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Uproar over Yogi Adityanath's Comment on Urdu



- Suicide attack on Taliban's madrasa in Pakistan
- Seven Punjabis forced out of bus and killed in Balochistan
- Hamas cancels ceasefire talks
- Action against fake madrasas in Uttar Pradesh

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Summary

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's statement over Urdu has sparked an uproar. In Uttar Pradesh Assembly, the Opposition members demanded that Urdu is the second official language of Uttar Pradesh and hence the proceedings of the Assembly shall be translated into Urdu along with Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Braj and Bundeli. Members of Samajwadi Party alleged that the Yogi government is promoting English and crushing Urdu. Targeting the main Opposition Samajwadi Party, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Samajwadi Party wants to take the country towards fundamentalism. There was a huge uproar in the house over this. Meanwhile, the chief minister said that his double engine government is determined to provide higher and modern education to the students of all communities so that they become scientist, doctor, litterateur and engineer. Yogi said that those parents who want to limit their children to the religious education of madrasas are free to do so, but the students who study in religious madrasas would not be able to fully contribute to the development of the society without getting modern education.

Recently, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani paid a two-day visit to Bharat. The two countries signed on several agreements during his visit. This includes an agreement to double the mutual trade between the two countries in the next five years. Nearly eight lakh Indian origin people stay in Qatar, which is nearly one-fourth of the total population of that country.

The creation of Pakistan itself was based on hatred. This is the reason why they have been trying to spread the flames of terrorism in Bharat in a well-planned manner. Now the flames of terrorism are spreading in their own country. Due to this, the very existence of Pakistan seems to be in danger. In the latest suicide attack, Taliban's founder Maulana Sami Ul Haq's son Maulana Hamid Ul Haq was killed. Sixteen other people were killed along with him, which included the son of Hamid Ul Haq. This terrorist attack took place when Maulana Hamid Ul Haq was offering namaz at the masjid of Madarsa Darul Uloom Haqqania at Akora Khattak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Insurgent activities are increasing day-by-day in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Punjabi soldiers of Pakistan are wreaking havoc in these two regions, and hence there is anger among the people there against Punjabis. Recently, a few unidentified attackers in Balochistan stopped a bus travelling from Quetta to Lahore and shot dead seven Punjabi passengers in them. This was not the first such incident. In the past also, several such incidents took place. Last year, dozens of Pakistan Army personnel were killed in a bomb explosion that took place in Quetta Railway Station. Despite this, Pakistani rulers are not learning any lessons. Now, Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI has joined hands with the caretaker government in Bangladesh and conspiring to spread the flames of terrorism in Bharat.

Due to the efforts of the US and a few other countries, the first phase of ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has been over in Gaza. Now, its second phase has landed in trouble. The spokesperson of Hamas has announced that it will not hold talks for the second phase of the ceasefire because Israel is preparing to wage a war once again in Gaza after getting its hostages released from Hamas. For this, the US has sent them military equipment worth three billion dollars.



National

Uproar over Yogi Adityanath's comment on Urdu



Inquilab (February 19) states that the Opposition members in Uttar Pradesh Assembly have demanded translation of the proceedings of the Assembly should be done in Urdu as well along with Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Braj and Bundeli. A heated exchange took place over this in the house. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described Urdu as a language of fundamentalists. The newspaper expressed surprise that Chief Minister Yogi, who opposes Urdu, has used Urdu to attack the Opposition. Yogi said in the Assembly, "Bada haseen hai inki zuban ka jaadu, lagakar ke aag baharon ki baat karte hain; jinhone raat mein chun-chun ke bastivon ko loota, wahi naseebon ke maaron ki baat karte hain"

During the budget session, the chief minister targeted all opposition parties, especially the Samajwadi Party. Yogi said that Hindi is the language of this house and it has not been removed, but legislators have also been given permission to speak in Bhojpuri, Braj, Awadhi and Bundeli. This has not been imposed on anyone, but it is a facility. The script of all these languages is Devanagiri, which is recognised in the Constitution.

Inquilab (February 19) states that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath targeted Samajwadi Party on the pretext of Urdu and Muslims. The members of Samajwadi Party alleged that Yogi government is promoting English and crushing the Urdu language. Replying to it, Chief Minister Yogi said that the dual character of Samajwadi Party is well-known. It wants to take the country towards fundamentalism and wants to make children maulavis. This is not acceptable. Samajwadi Party MLA Mohammad Ziauddin Rizvi asked the chief minister that when Hindi and Urdu are like sister languages, then why a step-motherly treatment is given to one language? This is when Urdu has been given the status of a second language in Uttar Pradesh. He said that the chief minister and the people of his party use Urdu in their speeches. When the question of promoting Urdu comes, the mentality of the government changes. Rizvi said the government is also against Muslims along with Urdu. Another legislator of Samajwadi Party, Kamal Akhtar, has also objected to the statement of Yogi.

Inquilab (February 26) states that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, said our government does not want Muslim children to be limited to religious education. Instead of making them Mullah and Maulavi, we want to make them doctor, engineer, scientist and litterateur. Mentioning about

former President APJ Abdul Kalam, he said that until Muslim children get science education, the development of the country and the society will remain incomplete. Yogi said that arrangements have been made in schools for free education. Their modernisation is being carried out. For this, the double engine government is providing money, but

the culture of fundamentalism will not work. The double engine government is committed to provide modern education to all children without any discrimination. Our government does not want the Muslim children to be limited to the religious education being provided in madrasas, instead our effort is to ensure that they receive modern education and become a useful citizen to the society. Those people who want their children to be given only religious education are free to do so, but to become a good litterateur, good scientist, good mathematician and good doctor, it is necessary to get modern education as well.

Urdu Times (February 19) states that the BJP government in Rajasthan has directed that Sanskrit shall be taught as the third language instead of Urdu in some government schools in the state. In those government schools where there are no students to learn Urdu, Sanskrit will now be taught there. This order will be implemented from April 2025. Rajasthan's Home Minister Jawahar Singh Bedam said that several Urdu teachers have obtained jobs in the state on the basis of fake degrees. He said that the then Congress government has deliberately promoted Urdu in place of Sanskrit, which has been set right now.

Siasat (February 18) states that Congress legislator Rafiq Khan has decided to question this directive of the Rajasthan government in the court.

Etemaad (February 19) has condemned the campaign been unleashed against Urdu in Rajasthan. Chairman of Rajasthan Urdu Teachers Organisation Ameen Kayamkhani said that the home minister of the state is making fake charges



against Urdu teachers in order to defame Muslims and Urdu. He has unleashed this campaign in order to amass the votes of the majority community.

Hindustan Express (February 19) in its editorial has criticised the statement of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The newspaper said that it has become clear from this that Yogi has hatred towards Urdu and Muslims. His statement is against the sentiments of Indian Constitution where the minorities have been given the freedom to learn the language of their choice.

Hindustan (February 22) in its editorial said the BJP is hell bent on destroying Urdu just like Muslims. The surprising thing is that despite many efforts to erase Urdu, it is not disappearing. Those who claim to erase Urdu also deliver their speeches in Urdu.

Etemaad (February 23) said the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh is quite infamous for his hateful attitude towards Muslims. Now he has brought Urdu also on his target. The intriguing thing is that the man who wears saffron clothes is also openly promoting hatred. However, last week, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had announced that arrangements have been made for the translation of the proceedings of Lok Sabha in Urdu as well.

Urdu Times (February 24) in its editorial said that Yogi Adityanath is trying to wipe out Urdu in Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, Marathi is being wiped out in Maharashtra. Marathi schools are being closed and Marathi children are enrolling in English medium schools instead of learning Marathi.

The same newspaper in its editorial on February 20 said that communal



elements have even labelled religious tag on a language. However, there were several non-Muslim litterateurs like Munshi Premchand, Krishan Chander, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Pandit Braj Narayan Chakabast and Raghupati Sahay without whom the Urdu literature would have been incomplete.

Urdu Times (February 23) in its editorial expressed satisfaction that the Hindus are opposing Yogi's communal statement more than the Muslims.

Muslims are not speaking too much on this issue because they do not want to increase communal hatred. Yogi does not even know how great the Urdu language and its literature are. He should have at least had a glance on his own Gorakhpur, which had given birth to great poets of Urdu language like Firaq Gorakhpuri.

Munsif (March 1) said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath keeps giving



evidence of his mental bankruptcy by fanning the flames of communalism on one pretext or another. Had Yogi Adityanath studied the history of at least his own Gorakhpur, he would have known that what is the contribution of Urdu in the history of Uttar Pradesh. In fact, Yogi Adityanath's thinking is poisonous and he is spewing venom against Muslims in the name of Urdu.

Decision to double the trade between Bharat and Qatar



Etemaad (February 19) states that India and Qatar have set a target to double its bilateral trade by 2030. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani have signed on two agreements in this connection. Apart from this, both the

countries have also agreed on strategic cooperation and contribute to the protection of antiquities. The two countries also emphasised on increasing mutual cooperation in sports and youth affairs. Following this agreement, India's Foreign Secretary Arun Kumar Chatterjee told

correspondents that we are keen on improving the cooperation in the fields of trade, energy and security. He said currently an annual trade worth 14 billion dollars is taking place between the two countries. A decision has been taken to double this trade in the next five years. The Qatar Emir was invited for dinner at Rashtrapati Bhawan. On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu talked about the centuries-old relationship between Bharat and Qatar.

Hindustan Express (February 19) states that in the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar Emir Al Thani at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi, talks were held on regional and international issues including the Hamas-Israel dispute and the Afghanistan issue. The two countries decided to improve mutual cooperation in basic infrastructure, ports, aircraft manufacturing and in food sectors. A high-level delegation had also arrived in India along with the Qatar Emir. This delegation held talks on improving the trade. During the talks, it was agreed that Qatar Investment Authority will increase investments in Bharat. The trade and industries ministers of the two countries also inaugurated a joint trade platform. On this occasion, industrialists and other institutions of the two countries agreed to improve the trade. The Foreign Secretary said that India is holding high-level talks with Gulf countries over free trade agreement.

Siasat (February 21) has said in its editorial that the visit of Qatar Emir has



been a milestone in the relationship between the two countries. This will start a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. Currently, nearly eight lakh Indian citizens are staying in Qatar. These citizens are functioning as a bridge between the two countries. The newspaper said that maintaining strong relations with a developing country like Bharat will create new areas of growth for Qatar.

Avadhnama (February 19) in its special article threw light on the relations between India and Oatar. The newspaper said that India's Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar had visited Qatar in 2022. Whereas External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar visited Qatar in 2024. This apart, recently Minister of State for External Affairs Keerti Vardhan Singh, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also visited Qatar. Currently, 19 Indian schools and an Indian University are being run in Qatar. On the occasion of Yoga Day, special functions are organised there. Over 3,000 people are getting trained in the yoga centres opened there.

Union cabinet nod for Waqf Bill

Hindustan Express (February 28) states that the Union cabinet has given its nod to Waqf (Amendment) Bill. Now, it will be presented in the next session of the Parliament. It is to be noted that Opposition parties and Muslim organisations are opposing the Bill, whereas the government claims that the present Waqf law is being amended so that the Waqf properties are protected, and they could be freed from

illegal encroachment and the income generated from them could be utilised for the uplift of poor Muslims. Earlier, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) had submitted its report in the Parliament on February 13. Now, a new draft of the Bill has been prepared on the basis of this report, which the cabinet has approved. Once the Lok Sabha passes the Bill, it will be send to Rajya Sabha. In this bill,



emphasis has been laid on bringing transparency in Waqf property and removing anomalies.

Apart from this, the responsibilities of the State Waqf Boards have also been clarified in this bill. According to official sources, the government wants to turn it into a law as early as possible so that the Waqf properties could be freed from mafia and these could be used for the development and welfare of Muslim community.

Chairman of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani alleged that the government wants to usurp the Waqf properties of Muslims under the guise of this law. The Muslims in the country will oppose this conspiracy with their full strength. Chairman of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Arshad Madani said that if this Bill is passed in the Parliament, a public awareness campaign will be launched and the Supreme Court will be approached.

Aurangabad Times (March 2) states that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has announced to hold a protest against Waqf (Amendment) Bill at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Spokesperson of the board, Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, said that All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Opposition parties and all other Muslim organisations had stated before JPC that the aim of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill prepared by the government is to usurp the Waqf properties of Muslims and destroy them. This is a dirty conspiracy by the ruling gang, hence it should be withdrawn. However, despite this demand by Muslims,

the government did not pay heed to it and now the Union cabinet has also given its approval. In such a situation, it is necessary that we come out on the streets against this dictatorial stand of the government. Ilyas said that in this connection, protests will be held in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and Patna in Bihar. This apart, the ruling parties in both these states will be

requested that while adhering to their secular principles, they should put pressure on the Modi government not to present this anti-Muslim bill in the Parliament and take it back.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 3) said in its editorial that the government is hell-bent on grabbing Muslim Waqf. The interesting thing is that the non-BJP parties which are part of the NDA are also supporting this bill through backdoor. The question that arises here is whether these parties will support the Bill in the Parliament as well or change their stand after seeing the demand of Muslims? The newspaper said that the Opposition parties, Muslim organisations and members of civil society are opposing this proposed Bill.

Hindustan (March 3) in its editorial alleged that earlier the Central government had rubbed salts on the wounds of Muslims by making unconstitutional interventions on the issues of Babri Masjd and triple talaq. The anti-Muslim BJP took its advantage by widening the internal differences among Indian Muslims and launched a campaign to end the separate identity of Muslims. In the Babri Masjid issue, the Muslim Personal Law Board and the religious leaders of Muslims had surrendered themselves by declaring that the Muslims will accept whatever verdict is given by the court. BJP cunningly used the power of the country's highest court and got a decision in favour of Ram Mandir. It is strange that the court did injustice to Muslims, but no Muslim organisation opposed the verdict. Due to this, the morale



of the anti-Muslim Sangh Parivar got a boost and they started implementing anti-Muslim decisions.

The newspaper said that now the Modi government at the Centre is interfering in the Waqf law and is conspiring to deprive Muslims of the Waqf property. The Opposition had opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament. Due to this, the government was forced to constitute the

Joint Parliamentary Committee, but the Muslim Personal Law Board remained a mute spectator and the government took full advantage of it. There was chaos in the meeting of JPC and it even led to fighting between the ruling party and the opposition. JPC chairman Jagadambika Pal, while displaying communalism, rejected all amendments proposed by the Opposition. The newspaper said that the government needs to understand that this opposition was not just for opposing it, but it is a protest against the interference in Islamic Shariah. Muslims will never tolerate interference in their Shariah law.

Aurangabad Times (February 28) states that amid the increasing opposition to the Waqf Bill, the Rajasthan High Court has said in a verdict that the masjid comes under the definition of Waqf and to resolve the controversies regarding it can be done only by the Waqf tribunal. The high court in its verdict has recognised the principle of 'Waqf by user' which has been tried to be scrapped the proposed Waqf in (Amendment) Bill. In its verdict, the high court said that the construction of the mosque comes under the Waqf law and it has been recognised in the Constitution, and hence only the Waqf tribunal has the right to take a decision on it. According to



the newspaper, a court in Phalodi district in Rajasthan had directed that this immovable property was not registered in the Waqf register as a Waqf property and hence the court has the right to conduct hearing on it. The high court, while cancelling this verdict of the lower court, said that the masjid is a place meant to be used for religious purposes, and hence any case regarding the same shall be resolved through the Waqf tribunal.

It is worth mentioning that on February 20, a single bench of Justice Virendra Kumar of Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur had delivered its verdict in connection with a case related to the Madina Jama Masjid located in Kalra village in Phalodi district. This masjid was built with the cooperation of Muslims in the village. A dispute has been going on between two groups regarding the ownership of the masjid. Now the high court, while citing Section 85 (restrictions on the jurisdictions of civil courts) of the Waqf Act, cancelled the verdict of the lower court. In its verdict, the high court said that no civil court, revenue court or any other authority can hear any case regarding Waqf or Waqf properties. Such a case should be determined by the tribunal established under the 1995 Act.

Campaign to change names in Delhi

Inquilab (February 28) states that as soon as BJP seized power in Delhi, it has started a campaign to change the centuries-old Muslim names. In the first session of the Delhi Assembly, a demand has been made

to change at least three places in Delhi. BJP legislator from Najafgarh Neelam Pahalwan has moved a resolution seeking to change the name of Najafgarh. She demanded that Najafgarh's name shall be

changed to Nahargarh. Whereas BJP legislator from R K Puram, Anil Sharma, demanded that Mohammadpur village's name shall be changed into Earlier. **BJP** Madhavpuram. legislator from Mustafabad, Mohan Singh Bisht, had also demanded to change the name of Mustafabad. He had said that Mustafabad's name shall be changed to Shivpuri or Shiv Vihar. He said that only 42% people are in favour of the name Mustafabad. Whereas

people are in favour of changing its name.

Demanding to change the name of Najafgarh, Neelam Pahalwan said that when Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II captured Najafgarh, the local residents had strongly resisted it, but he forcibly made Najaf Khan as the governor of the region. She said that the commander of Shah Alam, Najaf Khan, was a resident of Iran, hence he made a border outpost there and he named the region after him so that the attackers could be stopped from entering the capital. She said that Raja Nahar Singh had taken part in the independence struggle in 1857 and hence it should be named as Nahargarh.

Etemaad (March 1) in its editorial has criticised the demand to change the names of three places in Delhi. The newspaper alleged that wherever the BJP comes to power, it starts the politics of changing the old names. President of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee Devendra Yadav, while reacting to the politics of



changing the names, said that instead of tabling the CAG report on the liquor scam in the Assembly and holding a discussion on the same, the BJP legislators are trying to push their religious agenda. While criticising newly formed the government, he said the BJP has not taken any step during the Assembly session to fulfil the promises given to the people during the elections. Devendra Yadav asked whether the issue of changing names is raked up to cover up the misdeeds of BJP's B-team Aam Admi Party?

The newspaper alleged that it is an old policy of the BJP to change the names given after Muslim rulers and totally ignore the contributions of Muslims in the history of the country. It is a fact that there has been no change in the lives of the people of the areas whose names have been changed. Bharat is a multi-cultural country. Its history is linked to different religions, cultures and different castes. The BJP wants to finish this multi-culture.

Action against fake madrasas in Uttar Pradesh

Siasat (February 17) states that 219 madrasas were found to be fake in Azamgarh district in Uttar Pradesh. District superintendent of police, Chirag Jain, said so far cases have been registered against 79 madrasas, and investigations are being held into the rest of the madrasas. He said that in 2022, a complaint was received that

thousands of fake madrasas in Uttar Pradesh are taking grants worth crores of rupees after deceiving the government. Following this exposure, the government constituted an SIT to identify the fake madrasas in the state. Investigations are being conducted into the madrasas in the districts on the basis of the report of the



SIT. The highest number of 11 cases were registered in Phulpur police station. These madrasas existed only on paper and its managers were getting grants from the government in a fraudulent manner.

Urdu Times (February 3) states that the minorities welfare officer of Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh wrote a letter to the state government recommending that the recognition of 90 madrasas shall be cancelled. District minorities welfare officer Sanjay Mishra said we received the complaint that the managers of several fake madrasas in Bahraich district are taking grants worth crores of rupees by deceiving the government. On this, the government had started an investigation into these madrasas and had sought records from them. Mishra said that currently 301 recognised madrasas are operating in Bahraich. Out of them, 90 madrasas have not submitted their records to the government, hence a decision has been taken to cancel their recognition and legal action is being taken to register cases against the accused.

Inquilab (February 27) states that now the Uttar Pradesh government will have to give government grant to Madrasa Faizanul Uloom located in Machlishahar in Jaunpur district due to the directions of the court. In the wake of this verdict, the Uttar Pradesh government will have to give grant to all those madrasas which the state government had refused to give money. After the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh, the future of the madrasas in state

has been in trouble. During Mayawati's regime, the government had decided that the newly established 246 madrasas should get government grants. The Mayawati government had started the initiative to provide grants to 100 madrasas. Later, the Samajwadi Party decided to give grants to 100 more madrasas. After the Yogi government came to power, the government had refused to give grants to these madrasas.

The managers of the madrasa located in Machlishahar filed a petition in the high court against this decision of the government. On February 5, 2020, the court had directed the government to provide grant to the madrasas. The government had filed a review petition against this verdict of the court which the high court had rejected on December 19, 2024. Following this, the government questioned the verdict in the Supreme Court but the apex court did not provide any relief to the government. Due to this, in the recent meeting of the cabinet, the government was forced to take a decision to extend grant to the madrasas. The manager of this madrasa Mohammad Ali Akhtar told correspondents that they were approaching various courts since 2015, but the minorities department of Uttar Pradesh and the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board had been creating one hurdle or the other against giving the grants. Now, due to this decision of the Supreme Court, the government will have to provide government grants to 246 madrasas.



World

Suicide attack on Taliban's madrasa in Pakistan



Avadhnama (March 1) reports that as soon as the holy month of Ramzan started, a suicide attack took place at Madrasa Darul Uloom Haggania located at Akora Khattak Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Sixteen namazis including the chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S) Maulana Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani were killed in the blast. The son of Hamid Ul Haq was also killed in the attack. Later, Maulana Hamid Ul Haq and his son were buried near the grave of the founder of Taliban and Hamid Ul Haq's father, Maulana Sami Ul Haq. It is to be noted that after the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, nearly 50 lakh refugees had fled from the country and reached Pakistan. In order to provide them military training, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S) was formed at the behest of the US intelligence agency CIA. Inspector General of Police of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfikar Hamid, confirmed that it was a terrorist attack and the attacker targeted Maulana Hamid Ul Haq in a well-planned manner when he was offering namaz at the masjid located in the madrasa.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has described the killing of namazis at Darul Uloom Haqqania as a heinous act. He said the terrorists who made innocent namazis the target of their attack during the holy month of Ramzan are enemies of Islam, society, Pakistan and humanity.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack. He directed the security agencies of the country to trace those who conspired for the attack. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur called an emergency meeting of the cabinet to review the situation following the attack. The heads of different intelligence agencies of Pakistan were called for this meeting.

Jung (March 2) states that a senior official of investigating agency said that a palm of the attacker was recovered from the spot. The palm has been sent to the laboratory for examination. Its scientific investigation will reveal who the attacker was and where he was from.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 1) states that Maulana Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani was born in Akora Khattak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on May 26, 1968. He was a member of Pakistan's National Assembly during 2002-2007. In 2018, his father Sami Ul Haq was killed in a terrorist attack. Following this, Hamid Ul Haq was made the chief of Darul Uloom Haqqania and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S).

Etemaad (March 1) states that the number of those who were killed is likely to go up because the condition of many were stated to be serious. Deputy Commissioner of Nowshera, Irfan Ullah Mehsud, said it was found from the CCTV

camera in the masjid that the attacker entered the masjid on the pretext of offering namaz. He said that following the attack, an emergency has been declared in the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Muslims across the country were urged to donate blood in as many numbers as possible to save the lives of the injured.

Jung (March 1) states that after the attack that took place on Madrasa Darul Uloom Haggania,

raids were conducted in 162 places across the country in search of terrorists. The raids were conducted in Lahore, Faisalabad, Khanewal, Bahawalnagar, Rawalpindi, Chiniot, Mianwali, Sahiwal, Sheikhupura, Bahawalpur and Hafizabad. Spokesperson of anti-terrorism department said that terrorists are preparing to carry out serial bomb blasts in entire Pakistan at the behest of a neighbouring country. According to Geo TV, the Pakistan government has stepped up security arrangements in all



masjids and imambaras in the country on the occasion of Ramzan. Over 75,000 security personnel have been deployed in masjids and imambaras across the country. Inspector General of Police of Punjab Usman Anwar said that 5,000 security personnel have been deployed for the security of masjids, imambaras and markets in Lahore. CCTV cameras have been installed in Lahore so that a close watch could be kept on the activities of the terrorists.

Bangladesh begins direct trade with Pakistan



Qaumi Tanzeen (February 24) states that for the first time since 1971, the Bangladesh government has started direct trade with Pakistan. The food ministry of Bangladesh has confirmed that next month Bangladesh will be purchasing 50,000 tonnes of rice from Pakistan. It is to be

noted that after the end of the Sheikh Hasina government, a rapid improvement has been taking place in the relations between Bangladesh Pakistan. The head of the caretaker government Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, held talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif twice. This apart, the top military officials of both the countries also paid a visit to the other country. Spokesperson of Bangladesh government Amena Mohsin told Arab News that we now improving

relationship with Pakistan following the strain in the relationship with Bharat. Amena said there is a shortage of food grains in Bangladesh these days. In order to overcome this, we have decided to purchase rice, wheat and other food items from Pakistan. We are trying to ensure that the trade relationship between the two countries improve, so that it will help curb inflation in Bangladesh.

Inquilab (February 26) reports that the Army has arrested more than 8,000 people under 'Operation Devil Hunt' in Bangladesh. It is claimed that majority of those who were arrested belong to Sheikh Hasina's party Bangladesh Awami League. However, the government sources said that the arrest campaign has been carried out to curb rising crimes.

Home Minister of Bangladesh Jahangir Alam Chowdhury claimed that for the past few months there has been a huge increase in dacoity incidents and hence a nationwide campaign has been launched against antigovernment elements and troublemakers. Under this drive, more than 8,600 people have been arrested in the past two weeks. Chowdhury said that this campaign will continue.

Siasat (February 20) states that former prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, while delivering an online speech, said she will soon return to Bangladesh and will take revenge on those who harass the citizens. Sheikh Hasina was talking to the widows of the police officials who were killed during the students' agitation in July last year. She said that efforts were made to remove me from power at the behest of foreigners and hence I had to leave Bangladesh and arrive in Bharat. I did not want to shed the blood of my countrymen. She alleged that the new government has given a free hand to rioters to spread anarchy in the country. Hasina said she will return and give justice to everyone. She alleged that the anarchist elements attacked 450 police stations in Bangladesh at the behest of foreigners and



set fire to them. The hands of Muhammad Yunus were behind this entire conspiracy. Hasina said she would come back to power again and will register cases against Muhammad Yunus and other anarchist elements. Commenting on this threat by her, the home minister of Bangladesh said our priority is to bring Sheikh Hasina from Bharat and register cases against her in the court.

Sahafat (February 25) reports that a prominent student leader, Nahid Islam, who played a significant role in ousting the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh last year, has submitted his resignation from the Muhammad Yunus cabinet and announced his intention to launch his new party. He said he will be the coordinator of the new political party. Head of the caretaker government, Muhammad Yunus, said elections will be held in Bangladesh under the new Constitution. The committee that has been constituted to amend the Constitution has not submitted recommendations to the government as yet. Only after getting the recommendations that the Constitution of the country will be amended. Following it, elections will be held in the country either towards the end of this year or early next year.

Seven Punjabis forced out of bus and killed in Balochistan

Qaumi Bharat (February 20) states that a few unidentified gunmen in Balochistan in Pakistan stopped a bus on its way from Quetta to Lahore and shot dead seven

Punjabi passengers travelling in them. The incident took place in Barkhan district. This region bordering Iran and Afghanistan has become a battlefield between Baloch

rebels and Pakistani Army for the past 10 years. Deputy Commissioner of Quetta, Waqar Khurshid Alam, said a group of armed assailants stopped a bus travelling on the road and started checking the identity cards of those travelling in it. Later, the assailants lined up seven Punjabi passengers and shot them dead. Inspector General of Police in

Balochistan said the entire area has been cordoned off, but the attackers fled from the spot. A few days earlier, assailants of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) attacked a vehicle carrying coal mine workers and killed 11 labourers. Six persons were also injured. The Inspector General of Police told correspondents that the Baloch rebels are targeting police stations, military outposts and ordinary passengers. A spokesperson of BLA admitted that the men who carried out the attack belonged to BLA.

Sahafat (February 16) states that the public relations department of Pakistani Army said the Army raided a camp of terrorists in Hathala region in Dera Ismail Khan district on the basis of an intelligence tip-off. Nine terrorists were killed in this action, whereas the second operation was carried out in North Waziristan. Eight terrorists were killed in this action. Six soldiers of Pakistan Army were also killed in these clashes.

Urdu Times (February 25) states that three terrorists were killed in an hourlong exchange of fire between two armed groups and Pakistani security forces who were trying to block the Quetta-Sibi highway in Bolan region in Balochistan. Police chief of Sibi said since the terrorists blocked the Quetta-Sibi highway, a large



number of vehicles which were returning to Quetta from Sibi after a three-day religious conference got stuck. Following this, the terrorists started checking the passengers and some people were taken hostage. The terrorists also stopped the vehicle of the legislator of Pakistan People's Party Mir Liaqat Ali Lehari and snatched weapons from his security personnel. When the administration got wind of this, the army was send to free the hostages. Three terrorists were killed in the firing that took place between the two sides for nearly an hour. Whereas the rest of the terrorists fled from the spot. The Army freed the hostages.

Hindustan (February 24) states that Baloch organisation Baloch Yakjehiti Committee announced that protest marches will be held in the entire state against the persecution of ordinary people Balochistan by the Pakistan Spokesperson of the committee alleged that the Pakistani Army is selectively picking up Baloch youths and shooting them dead. The spokesperson said that hundreds of people have been arrested and detained in unidentified locations and later their bodies are thrown on the streets. The Baloch women even held a dharna outside the Karachi Press Club against the persecution of Pakistani Army.

Expulsion of Afghanis from Pakistan

Sahafat (February 17) states that the Pakistan government is preparing to expel 30,000 Afghan citizens and send them back to Afghanistan. The government has directed the security agencies to examine

the documents of all Afghan citizens staying in Pakistan. For this, the army, police, frontier force and intelligence wing have been directed to launch a joint campaign. The Pakistan government claims



that currently more than 30 lakh Afghan citizens are illegally staying in Pakistan. Given the poor state of Pakistan's economy, it is not possible for the government to bear the burden of so many refugees.

It is worth mentioning that the Pakistan government had launched a campaign to expel illegal infiltrators from the country four months ago as well. As

part of this campaign, four lakh Afghanis have been sent back to Afghanistan. The Afghanistan government has alleged that the Pakistan government is targeting Afghan citizens as a retaliatory measure. Majority of those citizens of Afghan origin who have been pushed into Afghanistan border from Pakistan were born in Pakistan itself and they are the legitimate citizens of Pakistan. It is to be noted that earlier the Iran government had also expelled four lakh Afghan citizens from the country after declaring them as infiltrators. According to the newspaper, following the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, more than 50 lakh Afghan citizens left for Pakistan in order to save their lives. Since then they have been staying in Pakistan. The Pakistan government allege that the Afghan citizens staying in Pakistan are involved in terrorist activities and smuggling etc. Initially, the US and other foreign agencies used to give weapons and financial aid to Pakistan government in order to give military training to these Afghan refugees. Later the US stopped giving this help. For several decades, a border dispute has been going on between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan claims that the Afghan government had given recognition to the 'Durant Line' between the two nations during the British period, whereas, the Afghan government claims that the Afghanistan has never granted recognition to Durant Line as the border line. This was forced on Afghanistan by the British. The Afghan government claims that their



country has been facing an economic crisis earlier itself. In such a situation it would not be possible for it to bear the financial costs of Afghan origin people who have been forcibly sent from Pakistan. Recently, the Trump administration has stopped the financial aid being provided to Afghanistan. This has further deteriorated the situation in Afghanistan.

Inquilab (February 17) states that the deputy spokesperson of Afghan foreign ministry, Hafiz Zia Ahmad, said that between 8,000 and 9,000 Afghan citizens are lodged in different jails in African countries. The Afghanistan government is trying to free them from these jails and bring them back to the country.

Chattan (February 26) reports that the US had granted permission to nearly 2 lakh Afghan citizens to stay in the country. Now, since President Donald Trump has come back to power, this issue has landed in trouble. It is worth mentioning that when the US military left Afghanistan, the then US administration had announced that those Afghan citizens who cooperating with the US would be granted the citizenship of the US. Under this policy, more than 5 lakh Afghan citizens who are residing in the US have been waiting for the US citizenship, but due to the change in the policy of the Trump administration, their future has become uncertain. As per the latest information, on the directions of the US President, the Afghan rehabilitation wing in the US has been shut down.



Urdu Times (February 22) states that Afghanistan is among those eight countries in the world whose economy is dependent on US aid till today. As per a Centre for Global report of the Development, nearly 35% of foreign financial aid is provided to Afghanistan through the US International Development Agency (USAID). Due to the blockage of this aid, Afghanistan is likely to suffer a seven percent economic loss.

As per a report of this agency, the US has provided more than three billion dollars of financial aid to Afghanistan in the past three years. In 2021, nearly 9.5 billion dollars of Afghan government was

deposited with the US, which the US has frozen after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan. As per the report of the United Nations, there has been a decrease of 11 percent in the value of Afghan currency vis-à-vis US dollar. This apart, the United Nations also made a 17 percent cut in the financial aid being provided to Afghanistan. Due to this, in the past two months, the value of one US dollar increased from being 64 Afghani to 71 Afghani. As per the data of the United Nations, currently the unemployment rate in Afghanistan has reached 39.14 percent. There is possibility of the situation in Afghanistan deteriorating further.

Ban likely on entry of Muslims to the US



Urdu Times (February 19) states that a Bill has been presented in the US Congress. This bill will prevent the President from imposing travel ban on the basis of religion. This Bill was presented by Democratic Party MP Judy Chu. If this Bill becomes a law, it would prevent the President from imposing travel restrictions based on religion and will strengthen the Immigration and Nationality Act. It is to be noted that US President Donald Trump has been aggressive towards immigrants right from the beginning of his second term. The law enforcement agencies have carried out

raids on a largescale in the entire US and many people were caught. Thousands of people were also expelled from the US.

Another Opposition Senator Chris Coons said that during the first term of Trump, a ban had been imposed on the entry of Muslims to the US. Due to this, the US got a bad name in the world. Despite this, there has been no change in the stand of Trump and

once again as soon as he came to power, he started strictly implementing the immigration law. This is not in tune with the secular principles of the US. It is worth mentioning that as soon as Trump took oath, he issued an order that the flaws in the immigration law of the US should be reviewed and it should be amended so that infiltration of foreigners to the US could be strictly curbed. The newspaper claimed that seeing the growing sentiment against Islam in America at the moment, Trump can make Muslims his target.



West Asia

Saudi government announces roza iftar to 10 lakh people



Hindustan Express (February 21) reports that the Saudi Arab government has announced to provide iftar to more than 10 lakh people who fast in the month of Ramzan. Saudi Arabia's minister for Islamic affairs, Abdul Latif Al-Sheikh announced that the Saudi government will provide financial aid to poor Muslims of 61 countries in the holy month of Ramzan. In this connection, money has been sent to the embassies located in these countries.

Hindustan Express (February 21) states that the Saudi government has announced to make special arrangements to those who arrive for Umrah during the Ramzan month. A committee has been constituted for this purpose. Deputy governor of Mecca, Prince Mishal bin Abdul Aziz, has been made the chairman of this committee. This year, 50-70 lakh people are expected to arrive in Saudi Arabia to do Umrah. Special arrangements for cleanliness, treatment and namaz are being made for them. More than 200 health centres have been opened for those who arrive for Umrah and arrangements have been made for nearly 250 ambulances. The Saudi government has decided not to allow any beggar to enter Saudi Arabia during the Umrah. For this, the entire border with neighbouring countries has been sealed. The police have been directed to start a campaign against beggars across the country. According to Saudi media, on the occasion of Ramzan, in order to earn big money from those who arrive for Umrah, a large number of beggars from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Yemen and other Muslim countries arrive in Saudi Arabia. This often results in a number of problems. The government has imposed a ban on issuing tourist and trade visa during Ramzan so that there shall not be any problem for those who arrive to offer Umrah.

Hindustan (March 1) states that the Israel government has imposed a ban on Palestinians from entering Masjid Al Aqsa during Ramzan. Only men aged above 55 years and women aged 50 years will be given permission to enter the masjid premises in order to offer namaz. In order to maintain peace in Jerusalem, more than 10,000 police personnel have been deployed so that no violent incident takes place. Jews will be given permission to enter Masjid Al-Aqsa premises, but they will not be allowed worship there. They will be allowed worship only outside the masjid. It is to be noted that nearly 2,000



years ago, the Romans had destroyed the holy temple of Jews (termed later as Haikal-e-Sulaimani by Muslims). Later the Muslims constructed Masjid Al-Aqsa on the same place and the Jews were banned from entering it. An official spokesperson

of Israel said that under the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, those Palestinian prisoners who were released from Israeli jails will also not be allowed to enter Masjid Al-Aqsa. Those who want to enter Masjid Al-Aqsa and offer namaz will have to take special permission from the government.

Inquilab (March 2) states that despite Israeli ban, thousands of Palestinians offered the first

namaz on the occasion of Ramzan-e-Mubarak outside Masjid Al-Aqsa. The Israeli Army did not allow them to enter the masjid, hence they offered namaz outside the mosque.

Hassan Nasrallah buried after five months



Urdu Times (February 24) states that Israel had bombed a building in south Beirut on September 27, 2024 and killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. Nearly 85 tonnes of explosives were used to carry out the attack on him. Later, the successor of Hassan Nasrallah, Hashem Safieddine, was also killed in another Israeli attack. Hezbollah was scared that Israel would strike at the dead bodies of these two Hezbollah leaders, hence the bodies of these two leaders were temporarily buried in an unidentified place in Lebanon. Now, after the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah, Nasrallah and Safieddine have been officially buried. Lakhs of people took part in the funeral ceremony that took place at *Camille Chamoun* Sports City Stadium in Beirut.

Israel's Defence Minister confirmed that Israel's military planes were hovering above Beirut in order to stop any kind of violent activities. He said they want to deliver a clear message that whoever threatens to destroy Israel or carry out attack on our land, they will be eliminated under any situation and no attacker will be spared.

Avadhnama (February 25) states that Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian said, "the martyrdom of the leaders of Hezbollah is for the progress of Islam. We will keep fighting till our last breath for the rights of Palestinians. Those who think they could break the back of the Palestinians' struggle by killing the commanders of Hezbollah are living in an imaginary world. Hezbollah is not only alive; it has emerged stronger compared to the past. As long as aggressor Israel exists, our fight will continue."

As per another news, Hezbollah's chief Sheikh Naim Qassem said, "Hassan Nasrallah has attained martyrdom for Islam. We will keep the fight for that goal until the last moment, for which Nasrallah

and Safieddine sacrificed their lives. We will not allow the conspiracies of Israel and the US to succeed under any circumstance." Naim Qassem appealed to Arab nations to stand with Muslims in the struggle by Palestinians.

Avadhnama (February 24) states that the secretary of Yemen's Supreme Political Council Yasir Al-Hawari said that the "two leaders of Hezbollah were martyred in the path of Islam and God. Their martyrdom has brought about an awakening in the Millat-e-Islamia. Muslims across the world understood who their enemies are. It is the duty of every Muslim to join the Jihad-e-Islamia and wipe out the enemies of Islam. We will fight against Israel till the last man of ours

is standing." Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in his message that, "Let our enemies know that we are not afraid of sacrifices. We will continue to fight until Israel's aggression and illegal occupation is ended."

Etemaad (February 24) states that Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi said, "Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine sacrificed their lives to evacuate Israelis from the Palestinian area. Muslims across the world took part in their last rites today. It is proof of the fact that our struggle is alive. Hezbollah is alive and we will rest only after finishing off Israel." Hamas spokesperson Abdul Latif al-Qanou said that "Ummat-e-Islamia will always remember the sacrifices of the martyrs."

Hamas cancels ceasefire talks

Inquilab (March 2) states that the Hamas has announced that it will not take part in the talks for ceasefire agreement in Gaza. It is to be noted that there were three phases for the ceasefire agreement in Gaza signed on January 19, 2025. The first phase was for 42 days, which ended on March 1. The spokesperson of Hamas announced that Hamas will not hold any talks with Israel to

extend the ceasefire agreement in Gaza. Hamas spokesperson Hazem Oasim alleged that in view of the aggressive stance of Israel, Hamas has decided to boycott the second phase of the ceasefire. Qasim alleged that Israel wants to start the war once again in Gaza after the release of their hostages and hence we are not in favour of extending this ceasefire. spokesperson made this announcement during an interview with Al Arabia television channel. He alleged that Israel did not follow the established protocol. He claimed that Hamas had released 33 Israeli hostages in the first phase, out of which 25 were alive and eight were bodies. Whereas,



Israel had released 1,700 Palestinian prisoners and now it has refused to release more than 2,000 Palestinians.

Roznama Sahara (March 2) states that Houthi leader Abdul Malik Al-Houthi has threatened Israel with war. He announced that if any talks are started in Gaza for ceasefire, then we will oppose it. It is to be noted that the first phase of ceasefire has been over. During this time, both Israel and Hamas had released the hostages and prisoners of each other. Following this, all eyes were on the talks for the second phase of the ceasefire. Hamas announced that the talks for the second phase of ceasefire have totally



failed. After this, the danger has arisen that Israel may once again launch an attack on Gaza. The Houthi leader threatened that if Israel starts the war in Gaza once again, we will attack Israel and wipe them out.

On the other hand, the US has signed a new agreement to supply military equipment to Israel. As per the latest news, the US has given its nod to supply ultramodern weapons worth three billion dollars. These weapons include most modern tanks, missile system, bulldozer and other equipment. The US claimed that the equipment have been given to strengthen the security system of Israel. Providing most modern military technology to Israel is an important part of the US foreign policy.

Urdu Times (February 24) states that after Hamas stopped the release of Israeli hostages, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has put on hold the issue of the release of more than 600 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. According to the office of the Israeli Prime Minister, Hamas resorted to political propaganda during the release of prisoners, hence the Israel government halted the release of Palestinian prisoners. Netanyahu clarified that until the hostages are released, the Palestinian prisoners will not be released. Hamas said Israeli obstruction to the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners is a violation of Gaza ceasefire deal. Hamas has said that this has jeopardized the next phase of the agreement. Hamas alleged that Palestinian prisoners are deliberately insulted. Handcuffs are put on their hands and bracelets on their feet and after tying cloth on their eyes, they are threatened not to celebrate their release.

Urdu Times (February 26) states that Hamas said it will not allow Israel to occupy even an inch of land of Palestine. The Palestinian community is prepared to sacrifice everything to protect the country. Hamas said that Israel is violating international laws and it is trying to illegally annex Jerusalem and West

Bank to Israel. This apart, it is involved in erasing the Islamic identity of the religious places of Muslims. The Palestinians are prevented from offering namaz in the masjids on the strength of Israeli weapons.

Urdu Times (February 28) states that Hamas alleged that Israel is not fully implementing the ceasefire agreement that it has signed for Gaza Strip. We are ready for talks for the second phase of the ceasefire, but the Israeli government is not implementing the agreement and creating hurdles in it. The Palestinian children and women lodged in Israeli jails are not being released. The Hamas spokesperson said that it is now the duty of those countries who mediated and got the ceasefire agreement in Gaza to put pressure on Israel and get this agreement implemented. Hamas said that Israel's defence minister has made this fake allegation against Hamas that it is planning to attack Israeli army and Jewish colonies by taking advantage of the ceasefire.

Etemaad (February 18) in its editorial said that the intentions of Israel are not to maintain peace in Gaza. It wants to restart the war on one pretext or the other.

Etemaad (February 27) alleged in its editorial that Israel is trying to make West Bank area a part of the country. Israeli tanks have been deployed in the region with this goal. The newspaper said that the mediating nations should ensure that Israel does not merge these areas with their country, which it had illegally occupied during the 1967 war.



Foreign aid to Hezbollah seized



Roznama Sahara (March 2) states that Lebanon's finance ministry has confirmed that cash worth 2.5 million dollars were seized from a traveller who arrived in Beirut International Airport from Turkiye. The passenger, who has been taken into custody, admitted that he was given the responsibility to handover this money to Hezbollah. The Lebanese government said

that it is the first incident where cash sent from foreign sources to Hezbollah has been seized. So far, Hezbollah has not reacted to this news.

Due to pressure from Israel, the Lebanese government is keeping a close watch at Beirut International Airport and on the passengers who arrive there from abroad. On February 18, Israel's foreign minister had accused

Turkiye of helping Iran to extend financial aid to Hezbollah. The US State department has alleged that Iran is trying to bring Hezbollah back to power in Lebanon. They have sought Turkiye's help in this connection. Following this, Turkiye is helping Iran to extend aid to Hezbollah in a secret manner.

Iran's finance minister sacked



Roznama Sahara (May 3) states that in view of the increasing inflation and the depreciation of Iranian currency in international market, Iran has sacked its finance minister Abdul Nasir Hemmati. According to Iran's government television, the Iranian Parliament has impeached the finance minister and removed him from his post. Out of 273-member Parliament, 182 voted in favour of removing Abdul Nasir.

Official sources confirmed that compared to the US dollar, the value of Iranian currency is depreciating rapidly. As per latest information, the value of one US dollar in international market is 9.3 lakh Iranian Riyals, whereas, the value of one US dollar in 2024 was six lakh Riyals.

The issue of the rapid depreciation of Iranian currency in international market was raised in Iranian Parliament. The

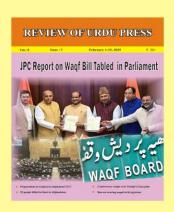


President Masoud Pezeshkian, while supporting the finance minister, said that no single individual can be held guilty for the economic condition of the country, because the economy is linked to the entire country. Pezeshkian had refused to remove his finance minister from his post, whereas the Iranian Parliament alleged that due to the economic policies of the finance minister, the Iranian currency has been rapidly depreciating in international market.

A senior Iranian MP, Ruhollah Motefakar Azad, had said in a joint statement with many other MPs that now the Iranian people are not in a position to tolerate the increasing inflation in the country. Recently, the huge increase in the prices of foodgrains has broken the back of the Iranian people. Another woman MP,

Fatimeh Mohammed Begi, said now the people in our country do not have the money to purchase even medicines, hence they are dying due to lack of treatment. It is to be noted that Masoud Pezeshkian took over as President in July last year. Then he assured that he would revolutionary steps to improve the financial condition of the country, but he had totally failed in keeping this assurance. After he came to power, the value of Irani Riyal steadily declined and the inflation was constantly increasing. President Pezeshkian has failed to improve the condition of Iranian economy, hence the anger of MPs against him is increasing. This was the reason why the impeachment motion moved against finance minister Abdul Nasir in the Iranian Parliament was passed with a huge majority.

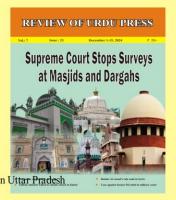
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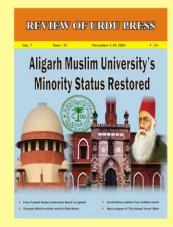




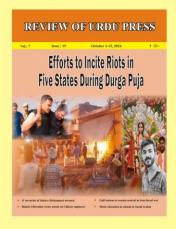














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