and food for the children apart from their education. The truth is that these madrasas have made significant contribution towards making the country educated. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Supreme Court has put an interim stay on this.

Urdu Times (April 7) in its editorial has claimed that some individual has questioned the legality of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act in the court at the behest of Uttar Pradesh chief minister following which the high court has issued an order scrapping the law after declaring it as unconstitutional. Along with this, the wages of the teachers were also stopped. When this verdict was questioned in the Supreme Court, the apex court pulled the ears of the Allahabad High Court and said they declared it as illegal without understanding the madrasa law. This

verdict has also been a slap on the face of the Yogi government. Water has been spilled on all the plans of Yogi Adityanath regarding the madrasas. Otherwise all preparations had been made to shut down all the madrasas and admit all madrasa students in government schools. The Supreme Court, while reminding the Allahabad High Court about its constitutional responsibility, said that under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, every religious follower has the full freedom to provide the education of own religion.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 3) has given this advice to the managers of the madrasas that they make arrangements for high-level education in their madrasas, because the government on the pretext of the child rights protection, will interfere in their activities. It is necessary to teach modern subjects in these madrasas along with religious education.

Etemaad (April 5) said that madrasas are the forts of Islam and the community, and that is why the BJP governments are making a planned conspiracy to close down madrasas. In Assam, the madrasas have been declared as illegal and bulldozers have been run over them. Whereas the Uttar Pradesh government is making efforts to shut down madrasas with the help of the courts. The leaders of BJP say that the purpose of making alternative arrangements to admit students from Islamic madrasas in government schools is to provide them with

modern education and this will benefit the Muslim community. Whereas the Muslim leaders say that physics, chemistry, maths and computer are taught in Islamic madrasas in the country right from the beginning. There is no doubt that Muslims are being discriminated in the country. Ever since 2014, when Prime Minister Modi came to power with the agenda of Hindutva, there is a huge increase in anti-Muslim sentiments. The interesting thing is that this decision of the court came at a time when the process of conducting general elections has started in the country. The purpose of anti-madrasa campaign is polarisation of votes in the forthcoming elections.

Urdu Times (April 7) in its editorial expressed satisfaction that the sword hanging on the future of lakhs of madrasa students and thousands of their teachers has been removed for the time being.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 7) in its editorial said the chairman of Urdu

development organisation Dr Syed Ahmad Khan, while welcoming the order of the Supreme Court, said the court has accepted the basic rights of students to receive education in their mother tongue. He said the Allahabad High Court could see the Muslim students under Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board but it could not see the Hindu students studying in Gurukuls and Saraswati Shishu Mandirs where lakhs of students are taught Vedas and Puranas.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 5) has alleged that now the Maharashtra government has also started a survey of madrasas. However, the Samajwadi Party has raised its voice against it. Legislator of the party Rais Sheikh said that before the survey, no advice has been taken from the Muslim society and the holy month of Ramzan has been deliberately chosen for this purpose. He said that there is a provision to provide religious and modern education in the madrasas in the state.

Supreme Court refuses to stop puja at Gyanvapi and survey at Bhojshala

Aurangabad Times (April 3) states that the Supreme Court has refused to stay the puja at the tehkhana at Gyanvapi and the Archaeological department survey at the Kamal Maula Mosque in Bhojshala located in Dhar. The newspaper said that due to this verdict of the court, there is huge disappointment among the Muslims. It is to be noted that the management committee of the masjid has questioned the verdict of the Allahabad High Court granting permission to conduct puja at the tehkhana of the Gyanvapi located in Varanasi before the Supreme Court. During the hearing of this petition in the Supreme Court, the lawyer of the management committee of the masjid, Huzefa Ahmadi, said the lower court had given a week's time to the administration to make preparations for the puja, but on the night of the verdict of the court itself the puja-archana started at the tehkhana of Gyanvapi. We went to the high

court against this, but we did not get any relief from there. He urged the court to stop the puja being held at the tehkhana of Gyanvapi. The chief justice said that the entrance to the tehkhana is from the south. Whereas the entrance to the masjid is from the north, hence the two do not affect each other. The chief justice said that we direct that the puja shall continue in both the places.

Hindustan (April 2) said that the meaning of the verdict of the Supreme Court is that the puja-archana which began at the tehkhana in Gyanvapi on January 31-February 1 will continue. The Supreme Court also said that no change shall be made in this without its permission. The court also sought a reply from the nyasis of Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Trust and other sides by April 30 on the petition of the masjid committee. Earlier, on January 31, the district court of Varanasi had lifted the



ban imposed on the puja-archana by the then Mulayam Singh Yadav government at the tekhana of Gyanvapi nearly 30 years ago. The Muslim side questioned this verdict in the Allahabad High Court, but the high court refused to stay the puja-archana. Following this, the Muslim side reached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that even after the directions of the district court on January 17 and January 31, the Muslim side has been offering namaz on Gyanvapi premises without any break. Whereas the permission given to the Hindu side is limited to the tekhana. Hence it would be appropriate that the status quo shall be maintained so that both the sides do their own religious rituals.

During argument in the Supreme Court on this issue, the bench asked whether the puja is still continuing in the tekhana of the Gyanvapi? On this, the lawyer of masjid management committee said the puja is being held there since January 31. A ban should be immediately imposed on it, otherwise later it will be argued that the puja-archana was going there for a long time. If the permission for puja is allowed to continue, it could create lot of problems. Lawyer Huzefa Ahmadi said that it is the premises of masjid and hence the puja at the tekhana is against Islam. On this, the bench said that two

locks are found there? Where are those locks? Ahmadi said that even if we accept that Hindus have occupied the tekhana, why they did not take any legal action in the past 30 years in order to continue the puja there? After a period of 30 years, what is the basis for giving an interim relief?

On this, the Supreme Court asked who opened the second lock? Was it by the district magistrate? On this, the lawyer said he had been given one week's time by the court to implement the order, but he quickly ordered an iron cutter and removed all the obstacles in the way. Following this, the locks and other things were opened and the puja-archana started there. The lawyer claimed that there was no tradition of conducting puja at the tekhana there. Due to this decision, the dispute will intensify and may lead to violence. During the case, the Hindu side accepted that from 1993 till 2023, there was a lock on the tekhana and no puja was being held there. On this, the chief justice asked whether there is only one path to go to tekhana and the masjid? On this, the lawyer said that the path to tekhana is on the south. Whereas the road to masjid is on the north side.

The chief justice pointed out that the district magistrate said the second lock belongs to the state government. On this, the lawyer said that it is true that they used

to occupy it till 1993. In 1993, the state government stopped puja-archana at the tehkhana and locked the place. On the orders of the court, the district magistrate opened the government lock. Whereas the keys of the first lock was with the Vyas family earlier itself. The lawyer of the masjid committee complained that the *nyasis* of Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Trust started the puja-archana at the tehkhana on the night itself without waiting for a week. The lawyer said that it was an unjust order of the district court.

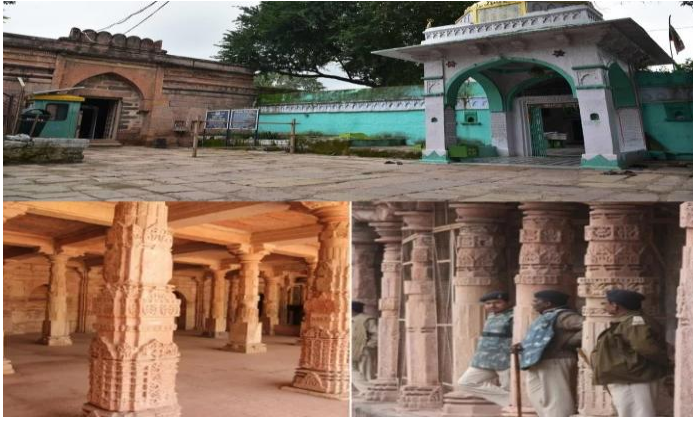
The lawyer further said it is wrong to say that the door of tehkhana is separate and the masjid premises are separate. It is also wrong that when we enter the Vyas tehkhana, we do not enter the masjid. This is not any mandir. The namaz is offered five times on the premises during the day. On the left is the premises of a huge mandir where puja is being held from ancient times. The mandir and masjid are situated together for hundreds of years. Now why stress is laid on offering puja at the tehkhana? The lawyer complained that we are slowly losing the masjid piece by piece. Now locks are put on the wazukhana as well, which has existed there for centuries. No mandir or murti was found in the tehkhana. The court should have given us protection. We learn from history what happened at Ayodhya. Despite assurances from the government, the masjid was demolished in front of our eyes.

It is to be noted that the Hindu side has claimed in the district court in Varanasi that puja-archana used to take place in the Vyasji ka tehkhana before 1993, but later the then Mulayam Singh government had imposed a ban on it. The Muslim side, quoting the Places of Worship Act, 1991, demanded that the petition of the mandir committee shall be rejected, but the court, while rejecting this, granted the right to Hindu side to offer puja at the Vyasji ka tehkhana.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 2) states that the Supreme Court has refused to stay the scientific survey being held at the Bhojshala alias Kamal Maula Masjid

premises located in Dhar. Along with it, it has also been directed that the next step shall not be taken without the permission of the court after receiving the report of the ASI survey. It is to be noted that there is an 11th century historical building in Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh, which is under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India. Hindus consider it as the mandir of Vaghdevi (Saraswati devi). Whereas Muslims claim that it is Kamal Maula Masjid. As per an order of the Archaeological Survey of India dated April 7, 2003, Hindus have the permission to do puja within the premises of Bhojshala on every Tuesday whereas Muslims have the permission to conduct Friday (juma) namaz on the premises. A bench comprising Justice Hrishikesh Rai and Justice P K Mishra issued a notice to the Central government, Madhya Pradesh government and ASI on a petition filed by Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society. The petition has questioned the order dated March 11 related to scientific survey of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The bench sought a reply from the parties concerned within four weeks and also directed that whatever be the result of the survey report, no further action shall be taken on the basis of it without the permission of the Supreme Court.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 3) has alleged that the saffron conspiracy right from the takeover of Babri Masjid to the Kamal Maula Masjid at Bhojshala has shown a single pattern and that is to first illegally occupy it, then create fake documents and then conduct a survey after creating a ruckus over it and then usurp it through the court. In the Srikrishna Janmabhumi issue in Mathura also the saffron family has adopted this policy. There has been a dispute between the two sides for the past few days over the Bhojshala building. A petitioner has claimed that as per the survey that is being conducted on the premises, a Hindu symbol was found in one of the tehkhana of the Bhojshala which the Muslim side has described as baseless. Supporter of Hindu



community Kuldeep Tiwari during a discussion with reporters claimed that symbols of Hindu religious like Ashtavakra Kamal, inscriptions in Sanskrit, Shankh, Havan Khund and the murti of Lord Hanuman were found during the ASI survey. From this, it is confirmed that the Bhojshala is a Hindu Mandir. Commenting on this claim by him, the chairman of Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society, Abdul Samad Khan, has alleged that the Hindu side is creating confusion by deliberately making false claims.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 3) in its editorial said that in the Ayodhya dispute case, when the Supreme Court delivered the judgment allowing construction of Ram Mandir in place of Babri Masjid, the desires of communal elements blossomed and they started saying that, 'Ayodhya is just a glimpse, Kashi-Mathura are left.' In view of the increasing religious tension in the country, the government of the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had brought a law in the Parliament in 1991, which mandated that whatever be the status of a place of worship on 1947, it shall be maintained as such. Then it was thought that due to this law, the issue of religious disputes will end, but now different courts in the country have accepted petitions related to disputed places of worship and are conducting hearings on them. In the Gyanvapi issue in Varanasi, the district court has granted permission to conduct puja in the tehkhana of Gyanvapi and now puja-archana are being conducted there. On this, the Muslim side had sought a ban on

the puja there from the high court and the Supreme Court which the courts had refused to accept. In the Supreme Court, the lawyers of the masjid's managing committee alleged that earlier the bogey of Shivling being recovered from the Wazukhana of the masjid was raised and now permission has been given to do puja at the tehkhana of the masjid. Its aim is to slowly occupy the

Gyanvapi masjid. The lawyer of masjid committee Huzefa Ahmadi said the entire premises of Gyanvapi is Waqf property and its fate is also going to be like that of Babri Masjid. The proceedings will continue in the courts as per the date. Babri Masjid has been handed over to the Hindus on the pretext of faith. Now this policy is being adopted in the issues of Gyanvapi, Idgah in Mathura and Bhojshala and even if we want, we can't do anything.

Jadeed Markaz (April 9) in its editorial has claimed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Muslims should have to obey the law of the country. Shariah is not bigger than the Constitution. The country is run on Constitution, not on Shariah. He also said that we cannot compromise on the security of the country and the Hindu faith because the God's grace and the people's blessings are with us. First of all, no one can say that Shariah is above the country and the Constitution, but only the RSS and BJP are keeping away from this. In fact, before the Lok Sabha elections, this time the Muslims did not give any opportunity to the BJP to polarise the votes of ordinary Hindus despite enduring all kinds of atrocities by remaining silent.

The newspaper asked whether the chief minister meant that he will act arbitrarily if he is in power due to God's grace and people's blessings? The government is not giving equal treatment to Muslims. To what extent is it justified to impose the Constitution and law only on Muslims? If a section of the country

protests over some issue, they are dealt with lathis and bullets. Whereas when another section proceeds on a kavayatra, they are showered with flowers using government helicopters. Recently, the Allahabad High Court has finished off the Madrasa Education Act in one go. Now, this is a decision of the court and hence it is the responsibility of all of us to respect it. However, some questions arise here. The first is that how come a law passed by the Assembly nearly 20 years ago is scrapped now? It is the duty of the Assembly and Parliament to make laws. If there is some

mess up in few madrasas, then legal action could also be taken against them but instead of treating the patient, the discussion is on injecting poison in him. Now take the statement of chief minister Yogi. He said since we cannot waver from the Hindu faith, because of which we were unable to find a place in the minds of Muslims. This is a major and irresponsible allegation against the Muslim community. Muslims never want any individual or party to waver from any religious belief and neither they would permit anyone to tamper with its religious belief.

Reduction in Haj fares



Sahafat (April 15) states that the Haj Committee of India has announced a huge reduction in the air fares for Hajjis. Chief Executive Officer of Haj Committee of India, Leyaqt Ali Aafaqui, said that compared to last year, Rs 45,000 less will be charged on the air fares of the Hajjis leaving for Medina from Ahmedabad. Whereas a reduction of Rs 30,000 has been made on the airfares of Hajjis leaving from Nagpur. Similarly, a reduction of Rs 26,000 has been made on fares of Hajjis leaving from Lucknow, Rs 22,000 on the fares of Hajjis leaving from Kochi, Rs 21,000 on the fares of the Hajjis leaving from Kolkata, Rs 20,000 on those leaving

from Delhi and Rs 6,000 on the fares of Hajjis leaving from Chennai.

Aafaqui said the first flight carrying Hajjis from Bharat will leave for Medina on May 9. He said that the credit for making reduction in the fares of the Hajjis goes to Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani. She is the first Union Minorities Minister who visited Saudi Arabia before the start of the Haj pilgrimage and personally inspected the facilities being provided to Indian Hajjis by the government there. On being requested by Smriti Irani, the Saudi government has made arrangements for Indian Hajjis to stay at residential buildings and hotels near the

Ka'aba in Mecca. Due to her intervention, the Saudi government has assured to reduce the accommodation fare and the rate of food for Indian Hajis. This will greatly benefit the Indian Hajis.

Leyaqt Ali Aafaqui has claimed that this time those individuals interested in going for Haj from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad will have to bear very little expenses. He also said that on a request by the Indian government, the Saudi government has increased the quota for Hajis from India. This time, 1.75 lakh Indians are likely to offer Haj. This apart, on a request by Smriti Irani, Saudi government has waived off the visa fee of Indians interested in offering Umrah. This will also benefit lakhs of Indians.

Hamara Samaj (April 17) states that the chief of Haj training centre of Uttar Pradesh, Haji Noor Mohammad Qureshi, said those who are going for Haj from western Uttar Pradesh will have to spend an amount of Rs 3,30,100. This does not



include the Rs 93,480 expenses meant for *kurbani*. He said that every Haj yatri will have to deposit the third installment of money by April 27. Those interested in Kufa yatra have to spend Rs 4,000 extra. The Haj yatri from western Uttar Pradesh will have to board the flight from Delhi airport. If anyone does not produce the receipt for third installment, he will not be permitted to board the flight. Other than this, the Hajis from six other regions of Uttar Pradesh will have to leave from Lucknow.

Ban on polygamy in Assam after elections

Sahafat (April 14) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced that once elections are over, he will ban the polygamy system in Assam. This apart, a Uniform Civil Code will also be implemented in the state. He said the new generation of Muslims are not getting any benefit from the education imparted in Islamic madrasas. We want to make them doctor, engineer, professor and scientist instead of making them imams and maulvis. They do not need such conservative education which will hamper their path of development. He said that if any person does polarisation



of votes, then we should definitely do the same. On the issue of not asking for votes from Muslims, he said it is his own right to whom to ask for votes and whom not to ask for. When I know that if a particular community does not give me



votes, then why should I go there and waste my time?

The chief minister of Assam said that there are 25 Lok Sabha seats in North-Eastern states. I am sure that out of them the NDA candidates will definitely win in 22 seats. Among them, BJP will get 15-16 seats while candidates of its allies will win in the rest of the seats. For me, polarisation is necessary in Assam. This is not to remain in power, but to ensure that our local people in Assam progress in political, social and economic fields and our identity does not face any kind of threat. When 36 percent people infiltrates into a state, then the original residents of the state become minorities in their own state and then we have to take steps to stop them. The chief minister said we are studying the implications of implementing the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand. When he was asked whether he wanted to close down Islamic madrasas, he replied that the madrasas which are run on government grants have been shut down. Now we are thinking on how to shut

down the madrasas being run using private resources so that Muslims will join the mainstream and move forward on the path of development along with the other communities. Of course, if anybody wants to receive religious education, he can get it at home or receive it privately.

When Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was asked you had earlier said you did not need the votes of Muslims, he said that I always used to say that if any community does not give you vote, what is the benefit in asking them for votes? It is possible that a time may come when this community starts giving us votes on their own. I cannot force anybody to vote for us. In any case there are many Hindu majority regions who do not give us votes, hence I do not go there as well. I have to give respect to those who give us votes. In 2021, I had said that they would not vote for us now, but we have worked for the welfare of Muslim women in the past three years. Due to this, they have started voting for BJP. It is hoped that this will go up further.

Nine Punjabi travellers abducted, killed in Balochistan



Avadhnama (April 14) states that a few unidentified attackers killed nine Punjabi travellers after getting them off a bus in Noshki district in Balochistan. It is suspected that the hands of Baloch Liberation Army were behind this killing. According to Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn,' the Deputy Commissioner of Noshki district, Habibullah Musakhel, said that on the night of April 12, more than a dozen armed assailants blocked the road and started checking the passengers of buses near Sultan Charhai town on the Noshki-Taftan highway. Soon they stopped a bus going to Taftan and demanded identity cards from the passengers. Later the armed assailants abducted nine Punjabi passengers travelling in the bus. They were later lined up and shot dead. Station incharge of Sultan Charhai, Asad Mengal, said the armed assailants had attacked the Army and police check-posts on their way using rockets due to which the check-posts suffered damages and many security personnel were injured.

The Deputy Commissioner of Noshki told journalists that after receiving information about the incident, the Army

and police personnel reached the spot in huge numbers. The police found five bodies under a bridge a little away from the spot, which were of the Punjabi residents who were travelling in the bus. Medical superintendent of civil hospital in Noshki, Zafar Mengol, said all of them were gunned down. They were shot on their head and chest. Those who were killed were labourers passing through Taftan on their way to Iran for employment. The police commissioner of the district said the armed attackers had fired upon the vehicle of the brother of the local legislator Ghulam Dastgir Badini on same night. The vehicle overturned as the tyre exploded in the firing in which one person died on the spot and four others were injured.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, while condemning the incident, said the accused will not be spared and the government will not rest until the terrorists are wiped out. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said the hands of Baloch terrorists were behind this incident. He said the terrorists had shot dead two other persons apart from nine Punjabi labourers in the incident. We are making every effort

to trace the terrorists. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz offered condolences to the family members of those who were killed in the terrorist attack and said the enemies of Pakistan are plotting to make different communities living in Pakistan fight among themselves. This attack was a result of this conspiracy. She said those who spread hatred among Pakistanis will be wiped out from the country.

As per another news, two soldiers were killed on the spot in a clash with terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Whereas, another terrorist was shot dead and two were caught in an injured condition. As per a statement issued by the public relations department of Pakistan army, the operation was conducted on the basis of information received from intelligence sources. The terrorist who has been killed has been identified as Salim. In this statement, it has also been claimed that this terrorist named Salim has been making innocent Pakistanis at the receiving end of his bullets. The Army had announced a reward of Rs 50 lakh on his arrest. As per a statement of Pakistani Army, in a clash that took place with the terrorists, Lance Havildar Mudassar Mahmood and Lance Naik Hasib Jawed of the Pakistan Army were killed. Governor of Sindh Kamran

Tessori congratulated Pakistani Army for the successful military operation and expressed hope that their campaign in this connection will continue.

According to BBC, 11 people were killed and five were injured in the attack that took place in Noshki. Senior Superintendent of Police of Noshki Allah Baksh said this incident took place nearly 6 km away from Noshki town. The Senior Superintendent of Police said the deceased passengers belonged to Mandi Bahauddin in Punjab and Gujarat. He said these terrorists tried to stop another bus as well. When the driver did not stop the bus, they opened indiscriminate fire on the bus due to which the tyre of the bus got burst and it fell into a ditch. Two persons were killed on the spot and five were injured in the incident. The deceased belonged to Noshki district in Balochistan.

In another incident, the terrorists attacked a truck filled with passengers. Seventeen passengers were killed in this incident and more than 40 people were injured. The deceased belonged to Thatta district in Sindh. The police commissioner of Thatta said the passengers were on their way to offer prayers at Dargah Shah Noorani located in Khuzdar district. The injured have been sent to Karachi for treatment.

Now, 'India Out' slogan in Bangladesh as well

Urdu Times (April 7) states that following Maldives, the Opposition in Bangladesh also has made an announcement about starting an 'India Out' campaign. These leaders have appealed to the people of Bangladesh that they boycott Indian products. This campaign has been launched at the behest of an organisation named 'People's Activist Coalition.' Taking a dig at this campaign, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said my question is how many sarees made in Bharat are there with the wives of those who have been appealing to boycott Indian products? Do they have the courage to tell their wives to burn these Indian sarees? Addressing a

rally, Sheikh Hasina said that one should not spot garam masala, onion, garlic and other products that had come from India in the houses of Opposition leaders. She said when Bangladesh Nationalist Party was in power, their ministers and their wives specially used to go to Bharat and purchase sarees from there and sell them in Bangladesh. Now they have remembered about boycotting Indian products.

Hindustan (April 3) said the 'India Out' campaign has been started by the Opposition after their defeat in the elections in Bangladesh. It is to be noted that last year in Maldives, another neighbouring country of Bharat, Mohamad



Muizzu defeated India-supporter Ibrahim Mohamed Solih by raising the slogan of 'India Out' during the elections. Later President Muizzu started a drive to strengthen ties with China and forced Bharat to withdraw its soldiers from Maldives. The question is whether this campaign of 'India Out' will gain traction in Bangladesh as well? However, though the Opposition party has extended support to the inspirer of this campaign Rizvi, till now the Bangladesh Nationalist Party has not announced a proper policy on the issue.

Media head of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Shairul Kabir Khan, said the issue was discussed at the policy formulation committee of our party, but we have not taken any formal decision in this connection so far. He said it is true that this campaign was started by some people and a few leaders of our party are supporting it too. On the other hand, ruling Trinamool Congress party MP in West Bengal, Jawahar Sarkar, has expressed concern over this campaign which started in Bangladesh. Discussing about this campaign, he wrote on social media platform 'X' that "every neighbouring country is unhappy with Bharat. Pakistan promotes terrorism. Pro-China Nepal hates Indian hooliganism. India's relationship with Sri Lanka is also not good. Maldives has thrown us out from their country.

Bhutan is leaning towards China and now an 'India Out' campaign has started in Bangladesh as well."

A Bangladesh journalist who stays in the US, Mushfiqul Fazal Ansarey, raised a question before the spokesperson of US State Department. "In Bangladesh, the India Out campaign is gaining traction day by day. People are boycotting Indian products. They think that India is indirectly working to keep Sheikh Hasina in power. How do you see this situation.?" On this, the US State Department spokesperson said, "We have information regarding this campaign. But we will not make any comment on this. Whether it is in Bangladesh or in any other part of the world. We are in favour of a friendly relationship with both Bharat and Bangladesh and we will continue to work together with the governments of both the countries."

Professor Sanjay Bhardwaj of the Centre for South Asian Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University said the 'India Out' campaign in Maldives cannot be compared with the campaign in Bangladesh. Maldives is a small country where the majority of the population is Sunni Muslims. Compared to it, Bangladesh is very big. There is a good Hindu population. He said Maldives President Mohamad Muizzu had won the

elections not because of this campaign. He emerged victorious due to the internal differences in the party of the Opposition candidate. However, it is true that for the past one decade, China has been making efforts to increase its influence in Maldives. He said now the President of Maldives has also realised the situation. Now when one of his ministers issued a statement against Bharat, he took it seriously and the minister had to withdraw his anti-India statement. Sanjay Bhardwaj said that as far as the question of Bangladesh is concerned, it has been surrounded by Bharat on its three sides. The fourth side is the Bay of Bengal. The culture of both the countries are similar. Bengali-speaking people stay in both the countries, which include Hindus as well as Muslims. They are both related through marriages as well. The two are totally dependent on each other as well. If the people of Bangladesh do not go for shopping in Kolkata, they don't enjoy the Eid. Bangladesh is dependent on Bharat on economic issues.

According to **Urdu Times** (April 7), Prof Sanjay Bhardwaj said if Bangladesh boycotts Indian products, then there would be a huge increase in the inflation there, just like the way Pakistan has been paying a heavy price for breaking trade relationship with India. From cooking masala to medicines, Bangladesh is dependent on Bharat for many things. Even they have to get things like onion, garlic, coconut oil and edible oil from Bharat. It is not just a matter of boycotting clothes that it will help. Prof Sanjay said however, the economy of Bangladesh is developing fast. With the help of China and Japan, basic infrastructure is being developed there, but for this, the entire material goes from Bharat. Now the boycott no longer matters. Those who are running this campaign currently do not have any standing in Bangladesh. It is to the extent that even the Opposition parties are not openly with them in this campaign because they know it very well that this campaign may backfire on them. There is a 4,100-kilometre-long



border between India and Bangladesh. There is a historical, cultural and economic relationship between the two countries. Experts say that it looks like India stands with the government of Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh is the closest and strongest ally of Bharat in South Asia.

Roznama Sahara (April 7) reports that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had clarified that India is firm on 'India First' policy and that is why India has continued to supply necessary items to Maldives. External Affairs Minister of Maldives Moosa Zamir has thanked India for this. In a tweet, he said he would like to thank Indian government for enabling the import of essential items for Maldives for the year 2024-25. This decision by it is an indication of the long-lasting friendship between the two countries. In reply to this, Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said you are welcome. India is strongly committed to the 'neighbour first' and 'ocean policy.' We give priority to our neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It has been clarified through a notification issued through the office of external affairs ministry that in the year 2024-25, export of essential items like sugar, wheat, rice and onion for Maldives will be continued. The Indian High Commission located in Maldives said the items which India will export to Maldives in this financial year as per the bilateral trade agreement signed between the two countries in 1981, will include 1.24 lakh tonne rice, 1.10 lakh tonne wheat atta, 64,494 tonne sugar, 25,513 tonne potato, 35,749 tonne onion, 10 lakh tonne stones and sand, 224 tonne daal and 42.70 crore egg.

Pakistan Prime Minister holds meeting with Saudi Crown Prince



Hindustan (April 9) states that Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman. On this occasion, Bahrain Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa was also present. This meeting was held on the occasion of iftaar. According to Saudi Arabia's official news agency 'SPA,' during this meeting, discussions were held on exploring new dimensions of cooperation between the two countries and in developing them. This apart, the prime ministers of the two countries also held discussions on the regional and international situations.

On this occasion, many other Saudi ministers including the Governor of Mecca, Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Minister Prince Turki bin Mohammed al Saud, Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman al Saud, External Affairs Minister Faisal bin Farhan al Saud, Director General of Saudi intelligence wing Khalid bin Ali Al-Humaidan and the Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki were present. Whereas, on behalf of Pakistan, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb, Information Minister Ataullah Tarar and

Punjab chief minister Maryam Nawaz were present. It is to be noted that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had arrived in Saudi Arabia on his first foreign visit after assuming his post. He offered prayers at the tomb of Hazrat Mohammad located in Medina. Later he reached Mecca to perform Umrah.

Urdu Times (April 9) states that Saudi Arabia's finance minister has assured the prime minister of Pakistan that in order to improve the economy of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia will immediately make investments worth five billion dollars in Pakistan. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman also expressed concern over the situation in Gaza and stressed that efforts should be stepped up at international level to stop the Israeli attack in Gaza. In a statement, the two leaders urged leaders across the world that they put pressure on Israel to ensure that it immediately implements ceasefire in Gaza. The two countries also agreed that help should be extended to the Palestinians staying in Gaza on a humanitarian basis. In a joint statement issued by the two countries, it has been stressed that in order to resolve the Palestinian issue, it is necessary that an independent Palestinian state shall be

established, whose capital should be Eastern Jerusalem. The two sides also agreed that in order to resolve the various disputes, which includes the Jammu Kashmir dispute, the process of bilateral

talks should begin between the two countries. The Prime Minister of Pakistan extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia to visit Pakistan which the latter accepted.

Ban on roza and namaz in China



Siasat (April 5) states that for Muslims across the world, the month of Ramzan is all about roza, namaz and zakat, but in the region in China where there is a huge Muslim population, a ban has been imposed on organising roza. The 'Hui' Muslims in China is the second largest minority group after the Turkish origin 'Uyghur' Muslims from the point of view of their population. It is said that their population is more than one crore in China. The day after the beginning of Ramzan month, the Yuxi Municipal Government in China's South-Western province issued a notice in which the local Chinese Communist Party units, government departments and education department have been given clear instructions to ensure that no Muslim member of Chinese Communist Party or their family members take part in

religious activities like roza, namaz etc at any level.

It has also been said in this direction that in order to maintain political order, it is necessary that the members of Chinese Communist Party keep themselves away from religious activities because doing so is against the policy of Chinese government. In the notice, stress has been laid on keeping education and religion apart. Along with it, all schools and training institutes have been given the direction not to allow any person to take part in roza and namaz. Those persons who violate these restrictions will be given stringent punishment. A local Muslim leader, while talking on condition of anonymity to the Mandarin service of Voice of America, said that now no child in schools will have permission to observe

roza. This apart, all the masjids have been shut down during Ramzan. The managers of schools have been given the direction to collect information from children that who all are observing roza in their houses so that legal action could be taken against them.

This apart, the government schools of Yuxi have issued a questionnaire in which children were asked who all in their family are observing roza and who all go to masjid to offer namaz. The Muslim leaders of Communist Party in China's Yunnan province said that as soon as the Ramzan month started, the government has started



exerting pressure on Muslims so that they neither keep roza nor go to masjid and offer namaz. Due to this policy of the government, there is huge disappointment among the 'Hui' Muslims.

Iftaar event cancelled in White House in the US



Roznama Sahara (April 4) states that following a boycott call by US Muslim leaders, an iftaar dinner being organised at the White House by the US President had been cancelled. Deputy Director of Council on American-Islamic Relations, Edward Ahmed Mitchell, said the US Muslims have boycotted the iftaar dinner in protest against the US military aid to Israel. In a joint letter to the US President, more than a dozen Muslim leaders indicated to him that they will not take part in the iftaar party to be organised at the White House because the US is openly extending support to the Israel government which is committing

genocide of the Palestinian people. They said the US Muslims are strongly against the policies of the Biden government and hence they will boycott Biden and his party in the Presidential elections to be held in November this year.

As per a report of US television channel CNN, the US President had extended invitation to nearly 200 prominent US Muslims to the iftaar party. A spokesperson of White House has confirmed the news that due to the boycott of the US Muslims, the iftaar dinner being organised by the President has been cancelled.

Threat of a nuclear war between Israel and Iran



Inqilab (April 11) states that now there is a possibility of a fierce war erupting between Israel and Iran. According to Arab media, the threat of a nuclear war taking place between the two countries is increasing day by day. An Arab media in London has indicated that after an Israeli attack on the Iranian embassy located in Syrian capital Damascus, there is a possibility of a fierce war between the two countries and in this connection Israel may target the nuclear bases of Iran.

It is to be noted that two weeks ago, seven military advisors including two senior officers of Iranian military were killed in an Israeli air strike on Iranian embassy. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said we would give a befitting reply to Israel. A digital media organisation publishing in Arabic language, 'Elaph News' has indicated that Israel is giving training to its fighter pilots to carry out aerial strike on nuclear energy installations in Iran. However, Israel has refused to make any kind of comment on this news, but Syria and Iran have blamed Israel for the attack.

New York Times has revealed that Israel's hands were behind this attack. 'The Sun' published from London has also

carried a list of Iranian nuclear plants, which could be attacked by Israel. This include Iraq-situated heavy water reactor, Bushehr-located nuclear energy plant and Gchine Uranium Mines and Uranium Enrichment Plant. The Sun states that if Israel attacks these nuclear energy plants, it could lead to an explosive situation in Middle-East. The newspaper has also claimed that the US is committed to extending full support to Israel. It may provide the country with nuclear weapons apart from technical help so that it could create havoc with the nuclear power of its old foe Iran in the name of Israel.

US President Joe Biden has assured Israel that the US would support Israel in all situations. This apart, Israel has cancelled the leaves of defence forces and they have been directed to remain fully prepared to carry out attack on Iran. An effort to track GPS signals has been started so that Israel could stop a possible Iranian attack. Iran could launch an attack on Israel using new ballistic missiles. The chief of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, said we will give a befitting reply to the attack on Damascus.

Urdu Times (April 3) states that Israel has attacked the Iranian embassy

located in Syrian capital Damascus using missiles. In this attack, the entire building of the embassy got destroyed. Several dozens of people were killed in the attack. Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab has confirmed that seven military advisers including two senior officials of Iran were killed in this Israeli attack. As per a report of



Al Arabia.net, many Iranian higher officials including the commander of Quds Force of Pasdaran-e-Inqilab which is active in Syria and Lebanon, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and his deputy commander Brigadier General Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi were killed in the Israeli attack. Following this attack, Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian declared that we will give a befitting reply to Israel.

Urdu Times (April 9) states that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that after this attack, no embassy of Israel anywhere in the world is secure now. Now we will retaliate as per our discretion. On the other hand, Israel's defence minister has announced that we are fully prepared to deal with Iran's retaliatory action.

Qaumi Tanzeem (April 9) states that US intelligence sources claimed that Iran is likely to attack Israel at the earliest. Iran has directed the militia groups supported by it to get ready to attack Israeli embassies across the world. A senior US official said Iran could target Israeli and US bases in retaliation for this attack, and hence the US has been fully prepared to deal with it.

Siasat (April 3) states that many countries including Russia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have condemned the Israeli attack on Syria-situated Iranian embassy and described it as a violation of international laws. A spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry said this

attack is tantamount to flouting Syria's sovereignty. Now Iran has every right to give a befitting reply to this attack.

Avadhnama (April 3) states that the Iranian parliament has passed a resolution in which it has been stated that Iran will give such a response to this attack that their future generations will remember.

Hindustan (April 9) states that the Iran government has declared that Israel has come within the range of its nine different missiles. Iranian missile named Sejjil has the capacity to target any Israeli city. It has the capacity to strike at a target nearly 2,500 kilometres away. Whereas missiles named Khaibar, Imad, Shahab 3, Kheibar Shekan, Fatah 2, Haj Qasem, Paveh and Ghadr could target any city of Israel. The Arab media has claimed that the Supreme Leader of Iran has ordered his army to make all preparations to launch an attack on Israel. Political advisor to Iran President Mohammad Jamshidi warned the United States that if it jumps into this war, it will have to bear serious consequences.

Etemaad (April 10) states that the chief of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, said this attack was not just on Syria, but on Iran as well and Iran will definitely give a befitting reply to it. He said this was the terrorism of Israel against which the entire world should raise their voice. As per another news, after the destruction of the old embassy of Iran situated in Syria, Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has inaugurated a new building of Iranian embassy in Syrian

capital Damascus. Following this, he held a meeting with Syrian President Bashar-al-Assad, foreign minister Faisal Mekdad and senior officials of intelligence organisations.

Hindustan (April 10) in its editorial said that seeing the possibility of an Iranian attack, Israel has closed down its embassy

in nine countries. This apart, the US has announced that if Iran attacks Israel, then the US will extend all kinds of help to Israel. Israel has cancelled the leaves of its soldiers and has directed the air force to get ready for the attack. Israel has also called back all its reserve soldiers for duty in the war front.

President Erdogan suffers huge jolt in the local bodies poll in Turkiye



Siasat (April 2) states that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accepted the defeat of his party in the municipal elections held in the country. He said that after being in power for two decades, this election was an important turning point for his party. In the local bodies election held throughout the country, Erdogan's party Justice and Development Party, was defeated by Opposition party Republican People's Party. Mayor of Istanbul Ekrem İmamoğlu said that today is a new era of spring for us. It is to be noted that Turkiye President Erdogan had launched a personal campaign to seize the Istanbul Municipal Corporation because it is from this corporation that he had emerged on the horizon of national politics.

Inquilab (April 11) states that the corporation elections were held in 81 provinces of Turkiye where 30

metropolitan and 1,363 municipal mayors were elected. This apart, 1,282 provincial and 21,001 municipal councillors were also elected. It is to be noted that this election was held nearly 10 months after the parliamentary and presidential elections held in the country. In this local elections, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party had to face an unexpected defeat. From this elections, it has been proven that the people of Turkiye are unhappy with the failure of the economic policy of Erdogan. The people of the country has extended support to opposition party Republican People's Party. For the first time since 1977, Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party tasted defeated there.

In the 2019 elections, Opposition leader Ekrem İmamoğlu had been elected to the post of mayor of the Greater Istanbul, but despite it, Erdogan's party Justice and Development Party got the



Erdogan had to suffer massive defeat in the elections.

Analysts who keep an eye on Turkiye say that at one level the government of Erdogan is playing the drama of supporting the people of Gaza. On the other hand, not only Turkiye has kept the diplomatic relationship with Israel intact, it has also been supplied with huge cache of arms and ammunition. The people of the country were hopeful that the ruling party in Turkiye would boycott Israel and it would cut-off

majority in the municipal council. This party also secured the post of mayor in 24 districts. The opposition Republican People's Party got only 14 mayors. In the recent elections, the Republican Party registered victory in 26 seats in metropolitan council. Whereas Erdogan's party managed to win only in 13 seats. According to analysts, the reasons for Erdogan's defeat are his failed economic policies, increasing inflation and unemployment apart from lack of declaration of a clear policy of his party on the issue of Gaza. The President of Turkiye has described the results of the elections as unexpected. It is being said that despite Israeli attack on Gaza, the people of Turkiye did not like the country still maintaining diplomatic relationship with Israel, because the people there support the Palestinians. This is the reason why

diplomatic and trade relationship with Israel, but Erdogan has totally ignored the sentiments of the people of the country. As a result, he had to suffer defeat in the elections.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 10) states that after the shameful defeat in the municipal elections, the Turkish government has imposed a total ban on export of its goods to Israel. According to the trade ministry of Turkiye, this ban will be implemented immediately and it will remain in place until a ceasefire is announced in Gaza. This ban has been imposed on 54 goods which are being exported from Turkiye to Israel. It is to be noted that seven months have gone ever since a war broke out between Hamas and Israel. Nearly 33,000 Palestinians have been killed in this war, which included women and children.

Sunni terrorist organisation attacks military outposts of Shia Iran

Hindustan Express (April 5) states that Sunni Islamic terrorist organisation Jaish al Adl carried out simultaneous attacks on two military outposts located in Rask city and Chabahar. According to Iranian media, at least 11 Iranian soldiers were killed in these attacks, which included some senior officials. Whereas 16 armed terrorists were also killed in the retaliatory action by the army. Confirming this attack, Iran's

Deputy Interior Minister Majid Mirahmadi said the attack by Jaish al-Adl has been foiled due to the vigilance of the Iranian army and no attackers were left alive.

As per the reports of the news agencies, the armed attackers of Sunni terrorist organisation named Jaish al Adl had carried out the attack. This Sunni terrorist organisation targeted the headquarters of Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-



Inquilab located at Chabahar in Sistan-Baluchestan province. This apart, an attack was also carried out at a military outpost located in Rask in Iran on the midnight of the same day. It is being said that this Sunni terrorist organisation is active in the Balochistan province of Pakistan for the past several years. This organisation is said to be opposed to the Shia government in Iran. This group claims that it has been fighting against the harassment meted out to Sunnis by the Iranian government. Many western countries including Iran and the US have declared this organisation as a terrorist organisation.

The literal meaning of Jaish al Adl is 'Army for justice.' This organisation has carried out dozens of attacks on Iranian army in the past few years. It is being said that this organisation is in contact with another Baloch terrorist organisation called 'Ansar Al-Furqan.' Currently, the chief of Jaish al Adl is a man named Salahuddin Farooqi, whose brother Amir Narouvi was shot dead by the Taliban government in Afghanistan recently. This Sunni terrorist organisation was formed by the members of Sunni terrorist organisation named Jundallah. It is to be noted that in 2010, the then chief of Jundallah, Abdolmalek Rigi was killed by the Iranian Army. Following this, the new organisation was constituted

with the help of Kurd separatist groups which are active in Iran. This organisation has condemned the campaign of the Iran-supported Shia government in Syria against the Sunni Kurds. The official media in Iran allege that this Sunni terrorist organisation has got the support of Saudi Arabia and the US.

The Jaish al Adl attacked the Iranian army for the first time in August 25, 2012. In this attack, 14 Iranian soldiers were killed. In 2013, the Iran government had hanged to death 16 Sunni leaders on various charges. In

a retaliatory action, the Jaish al Adl attacked the vehicle carrying Iran's government lawyer Moosa Noori and killed him. The driver of Moosa Noori was also killed in this attack. Nine days after this incident, the terrorist organisation attacked a border outpost of Iran and murdered 14 soldiers of Iran. Two weeks later, nine Iranian soldiers were killed in a landmine blast triggered by this terrorist group in Sistan-Baluchestan. In February 2014, this terrorist group kidnapped five officials of Iranian military and took them to Pakistan. Later, one among these officials were killed. The same year in October, the Jaish al Adl killed three senior officers of Iranian military.

In April 2015, this group entered Iran from its base in Pakistan and attacked an outpost of Iranian Army in which three persons were killed. In April 2017, this terrorist group attacked the Iranian army in which nine Iranian soldiers were killed. This attack was carried out at a time when the Iranian soldiers were patrolling the Iran-Pakistan border. In another attack, the terrorists of Jaish al Adl abducted 12 Iranian soldiers and took them to Pakistan. They were murdered there. In December 2018, this terrorist organisation carried out a suicide attack in Chabahar in which two

Iranian police officers were killed and 42 were injured. In January 2019, the Jaish al Adl attacked a military outpost in Zahedan in which at least three Iranian military officers were killed. The next month, the terrorist organisation attacked a paramilitary outpost of Iran and killed several people.

In a suicide attack on a vehicle of the Iranian Army on February 13, 2019, at least 27 soldiers were killed. In July 2023, this terrorist organisation attacked a police station in Zahedan and killed four paramilitary personnel. In December same year, the terrorist organisation attacked a police station in Rask city in Sistan-Baluchestan in which 11 police personnel were killed. In a retaliatory action, the Iranian military entered Pakistani territory



and targeted the bases of the terrorist organisation in which several people were killed. In retaliation to this, the Jaish al Adl attacked an Iranian military base and killed three senior Iranian officials who also included the head of the Quds force stationed in Sistan-Baluchestan, Colonel Hossein Ali Javidanfar.

Norway and Ireland ready to give recognition to Palestine



Etemaad (April 14) states that Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said they are ready to give recognition to an autonomous Palestine state. They will also try to ensure that the Palestinian state will get membership in United Nations. He made this statement while addressing a joint press conference with Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. Jonas Gahr Støre

said he held detailed discussions with the Prime Minister of Spain on the Gaza issue. We would like to find out a permanent solution to this dispute. The Spanish government is also ready to grant recognition to an autonomous Palestinian state so that a lasting peace is established in this region. The Prime Minister of Norway returned to his country after his visit to Spain. Whereas the Prime Minister of Spain reached Ireland to find a solution to the problem and there he held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Ireland Simon Harris in this connection. Later, the two leaders, while addressing a joint press conference, said that Ireland and Spain have agreed that an autonomous government in Palestine shall be granted

recognition. The Prime Minister of Ireland said our effort is to see that we get the support of other nations in European Union as well on this issue so that peace is established in Middle-East.

Inquilab (April 13) states that serious differences have propped up among various countries on the issue of giving United Nations membership to Palestine. It is to be noted that Palestine has urged the United Nations that it should be granted full membership of the United Nations. In order to discuss this request by them, a

special session of the Security Council was held under the chairmanship of the representative of Malta, Vanessa Frazier. Following this meeting, Vanessa Frazier said the application submitted by the Palestinian Authority for full membership of United Nations could not be approved because there are serious differences among the members of the Security Council on this issue. Palestine has been granted observer status in the United Nations since 2012 but it has not been given full membership till now. ■

Family members of Hamas chief killed in Israeli attack



Mumbai Urdu News (April 12) states that Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh has confirmed that his entire family was killed in the Israeli attack that took place in Gaza Strip on the day of Eid. Those who were killed included four grandsons and granddaughters and his three sons Muhammad, Amir and Hazem. A spokesperson of Hamas told media that the family of Ismail Haniyeh was travelling in a car which the Israelis targeted using missiles. All the family members of Ismail Haniyeh travelling in the vehicle were killed. Commenting on this incident, Ismail Haniyeh said he is feeling proud about the

death of his family. If the enemy thinks that it can crush the Palestinian freedom struggle by killing our children, then it is a misconception. This sacrifice will further boost our efforts to liberate Masjid Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem. I am proud of the sacrifice of my three sons and four grandchildren. Haniyeh said the blood of my family is not more valuable than that of others who die in Gaza because all those who die in Gaza are members of my family.

Etemaad (April 14) states that on the death of the family members of Ismail Haniyeh, the foreign affairs head of Hamas's politburo Khaled Mashal said our

fierce struggle in the past six months will force the enemy to kneel down. Mashal was addressing a condolence meeting organised in Doha to mourn the death of the family members of Ismail Haniyeh. He said the killings will prove to be a milestone in the path of Palestine's independence. He urged Muslims across the world that they support the Palestinians and put pressure on their own governments to cut off all kinds of relationship with Israel.



Inqilab (April 13) reports that several Muslim leaders in the world expressed condolences on the death of the family members of Ismail Haniyeh. Turkiye president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while condemning this attack, said that Israel is throwing to winds international laws and the United Nations has become a silent spectator to it. Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al

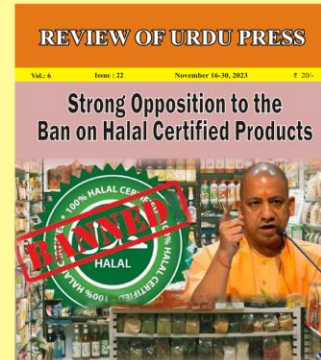
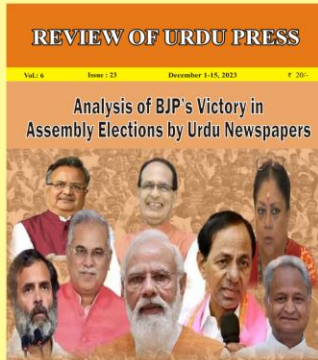
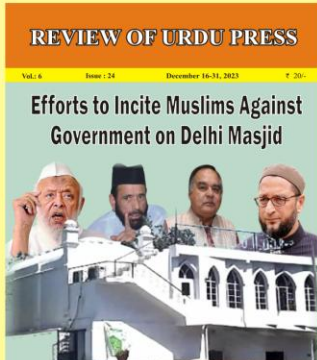
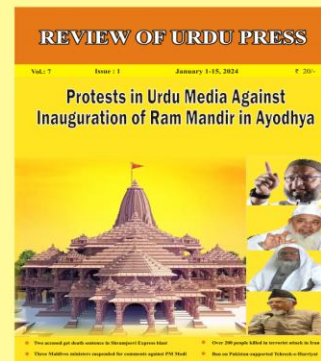
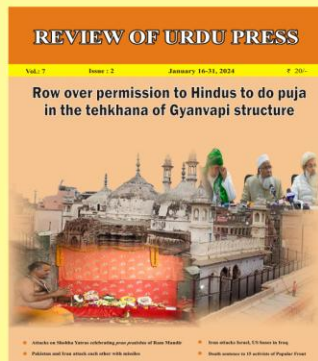
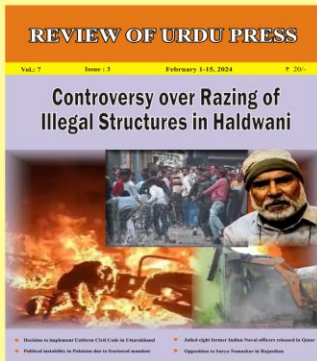
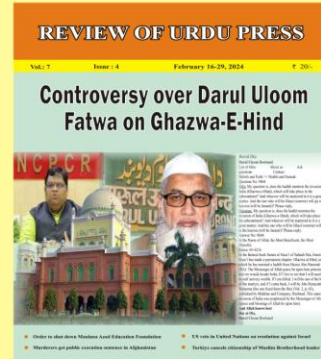
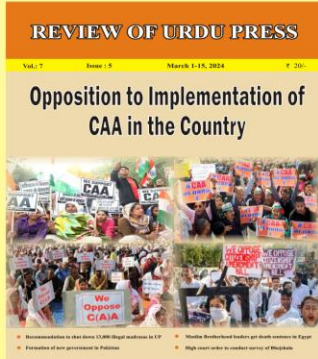
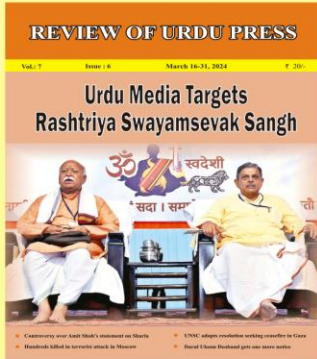
Thani also condemned the attack and said that now the independence of Palestine is not far away. The chairman of Alami Ulema Council Ali al-Qaradaghi also, while condemning Israel, expressed condolence over the deaths. This apart, many Muslim nations including Lebanon, Jordan etc. expressed condolences to Haniyeh.

Two crore people visit Masjid-e-Nabawi



Siasat (April 7) states that during Ramzan, the number of pilgrims arriving at Masjid-e-Nabawi located in Medina has reached

more than two crore. This apart, the number of people attending the roza of the Prophet has also gone beyond 20 lakh. As per sources in Saudi government, permission had been granted to more than 18 lakh men and approximately 5 lakh women to offer prayers at the tomb of the Prophet during Ramzan. This apart, more than five lakh people offered the Alvida juma namaz at Masjid-e-Nabawi. Due to the crowd of the namazis, the entire traffic system has been shut down.



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