

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 8

Issue : 7

April 1-15, 2025

₹ 20/-

Hindus Migrate after Violence in Murshidabad



- Terrorist Tahawwur Rana in NIA custody
- Rebellion against Pakistan's Army chief

- Negotiations between Israel and Hamas cancelled
- 18,000 infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia

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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

Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Hindus migrate after violence in Murshidabad	04
Waqf Amendment Act implemented in the country	07
BJP's public awareness campaign over Waqf Act	11
Terrorist Tahawwur Rana in NIA custody	13
India's private Haj quota cut by 80%	14
Controversy over Baba Ramdev's statement on Sharbat Jihad	16
<u>World</u>	
Rebellion against Pakistan's Army chief	19
Massacre of eight Pakistani labourers in Iran	20
Arrest warrant issued against Sheikh Hasina and her daughter	21
Four get death penalty in Afghanistan	22
Teenager arrested in Singapore for plotting to kill Muslims	23
<u>West Asia</u>	
Negotiations between Israel and Hamas cancelled	24
Campaign to expel Houthi rebels from Yemen	25
Talks between the US and Iran	26
USA cancels visas of 450 Muslim students supporting Palestine	28
18,000 infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia	29

Summary

The Union government has got the much-discussed Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed by both the houses of Parliament. A total of 288 votes were polled in favour of the bill, while 232 votes were cast against it. As soon as the Bill became the law, massive violent protests broke out in some parts of the country. In fact, Murshidabad district in West Bengal became the centre of the riots. Suwendu Adhikari, Opposition leader in West Bengal Assembly, alleged that the ruling Trinamool Congress has been inciting Muslims in the state against Hindus under the guise of Waqf Act. Recently, several Hindu families were targeted in Murshidabad. Huge mob of Muslims brutally killed two innocent Hindus. Several policemen were also seriously injured in this violence. Incidents of looting the properties of Hindus and setting fire to their houses also came to light. Frightened by this, Hindus are migrating towards safer areas.

On the directions of Calcutta High Court, the personnel of Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed in the riot-hit areas. On the other hand, different groups have approached the Supreme Court against the Waqf Act. Meanwhile, the Modi government is launching a nationwide public outreach programme to make people aware of the positive aspects of the new Waqf Act. The main objective of this campaign is to remove the misconceptions that have been spread among the public by the Opposition parties regarding the Waqf Act.

The situation in Pakistan is becoming explosive day-by-day. There has been a competition between different groups among the top leadership of the Pakistan army to enjoy the benefits of power. As per media reports, in a joint letter by Pakistani military officials, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has been asked to immediately resign from his post. These authorities alleged that due to the laxity of the army, the flames of terrorism are flaring up rapidly in Pakistan. In the letter, General Munir has been accused of suppressing political opponents, arresting journalists and crushing democratic forces. The hijacking of Jaffar Express by the Baloch rebels has dealt a severe blow to the image of the Pakistan army. Punjabis are being selectively murdered in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Recently, the Balochi rebels have massacred eight Punjabi labourers in Iran who belonged to Bahawalpur.

The situation in West Asia is also turning explosive day-by-day. The negotiations between Israel and Hamas have been cancelled. This has increased the possibility of war breaking out once again in Gaza. The hopes of improvement in relations between the US and Iran appear to be in jeopardy for the time being. United States President Donald Trump's stance is getting more aggressive towards Iran. The internationally-recognised government in Yemen has indicated to send 80,000 soldiers into the war to crush the Houthi rebels. The US soldiers will also extend help to Yemeni soldiers in this connection. On the other hand, Russia has openly come out in support of Iran.

US President Trump has stepped up the campaign to cancel the visa of foreign Muslim students studying in the US. The US administration is targeting those students who are soft towards Palestine or Hamas and oppose the Israel-friendly policy of the US. The interesting thing is that the administrators of the US universities have opposed this drive of the US administration. Irritated by this, President Trump has stopped the financial aid being given to these universities.



National

Hindus migrate after violence in Murshidabad



Siasat (April 14) states that Opposition leader in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, alleged that largescale violence took place against the Waqf Act at the behest of West Bengal government. At least three persons were killed in Murshidabad so far and several people were injured. In order to save their lives, more than 400 Hindus have fled from the riot-hit Dhulian till now. They were forced to take refuge in Parlalpur High School, Deonapur-Sovapur, Baisnabnagar and Malda due to the fear of Islamic fundamentalists. The newspaper claimed that on the orders of Calcutta High Court, the personnel of Central Armed Police Forces were deployed in riot-hit areas. As soon as the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed by Parliament, violence spread in several regions in West Bengal. The rioters looted Dhulian in Murshidabad, Shamshorganj and Sooti and set fire to government vehicles. The rioters also damaged railway property. Huge mobs of Muslims thrashed to death 71-year-old Hargobind Das and his 40-year-old son Chandan Das. In order to control the situation, 17 companies of Central Armed Police Forces were deployed in riot-hit areas. State's Director General of Police Rajiv Kumar said that 150 rioters have

been arrested so far. An injured boy breathed his last in the hospital. He said that the situation is under control.

Urdu Times (April 13) states that the dead have been identified as Hargobind Das and Chandan Das. The father-son duo was doing the job of making the murtis of Hindu devi-devatas. According to the newspaper, knife marks were found on the bodies of the dead.

Siasat (April 14) states that BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari has sought the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He said the chief minister has failed to control the situation.

Urdu Times (April 12) states that due to stone-pelting by huge mobs, many trains have been suspended in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that she would not allow Waqf Act to be implemented in the state.

Etemaad (April 14) claimed that the situation in riot-hit areas is serious. In order to save their lives, the fear-stricken people crossed Bhagirathi river and took refuge in the nearby Malda district. The local administration has arranged food and accommodation facilities in government schools for those who have fled the area. Several incidents of looting took place in shopping malls in Murshidabad.

Munsif (April 14) states that Trinamool Congress MP from Jangipur Khalilur Rahman claimed that those who indulged in riots in Murshidabad were not local residents. They were brought from outside. They came suddenly as a mob, caused destruction and went back. He said he cannot say who were the rioters and where they came from. It is possible that they were brought from nearby districts Malda and Nadia. As per another news, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has provided a detailed information regarding the latest incident of violence to the Union home ministry.



Aurangabad Times (April 17) states that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while addressing a meeting of imams, said the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh talks about big things. He is the biggest bhogi. Yogi is responsible for the stampede that took place during Mahakumbh. He has established dictatorship in the state and he does not allow people to protest against the government. Talking about the Murshidabad riots, Mamata Banerjee said the riots in Murshidabad were pre-planned and there was involvement of BJP, BSF and Central agencies. These riots were spread by inviting Bangladeshi infiltrators so that Bengalis could be defamed. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee demanded Prime Minister Modi that he should control Amit Shah, because he is throwing the country into the cauldron of riots to fulfil his political agenda. The chief minister has announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those who were killed in Murshidabad violence.

Hindustan (April 6) alleged that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has been adopting dictatorial methods in order to crush the protests of Muslims in the state. As per media reports, a notice was issued at the behest of the administration to 24 people who were protesting by wearing black bands in Muzaffarnagar district. They

were directed to file a bond of Rs 2 lakh each so that people do not muster courage to protest against Waqf Act.

Aurangabad Times (April 14) states that there were reports of violent protests in several areas in Assam. Meanwhile, chief minister of the state Himanta Biswa Sarma said that despite protest marches, the situation is under control.

Urdu Times (April 5) states that Muslims held protests in several places in the country against the Waqf Act. Massive protests were held in Kolkata, Ranchi, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Sambhal. Uttar Pradesh police warned that those who spread disturbances will not be spared.

Etemaad (April 5) states that massive protests took place in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Jharkhand and Maharashtra against the Waqf Act after the Juma namaz. Fierce clashes took place in several places between the police and protesters. Several people were injured in these protests. Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami, West Bengal, Shadab Masoom said the new Waqf Act is a black law. The government is seizing the masjids, madrasas and khankahs under the guise of this Act. We will oppose it till our last breath. In Chennai, the protest marches were organised by Tamil film actor Vijay's party Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK). Massive protests took place in Coimbatore and Thiruchirappalli apart from Chennai. In Ahmedabad, Muslims carried out a massive protest outside the Sidi Saiyed Masjid



located in Lal Darwaza locality in Ahmedabad. The police took several protesters into custody.

Urdu Times (April 8) states that Muslims strongly opposed the Waqf Act in Manipur as well. The protesters set fire to the house of the state president of BJP's minority morcha, Asghar Ali. A scared Asghar Ali, while seeking apology from the Muslims of Manipur, said that I demand the government to immediately cancel the Waqf Act. It is worth mentioning that Manipur has 10% Muslim population.

Hindustan Express (April 14) states that the Tripura police arrested eight persons who protested against the Waqf Act. According to media reports, 18 police personnel and 60 protesters were injured during the clashes that took place during the massive protest held in Agartala. The police registered cases against the protesters on charges of spreading violence and attacking the police outpost.

Hindustan Express (April 14) in its editorial condemned the violence that took place in West Bengal. The newspaper said that two Hindus and one Muslim were killed in this violence. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to stage protests on streets against this Act. A controversy has erupted over this decision of the board. Some people are asking whether All India Muslim Personal Law Board displayed wisdom by taking such a decision. Communal elements will get an opportunity to defame Muslims and create

an atmosphere against them in the name of these protests.

Siasat (April 13) in its editorial said the communal elements got a fresh opportunity to incite the people of the country against the Muslims over the West Bengal incident. Especially when the BJP has launched a political campaign against the Mamata Banerjee government on the pretext of this incident. The violence in Bengal was a

minor incident, but the BJP is presenting it as a big issue across the country in order to reap political benefits out of it. However, earlier during the Ram Navami processions, communal elements were seen roaming around with weapons, taking out rallies and inciting people against Muslims. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced that the Waqf Act will not be implemented in West Bengal and hence the BJP has been running a campaign to defame her government. Now the matter is not limited to West Bengal, but the scope of these protests is spreading across the country. In such a situation, it is necessary that Muslims remain alert so that communal elements do not infiltrate the protests and succeed in giving a violent mode to the agitation. It is necessary for all to remain alert to foil such nefarious intentions.

Hindustan (April 10) in its editorial said the Modi government at the Centre, while rejecting the protests of the Muslims and the suggestions of the Opposition, swiftly passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in both the houses of the Parliament and it has got the nod from the President as well. Along with this, a notification has also been issued implementing the new Waqf Act across the country. It looks like the government is scared over the petitions filed by Muslims across the country in the Supreme Court against this Bill. The Central government filed a caveat and urged the Supreme Court that before issuing any orders in this connection, it

should allow the Central government to present its point. The government has this fear that the Supreme Court will issue a stay order against the implementation of this Act.

The newspaper said Muslims need to understand that the possibility of them getting relief from the court is very low. Apart from Babri Masjid, there are several examples like the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991, before us.

The amendment that has been made in the Waqf Act is against the freedom of religion guaranteed to minorities, especially



Muslims. When Muslims fight a legal battle, they should not overlook their old bitter experiences.

Waqf Amendment Act implemented across the country

The Central government has got the widely debated Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed by both the houses of the Parliament. Later it was sent to President Droupadi Murmu for approval. As soon as the President's assent was received, a notification implementing it across the country has been issued.

Etemaad (April 9) states that the Union government had issued a notification on April 8, 2025 implementing the Waqf (Amendment) Act across the country. After a long and heated debate in both houses of the Parliament, it got its approval from the House. In Lok Sabha, 288 members supported the bill. Whereas 232 members opposed it. All the amendments proposed by the Opposition were rejected with voice vote. Similarly, 128 votes were polled in favour of the bill in Rajya Sabha while the opposition got 95 votes. According to the newspaper, till now more than 60 petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court against the Waqf Act. The Central government filed a caveat and



urged the Supreme Court that without hearing the government side, the court shall not issue any directions regarding the Waqf Act. The court accepted this request of the government.

Siasat (April 3) states that the Waqf Bill was discussed in the Lok Sabha for the entire day and till 12 in the night. In the amended Act, a provision has been made to mandatorily include two non-Muslims as members in Central Waqf Council and Waqf Board. It has also been said in the bill that only those who have been a follower of Islam for at least five years can make a



part in the discussions over the Waqf bill, registered his symbolic protest by tearing off the copy of this bill. He claimed that in this connection, he is following Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi adopted this method while opposing the British law in South Africa. Home Minister Amit Shah rejected this allegation of Opposition that this bill is an undue interference in the religious affairs of Muslims. He said that the Waqf bill has been brought to make the management of Waqf

Waqf. The newspaper said that the strength of BJP MPs in the Lok Sabha is only 240, but the bill was passed with the support of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's party Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's party Janata Dal (United). This apart, three other parties which are part of the NDA also supported the bill. The interesting thing is that during a debate on this bill, Prime Minister Modi was not present in the Parliament. In his absence, the NDA opened a front against Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition parties under the leadership of Home Minister Amit Shah. As soon as the business of the house started, Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju presented the Waqf (Amendment) bill in the House. On behalf of the Opposition, Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress opened the debate.

It is to be noted that last year also the bill was tabled in the house, but it was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for examination on a demand from the members. BJP MP Jagadambika Pal was made the chairman of the committee. There used to be fierce fights between the ruling party and the opposition members in the meetings of the JPC. Nearly 44 amendments were moved on behalf of the opposition members. The JPC rejected all these amendments proposed by the Opposition. Whereas, all the 14 amendments proposed by the ruling parties were accepted.

Chairman of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and MP from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi, while taking

properties better and transparent so that the weaker and deprived sections among Muslims could benefit from it. In his speech, Shah quoted a statement given by Lalu Prasad Yadav in 2013. That time Lalu Yadav had said that a stringent law was required to stop the looting of Waqf properties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought this bill and fulfilled the wishes of Lalu Yadav.

Home Minister Amit Shah said that every citizen in the country will have to follow the new Waqf law passed by the Parliament. He alleged that the Congress during its tenure had turned the Waqf Board into a machine for illegal occupation of land. The Home Minister claimed that non-Muslims have been included in Central Waqf Council with the aim of stopping the misuse of the Waqf properties. Whereas Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju has rejected this allegation of Opposition that this law is against the rights given to minorities in the Constitution. He said he also comes from a minority community and my experience is that there is no better place in the world than Bharat for the minorities. This is so because the majority community here is totally secular. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said the intention of the government is not good. Today the government is seizing the Waqf of Muslims on the pretext of this bill. Tomorrow, Christians and Sikhs will be its target. He said this bill is against the guarantee given to minorities in the Constitution.

Another MP of Congress and member of the JPC constituted for the

Waqf Bill, Mohammad Javed alleged that 25 meetings of JPC were held, but no discussions were held on the sections of the law in any of the meetings. The committee had summoned 3,000 people associated with 300 organisations to give their opinion, but every individual was given an opportunity to speak only for 10 seconds. Hence the report of this committee cannot be called fair. The ruling party has taken hostage of this committee.

Avadhnama (April 3) states that Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said the bill is against the Constitution and an attack on the democratic setup. The ruling party wants to take over the properties of Muslims under the guise of this law. Independent MP from Baramulla in Jammu-Kashmir, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, said this bill is against Muslims and it is a governmental effort to rob their property. TDP MP Krishna Prasad Tenneti said that Waqf Board has properties worth more than 1.2 lakh crore and these should be utilised for the development of Muslims. JD-U MP Lalan Singh said that an attempt is being made to create an atmosphere that this bill is anti-Muslim. He said that the Opposition parties are misleading the Muslims.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 5) states that Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju has presented the Waqf bill in the Rajya Sabha which was passed by the Lok Sabha. Discussions were held on it throughout the day. More than two dozen members took part in this debate. At night 1.15 am, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected all the amendments moved by the Opposition through a voice vote. Rijiju clarified that the purpose of the bill was not to target any particular religious community and neither the government keeps any intention to take possession of even an inch of Waqf land. Our effort is just to ensure that the Waqf



property is utilised for the welfare of deprived Muslims. Taking part in the discussions, DMK MP Tiruchi Shiva said that at one level the BJP is fooling people by raising the slogan of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas.' On the other hand, it wants to expel Muslims from every sector in a well-planned manner. Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, while opposing the Waqf bill, said the government wants to take over the property donated by Muslims. He said that after this, preparations are being made to take over the properties of Christians and Sikhs. BJD MP Mujibullah Khan said the government should ensure that only Muslims have control over the Waqf properties. RJD MP Manoj Jha said the government is trying to divide Muslims under the guise of this bill. Waqf properties have been donated by Muslims for the welfare of Muslims. Why should non-Muslims be included for their management?

Hindustan (April 7) said in an article that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has betrayed Muslims. This has exposed his real face. Nitish Kumar does not want to upset his Hindu vote bank and his master Narendra Modi. The article also criticised Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The newspaper said that Naidu was always selfish. He has no principles.

Etemaad (April 4) said in its editorial that the new Waqf Act is not only against the religious freedom of Muslims, but is also a conspiracy to take over their Waqf properties. Muslims were hopeful



Now, only the God can save the Waqf properties. The heritage and culture of Muslims are in danger.

Siasat (April 2) in its editorial alleged that TDP and JD-U have stabbed Muslims in the back by supporting this bill. The expectations that Muslims had on the parties of Nitish Kumar, Chandrababu Naidu and

Chirag Paswan were not fulfilled.

Urdu Times (April 12) in its editorial said that a delegation of All India Muslim Personal Law Board sought an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu so that she could be urged that she should not approve this law in a hurry. It is regrettable that the President did not even give time to the delegation for the meeting. We do not think that Muslims will get any kind of relief from the Supreme Court. However, from the legal point of view, the Supreme Court has lot of powers, but in the present atmosphere neither the chief justice nor any other judge will dare to pull the ears of the government. The reason for this is that now for the appointment of judges, instead of the collegium, political leaders or officials have got more importance.

Urdu Times (April 7) in its editorial said that this law is an outcome of our actions. If we rebel against the Allah, do not tread on the path shown by him, behave dishonestly and kill the rights of others, then Allah creates such situations. Muslims should look within themselves as to why such a situation arose? Despite our opposition, how the Waqf Amendment Bill came into being? How did our protest campaign fail? Why did the ruling party not care about the opposition? Meanwhile, discussions are taking place for questioning this in the Supreme Court, but we know that it will not be of any help. The government is supreme and the judiciary cannot take the risk of overturning its decision

that Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu would oppose it. Had it been so, the BJP would have found it difficult to implement their intentions. However, these two so-called secular leaders displayed their opportunism. This has exposed the secular face of these two leaders.

Etemaad (April 9) said in its editorial that the claim of the government that Muslims are occupying lakhs of acres of land in the name of Waqf is totally wrong. Waqf properties are only on paper. The truth is that the Central and state governments are illegally occupying land worth billions of rupees belonging to Muslims.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 7) in its editorial said that our fear has come true. Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar betrayed Muslims for their political gains. Meanwhile, Opposition INDIA Alliance has proved that it is standing on the field to protect the Muslims and minorities. Not a single vote of this alliance was wasted nor did a single member support this bill. Had JD-U and TDP not betrayed, this bill would never have been passed. It was necessary to pass this bill to maintain the existence of the Modi government. Had JD-U and TDP opposed the Waqf bill, it would not have been passed and the power would have slipped out of the hands of the Modi government. The newspaper said that Muslims should accept their future as written on the wall of destiny that now everyone has united to wipe out their existence in this country. The parties claiming secularism have been exposed.

BJP's public awareness campaign over Waqf Act



Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 12) states that the new Waqf law has come into force in the entire country from April 8. In some states, protest marches were also held against this law. Congress and other Opposition parties are targeting the government on the issue. In order to remove the misinformation being spread against this Act, the BJP has decided to launch a direct contact programme with the people. The BJP leaders decided to visit the houses of Muslims and tell them that this law has been implemented for their own welfare and development. In this connection, the top leadership of the BJP recently held a meeting of its thinkers at the party headquarters. It has been decided in the meeting that the leaders of BJP's minority morcha will visit the houses of Muslims and create awareness about the welfare policies of the government.

BJP national president J P Nadda, Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju, BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and other responsible leaders from different states took part in the meeting held in Delhi. Kiren Rijiju made his party leaders aware of the nuances of this law. The BJP, especially Muslim Rashtriya Manch, has prepared a strategy to run a nationwide campaign among people regarding the Waqf Act. The party

will run this campaign in three phases. In the first phase, meetings will be held with religious leaders, lawyers, teachers, doctors, artists and journalists of Muslim and other minority communities at the state-level. In the second phase, a campaign will be launched to establish special contact with the Christian community. In the third phase, contact will be established with women. The MPs and MLAs will organise public meetings in their own constituencies. Influential people from Muslim community will be specially invited for these meetings.

This apart, press conferences will be organised in all Assembly constituencies in the country so that the positive aspects of this law can be properly highlighted in the media. In this connection, social media will also be utilised. This apart, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha will also be activated. The activists of the morcha will go house-to-house and run the contact programme and will also distribute the literature being published in different languages regarding this Act. The activists of party's women's wing will also be given responsibility to visit the houses of Muslim women and make them aware of the positive aspects of the law. As part of this campaign, workshops are being organised at state level from April 15 to 17. Whereas



meetings will be held at district level till April 18-19. In order to supervise this entire programme, a team has been constituted under the leadership of BJP general secretary Dr Radha Mohan Agarwal. The activists of RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad will also actively cooperate in this campaign. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad will specially publicise the incident of fleeing of Hindus in Murshidabad. A comprehensive book has been prepared in order to bring clarity and transparency on issues related to Waqf properties. The title of this book is 'Waqf Bill 2024: Respect to Islam and Gift for Muslims.' In this, a detailed information has been given regarding the management, transparency and protection of Waqf properties and the welfare and development of Muslim community. The book also mentions about the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel and Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Inquilab (April 17) states that the BJP has decided to launch a state-wide public awareness campaign in Uttar Pradesh from April 19 to expose the campaign being run in the country against the Waqf Amendment Act. As part of this campaign, the activists of the party and the MLAs will visit the houses of Muslims and try to convince them about the welfare aspects of this law. BJP's minority morcha will play a significant role in this campaign. Party sources claim that the BJP will now establish direct contact with the public and expose the fake propaganda of

the Opposition. Groups of party workers will visit the houses of Muslims and will tell them that the government is not against them. State president of BJP's minority morcha Kunwar Basit Ali said now this country will run as per Constitution, not Waqf. He said that the misconceptions that have been created about the Waqf Act will be removed through this campaign and the people

will be told that mafia gangs have been illegally utilising the Waqf properties till now. The income generated from this went into the pockets of some particular persons and the common Muslims did not get any benefits. The government has decided that the income from Muslim Waqf shall be spend for the development of poor Muslims, women and needy Muslims. Basit Ali said that Congress and Samajwadi Party are trying to create fear among the Muslims that their Waqf properties will be taken over by the majority community. Whereas the truth is that this law is against the illegal occupation of Waqf land.

Roznama Sahara (April 17) states that a public awareness campaign will be launched in Delhi as well to make Muslims aware of the positive aspects of the new Waqf Act. This will be inaugurated by the Delhi unit president of BJP, Virendra Sachdeva. Whereas, the responsibility for the campaign has been given to senior leader of BJP's minority morcha, Atif Rashid. President of Delhi BJP minority morcha Anis Abbasi has been made the coordinator of this campaign. Atif Rashid said that the aim of this campaign is to dispel the opposition propaganda regarding the Waqf Act. His argument is that Bharat is not the first country to amend the Waqf law as Muslim nations across the world have done so. It has also been decided to include women and youths in this campaign. As part of this campaign, a programme has been made to reach out to more than 10 lakh houses in Delhi.

Terrorist Tahawwur Rana in NIA custody



Inquilab (April 11) states that the conspirator in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, has been brought to India from the US. Following this, he was produced in the Patiala House court in Delhi. The court sent him in the custody of National Investigation Agency (NIA) for an 18-day remand. Tahawwur Hussain Rana is originally a Pakistani citizen. Later he and his wife took the citizenship of Canada. Rana was arrested by FBI in 2009 from Chicago in the US. He was handed over to India on the orders of a US court. Sixty-four year-old Tahawwur Rana was brought to Indira Gandhi International Airport in a special US flight. He was accompanied by three senior NIA officials and commandos of NSG. Rana was accused of working for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and his relations are with Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba and Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami. The US is yet to hand over to India another colleague of Rana, terrorist David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani. Tahawwur Hussain is being interrogated at a special room in NIA headquarters.

The NIA claimed that due to the efforts of the government, it has succeeded in bringing the mastermind of Mumbai attacks from the US to India. Whereas Congress leader and former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said the Modi government is trying to take credit for this matter, which is not based on facts. He said we have succeeded in bringing Rana to

India due to the efforts made during the time of UPA government.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the Pakistan government has refused to accept Tahawwur Rana as a citizen of the country. Its claim is that Rana is an American citizen.

Roznama Sahara (April 11) states that a special team comprising three senior officials has been constituted for the interrogation of Rana. No other

official of NIA will be allowed to go to the room, where Tahawwur Rana has been imprisoned. As per another news, arrangements are being made to lodge Tahawwur Rana in the high security Anda Cell in Tihar Jail in Delhi. He is being monitored round-the-clock so that he does not make any attempt to commit suicide.

Aurangabad Times (April 14) states that during the interrogation, Rana has admitted that David Headley alias Daood Gilani was his classmate. The plan of these terrorists was to carry out attacks in Delhi, Rajasthan and Goa. These people wanted to attack the National Defence College in Delhi so that dozens of top officials of Indian army could be killed. According to NIA sources, so far Tahawwur Rana has not sought any particular food. On his demand, a Quran, paper and a pen were provided to him.

Aurangabad Times (April 13) states that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut alleged that the Modi government has brought Tahawwur Rana to Bharat in order to reap political benefits during the Assembly elections in Bihar and West Bengal. Rana will be sentenced to death just before the elections in these two states and the issue will be used for election campaign. He said that before Rana, Abu Salem was brought to India during the UPA regime. Raut alleged that if BJP wants to take credit for Rana, then it should take credit for the Pulwama attack as well.



charges, Tahawwur was also accused of killing US citizens during the Mumbai attacks. Though Tahawwur rejected all the charges registered against him in the court, the US court awarded him a jail term of 14 years. India has been actively pursuing for his deportation to India since 2019. Tahawwur Rana

Urdu Times (April 11) claimed that NIA chief Sadanand Date played a major role in bringing Tahawwur Rana to India. Date had played an important role in the investigations into the Mumbai terror attacks and he was also injured while fighting the terrorists.

Hindustan (April 11) states that Ekanath Ombale, brother of policeman Tukaram Ombale, who was martyred in the Mumbai terror attacks, has urged the Central government to award death penalty to Tahawwur so that no terrorist in future will dare to carry out attacks on India.

Siasat (April 11) in its editorial said that deportation of Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India is a huge success for the Indian government from the political point of view. The newspaper urged that government should make efforts to bring those offenders who had fled from India and took refuge abroad as early as possible. The newspaper demanded that stringent legal action should be taken against Tahawwur Rana and he should be given punishment as per the law.

Hindustan (April 11) in its editorial said that Tahawwur Rana was arrested from the US in 2009. Apart from other

had also filed a petition in the US Supreme Court against the demand of Indian government, but the court directed that he shall be handed over to India.

The newspaper alleged that, “the terrorist attack was planned in Mumbai with the aim of killing Hemant Karkare. Former IPS officer S M Mushrif had written a book. Its title was, ‘Who was the killer of Karkare?’ In this book an attempt was made to expose the planners of Mumbai attack. In fact, Hemant Karkare had exposed the face of ‘Hindu terrorism’ while investigating the Malegaon bomb blast. It was due to the fair investigation of Hemant Karkare that the faces of several Hinduvadi elements including Sadhvi Pragya, Colonel Purohit were exposed. Due to this, all the anti-Muslim saffron organizations including RSS spent sleepless nights. It is also a common belief that the 26/11 attack was planned to eliminate Hemant Karkare. Now this matter has become fresh again due to Tahawwur Rana being brought to India. Handing over Tahawwur Rana to Bharat is a huge success, but justice demands that Hemant Karkare’s murder be investigated afresh so that the real killers could be exposed.”

India’s private Haj quota reduced by 80%

Inquilab (April 15) states that the Saudi Arabian government has reduced the quota of Haj pilgrims sent by private tour operators from India to Saudi Arabia by 80%. This has caused unrest among the

Muslims in the country. Muslim leaders in India have urged the Indian government that it contact the Saudi government and try to restore the private Haj quota. Muslim leaders allege that due to widespread



corruption in the management of Haj, the stipulated amount has not yet been paid to the Haj Ministry of Saudi Arabia. Therefore, booking of seats for 52,000 Hajjis in Mina, Saudi Arabia could not be done. **Inquilab** claimed that it had published a news in this connection in February, but the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju did not take notice of it. Due to this, 52,000 Hajjis will not be able to go for Haj this year despite making payment for the Haj. The government is blaming Saudi Arabia for this, whereas **Inquilab** says that the officials of Indian Haj Mission located in Jeddah were fully responsible for this.

The newspaper also claimed that one month ago, the Indian Welfare Haj group, Jeddah, had written a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary P K Mishra and other top officials and complained about the corruption in Haj management. Following this, in an email sent to the Principal Secretary, this organisation had blamed Joint Secretary in the Minority Affairs Ministry C P S Bakshi, Indian Consul General based in Jeddah Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, Indian Ambassador Suhel Ajaz Khan, Yusuf Ahmed Kherada of Mumbai-based Al Khalid Tours and Travels and B S Maqbool of Ateeq Haj Tours and Travels based in Bengaluru over the issue.

Meanwhile, the Haj Ministry in Saudi Arabia had sent letters three times to

the private tour operators for the payment of the money, but despite that this amount was not paid. Due to this, the booking was cancelled. In an email to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra, Indian Welfare Haj Group, Jeddah had alleged that B S Maqbool fled to Malaysia with an amount of Rs 87 crore paid by the Hajjis. The newspaper alleged that the company in Saudi Arabia with which the officials of Indian Embassy located in Jeddah tried to enter into an agreement with had been blacklisted by Egypt, United Arab Emirates and many other Muslim nations. This company has the permission to make arrangements for only 30,000 Haj pilgrims.

In its report published in February, **Inquilab** had also alleged that the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia handed over 25 crore Riyals to the private bank account of the CEO of this company, Dr Ahmed Sindi. When a controversy erupted over this in newspapers, this amount was returned. The newspaper also claimed that any Haj pilgrim can complete the Haj pilgrimage by spending Rs 3 lakh, but due to corruption at the government level, a huge increase has been made in the expenses of Haj pilgrims this time.

As per another news published in this newspaper, Congress leader Saeed Nasir Hussain said that he would be appealing to the foreign ministry for the restoration of this quota. Similarly, Jammu-

Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, while expressing concern over this scam, urged the Indian government that it should try to restore the cancelled quota.

Inquilab (April 16) states that the Ministry for Minority Affairs has cleared its hands of corruption allegations. The ministry said that private tour operators are responsible for not getting agreement on places in Mina. In a statement, the ministry said that this year facilities are being arranged for 1,22,518 Haj pilgrims departing under Indian Haj Committee. As per the latest rules of Saudi government, 26 groups of private tour operators have been formed and for them the Saudi government has fixed a quota as well, but despite this, these tour operators could not reach an



agreement with the government there. Due to pressure from the government, the Saudi Hajj Ministry has made arrangements to accommodate only 10,000 of these pilgrims. For this, the Haj portal is being opened once again. Now, 42,000 Haj pilgrims who have paid their amount will not be able to go for Haj this year.

Controversy over Baba Ramdev's Sharbat Jihad statement



Siasat (April 11) states that due to controversial statements like 'Sharbat Jihad,' yoga guru Baba Ramdev has become the target of people. In his latest video, Ramdev accused a renowned sharbat-manufacturing company of building masjids and madrasas using its profits. Ramdev has advised people that instead of buying the sharbats available in

the market, they should buy Patanjali's gulab sharbat, because its money is being used for institutions like gurukul, acharyakulam, Patanjali Vishwavidyalaya and Bharatiya shiksha board. This video has been posted on the official Facebook page of Patanjali. Patanjali wrote, "Protect your family and innocent children from the poison of the toilet cleaner being sold in the name of soft drinks and sharbat jihad. Bring only Patanjali sharbat and juice to your home." The

newspaper has written that however, Baba Ramdev did not take the name of the company that manufactures sharbat, but his message is clear. It is worth mentioning that the Rooh Afza drink that Baba Ramdev was referring to, is being manufactured by Hamdard Laboratories India. Several consumers accused Baba



Ramdev of inciting religious sentiments on social media.

Aurangabad Times (April 14) states that Congress leader Digvijay Singh has filed a complaint against Baba Ramdev in a police station in Indore.

Inquilab (April 12) states that the famous beverage Rooh Afza is used in many countries of the world. After Baba Ramdev's hateful and communal statement, a new controversy 'sharbat jihad' has erupted in the country. People are saying that Baba Ramdev has come down on Hindu-Muslim issue to sell his sharbat. It is worth mentioning that a video of Ramdev has gone viral on social media. In this video, Baba Ramdev has been claiming that Sharbat Jihad is being carried out through Rooh Afza. The money obtained through the sale of this sharbat is being used for setting up masjids and madrasas.

Urdu Times (April 14) in its editorial said that in the past one decade, communalism and religious hatred have been made the central point of politics and for seizing power in the country. It looks like the BJP and its supporters have fully succeeded in this campaign. The kind of atmosphere that is seen in the entire country gives an indication to the huge controversy and pathetic situation. For the sake of power, a Hindu Rashtravad and

sentiments of hatred are being created in the hearts of the country's majority population against other communities, especially Muslims. The so-called yoga guru Baba Ramdev, who strongly supported Narendra Modi and BJP in the 2014 election campaign, has succeeded in establishing his business empire by promoting the sentiments of Hindu nationalism. In order to sell his products, Baba Ramdev used religion and published pictures of gods and goddesses and religious symbols in his advertisements. Recently, his company manufactured a sharbat and to sell this cheap product, he has crossed all limits of shamelessness. In order to sell his sharbat, he is trying to create hatred and confusion in the hearts of Hindus towards the sharbat brand which has been popular in the country for almost 100 years.

The newspaper alleged that recently Baba Ramdev had circulated a video. In this video, he did not feel any shame in linking sharbat with jihad. It is worth mentioning that for the past several years, the fundamentalists of the country are trying to divide the society by linking the word 'jihad' with various problems. Time and again one could hear about love jihad, land jihad, population jihad, subji jihad and vote jihad. Now Ramdev has formed the

new term of Sharbat Jihad. Ramdev's cheap marketing strategy is being severely criticised. Some people are also alleging that Ramdev has deliberately made this a Hindu-Muslim issue so that his sharbat becomes popular among those who spread hatred among Islam and Muslims. Ramdev had pointed out to the Hamdard Laboratories India that manufactures Rooh Afza. However, he did not take its name. This company has been selling its products even before our Independence. Its sharbat is popular not only in Bharat, but abroad as well. The company makes both Ayurvedic as well as Unani medicines. There were never any controversies regarding its products.

However, there were allegations against Ramdev's company of making substandard products and medicines. Several cases have also been registered against him. In Kerala and Uttarakhand, there is a ban on the sale of many of his products. The Supreme Court had made observations about Patanjali in the past, because this company of Ramdev manufactured a medicine named 'Coronil' during the corona pandemic. It was publicised as a medicine for corona. After an investigation, it was found that the claims of Patanjali had no scientific evidence. On this, the Supreme Court had made strong observations against Baba Ramdev. Recently, the Indian Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had described the red chilli powder of Patanjali as substandard.

Etemaad (April 12) in its editorial alleged that Baba Ramdev, while mentioning about a sharbat, claimed that drinking of this sharbat will end up providing financial aid to masjids and madrasas. Whereas drinking his company's



sharbat will help in the development of Hindu educational institutions and other organisations. In the past also, Ramdev used to make fake claims about his medicines and other products. A few years ago, he had claimed that his medicines could make childless women conceive. Following this, legal action had been taken against him.

Hindustan Express (April 13) in an article had given a detailed account of the history of Rooh Afza. It has been said in this article that Rooh Afza originated in the lanes of Delhi in 1907. Here one Hakim Hafiz Abdul Majeed prepared an incredible sharbat. Later he named his medicine shop as 'Hamdard.' The meaning of Rooh Afza is 'one that refreshes the soul.' In 1922, Hakim Abdul Majeed passed away. After this, his business was taken over by his two sons and Hamdard Trust was established. During the Partition of the country, one of his sons, Abdul Hameed, stayed back in Bharat. Whereas his other son Mohammad Saeed left for Pakistan. He improved the fortunes of Rooh Afza in Pakistan. In 1971, a branch of Rooh Afza was established in Bangladesh as well. Through this trust of Hamdard, a university for training in Unani, hospitals and a dozen other institutions are being run in Delhi.

Rebellion against Pakistan Army chief



Urdu Times (April 2) has claimed in its report that voices of discontent have begun to emerge among the top officers of Pakistan army. A section of Pakistan's military officials has demanded that Army Chief General Asim Munir should resign. It is worth mentioning that dissatisfaction is growing daily in the Pakistan army following the removal of former Prime Minister Imran Khan from power and due to the involvement of top military officials in election fraud. Recently, the Balochistan Liberation Army hijacked Jaffar Express and killed several Pakistani security personnel. Along with this, there has been a huge increase in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Due to these activities, people's anger against Asim Munir has been increasing.

A joint letter of Pakistani military officials has been published in media. In this letter, General Munir has been accused of pressuring political rebels, arresting journalists and crushing democratic powers. It has been said in the letter that the image of the army has suffered a huge blow due to the campaign launched by a section of the army in April 2022 to remove the then Prime Minister Imran Khan from power and crush the dissidents. Later, in the general elections held on

February 8, 2024, rigging was done to ensure victory of their favourite leaders. This has also spoiled the image of the Pakistan army. Along with this, public resentment against the Army is growing rapidly.

Earlier on March 28, the family members of retired Air Marshal Javad Saeed alleged in Islamabad High Court that last year a few unidentified people had entered his house and kidnapped Javad Saeed. Since then, no information regarding him has been made available from the government or the administration. The police have refused to file a case in this connection. In reply to a notice issued by the court, Assistant Attorney General Azmat Bashir Tarar told the court Javad Saeed was arrested on charges of spying and he was awarded rigorous imprisonment of 14 years following a court martial. Now he is in the custody of the army. Following this, judge of Islamabad High Court Khadim Hussain Soomro rejected the petition filed on behalf of the wife of Air Marshal Saeed. It is worth mentioning that Javad Saeed retired from the post of Air Marshal in March 2021 and he was among the most decorated officers of the Pakistani military. The court was also told that there were four allegations of spying against

Javad Saeed. A case was registered against him for violating the Official Secrets Act. It is to be noted that Javad Saeed was promoted as Air Marshal in July 2018. The three-star rank of Air Marshal is considered as equivalent to the Lt General rank in the army. According to media, before the retirement of Saeed, a proposal for his promotion as Air Chief Marshal had been sent to the then Prime Minister Imran Khan, but before any decision could be taken in this connection, Javad Saeed was forcibly retired from service.

Earlier in August 2024, former chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, Lt General Faiz Hamid was arrested, but no case has been registered against him in any court so far. According to Pakistan's defence ministry, this top military officer

was arrested on charges of corruption and taking part in political activities.

Earlier in May 2019, a retired Lt General of Pakistan Army, Javed Iqbal, was awarded 14 years in jail on charges of spying. Later the former chief of Pakistan Army, General Qamar Javed Bajwa commuted this punishment to four-and-a-half years. It is worth mentioning that in the past a dozen senior Pakistani military officials were forcibly retired. This apart, in 1995, a case was registered against 38 senior officials including Major General Zaheerul Islam Abbasi, Brigadier Mustanasir Billa, Colonel Mohammad Azad Minhas and Colonel Inayat Ullah Khan on charges of conspiring to kill then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, senior cabinet ministers and military officials.

Eight Pakistani labourers massacred in Iran



Aurangabad Times (April 14) states that a few unidentified assailants massacred eight Pakistani labourers in Sistan-Baluchestan province in Iran. Spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry confirmed that terrorists killed eight Pakistani citizens in Mehrestan County in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province. The Pakistan government directed the Pakistan embassy based in Tehran to collect details regarding the incident after visiting the spot and provide information regarding those who were killed. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the killings. He said, terrorists were enemies of Muslims and Islam because they had their hands

stained with the blood of innocent people. In a press release, the Iranian Embassy located in Islamabad condemned the terrorist attack and said that anti-Islam elements are targeting innocent people at the behest of international terrorists.

According to BBC, the Baloch Nationalist Army owned responsibility for the attack. According to the newspaper, the Pakistanis who were killed belonged to Bahawalpur district in Punjab. Pakistan Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir claimed that the Pakistanis who were killed have been identified. They have been identified as Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Dilshad, Mohammad Nasir, Malik Jamshed, Mohammad Danish, Mohammad Naeem, Ghulam Jafar and Mohammad Khalid. All those who were killed belonged to one family. Dilshad brought mechanics from Pakistan to work in his workshop. They included his son and nephews.

These people used to do maintenance of cars in a workshop of Dilshad. Elder brother of Mohammad Dilshad, Mohammad Arshad, said that earlier Dilshad used to do maintenance work of cars in Pakistan. During the Corona pandemic his work was shut, and hence he had gone to Iran for bread and butter. Arshad said that Dilshad had

indicated him through phone that Punjabis are not safe in Iran. He wanted to return to Pakistan, but since the border between Pakistan and Iran was closed, he had to stay back. According to Pakistani intelligence sources, banned Baloch Republican Army (Gulzar Imam group) and banned United Baloch Army merged to form Baloch Nationalist Army.

Arrest warrant issued against Sheikh Hasina and her daughter

Inquilab (April 13) reports that a court in Dhaka has issued fresh arrest warrants against deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wazed and 17 others. This warrant has been issued in connection with the irregularities in the land allotment of Purvanchal New Town Project. The arrest warrant had been issued by Dhaka Metropolitan *Senior Special Judge* Mohammad Zakir Hossain Galib following the chargesheet filed in the court by the anti-corruption commission. The court directed that the accused shall be arrested and produced before the court by May 5.

In another case, a chargesheet has been filed in the court against Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and against other members of her family on charges of fraud committed during land allotment. It is worth mentioning that last month, another tribunal had issued an arrest warrant against four others including Sheikh Hasina and former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmad in connection with the mass murder that took place in Shapla Square in Dhaka in 2013. Observers believe that due to political animosity, the present government is trapping Sheikh Hasina and her family in various cases.

Hindustan (March 12) states that commenting on these cases, Sheikh Hasina



said the government of Mohammed Yunus has turned the country into a den of terrorism and anarchy. Hasina alleged that caretaker prime minister Mohammed Yunus himself had stated that he had no experience in running a government, hence he had dissolved all the tribunals. Despite Yunus's declaration, arrest warrants are being issued against her and her family members by the same tribunals. She said that she will soon return to Bangladesh and will provide justice to all the citizens living in the country.

Aurangabad Times (April 9) states that Sheikh Hasina, while addressing her followers online, said that if Allah has kept her alive till now, then there is definitely some reason for it. That time will definitely come when cases will be heard in the courts against those who have tortured the workers of our party Awami League. She said we made a mistake in understanding



Party has stepped up the series of attacks on the houses of the leaders and workers of Awami League. As per the report of the local media outlet UNB, a huge mob attacked the houses of former mayor Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury and former MP Shafiul Alam Chowdhury and damaged it.

Mohammed Yunus and our government had also helped him, but today the same individual, blinded by the intoxication of power, is setting fire to Bangladesh and pushing the country towards terrorism. Sheikh Hasina alleged that elements supporting Pakistan are selectively killing the leaders and workers of Awami League. It is worth mentioning that Mohammed Yunus has recently urged Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Hasina and other accused shall be handed over to Bangladesh government so that cases could be registered against them.

Urdu Times (April 4) states that the student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist

Incharge of police station Syed Anisur Rahman said that angry mobs of students attacked Awami League supporters at several places in the city. As per a report of Bangladesh newspaper 'Dhaka Tribune,' the bodies of at least 20 leaders of Awami League were recovered from several parts of the country recently. These people were killed by the mobs led by Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Aurangabad Times (April 3) states that Bangladesh's official news agency 'BSS' claimed that more than one lakh activists of Awami League have fled from Bangladesh and taken refuge in Bharat in order to save their lives.

Four get death penalty in Afghanistan

Hindustan Express (April 13) states that four persons were publicly hanged to death at a crossroad on the Juma day in Afghanistan. In 2021, after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, this was the first time so many people were publically hanged to death in a single day. According to French news agency 'AFP,' four persons were publicly hanged to death in three provinces. It is worth mentioning that during the first rule of Taliban in the 1996-2001 period, the accused were generally hanged to death outside mosques on Juma days. In Badghis province, two murderers were given death penalty by shooting. On this occasion, the



family members of those who were killed by the accused were specially called to witness the event.

Spokesperson of Afghanistan government Zabiullah Mujahid told correspondents that the family members of

those who were murdered had refused to pardon the accused, hence they were given punishment by shooting them dead as per Shariah. The third person was hanged to death in Nimruz province. Thirty-year-old Afghan citizen Javed said that Taliban came to power in the name of Islam. If they give punishment as per Shariah, then

nobody should have any objections regarding the same. A spokesperson of Afghan government told correspondents in Kabul that the Afghan government will strongly implement Shariah law. Fourteen accused were hanged to death in Farah province on charges of the murder of one person.

Teenager arrested in Singapore for plotting to kill Muslims



Inquilab (April 3) states that the internal security department of Singapore arrested a 17-year-old teenager. This boy had accepted that he had made a plan to explode bombs at five big mosques during the Juma namaz. For this, he had even planted explosive substances in these masjids. He wanted to trigger explosions in these masjids through remote control. Singapore's Home Minister K Shanmugam told correspondents that the teenager wanted to kill at least 100 Muslims. He also wanted to do a live streaming of his attack. During interrogation, the accused told the police that he got the inspiration for this attack from the blasts that took place in the masjids in New Zealand in

2019. Later he came in contact with some people. They provided him with explosive substances. The accused was in touch with 18-year-old Nick Lee via online. Nick Lee was taken into custody in February on charges of making a similar plan.

The home minister said the police raided several places in order to arrest his co-conspirators, but no person belonging to this gang landed in the net of the police. They might have got prior information regarding the arrest of the accused, hence they all had gone absconding. He said the government has directed the intelligence wing to keep an eye on the social media and immediately arrest those who maintain terrorist tendencies.

Negotiations between Israel and Hamas cancelled



Inquilab (April 16) states that the talks being held between Israel and Hamas in Egyptian capital Cairo over the ceasefire in Gaza have failed. According to news agencies, the talks were held with the aim of a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and release of Israeli hostages. According to the newspaper, Hamas had stressed that the basis of any agreement should be a permanent end to the war and complete expulsion of Israelis from Gaza. Whereas Israel had stressed that its military operations will continue until Hamas is fully eliminated. It has been said in the agenda prepared by Egypt for this talks that Hamas hand over all its weapons to Israel, but Hamas rejected this demand. Hamas said that it is not at all ready for surrender and disarmament.

A senior leader of Hamas said we will be ready for talks only if Israel withdraws all its soldiers from Gaza. We will not hold any talks regarding surrender of weapons or disarmament. More than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza war and a ceasefire would be possible only if Israel vacates the entire region. While discussing the release of Israeli prisoners, the leader of Hamas said Israel has offered a temporary 45-day ceasefire in

exchange for release for half of the hostages held in Gaza, which is not acceptable to us. Israel alleged that even now 58 Israeli citizens are in the custody of Hamas. Whereas Hamas claimed that majority among them have died.

Urdu Times (April 15) states that Hamas said that until the Israel government releases all the Palestinian prisoners, it will not release any hostage. After the failure of talks in Cairo, Hamas leader Haneh Al-Hayya has returned from Egypt. Hamas claimed that Israel is continuously bombing the Khan Yunus region located south of Gaza Strip. Hundreds of people have been killed in these bombings. Hamas has threatened to hand over the bodies of Israeli hostages in coffins if Israel puts pressure on it.

Qaumi Tanzeem (April 11) states that British newspaper 'The Times' has published a news in which it has been alleged that Iran is secretly providing surface-to-surface weapons to its agents in Iraq. Even Europe could be targeted with these missiles. Iran is strengthening its military position in the region. Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inquilab (IRGC) has supplied most modern weapons to Iran-supported militia groups which are active

in Iraq. It is worth mentioning that there is a 1,000-mile long border between Iran and Iraq. Iran uses this border and supply weapons to its Shia fighters in Iraq. The US has warned the Iraq government that if these Shia militia fighters are not eliminated, the US has to carry out airstrikes on their bases.

Qaumi Tanzeem (April 10) states that Iran has been supplying weapons to Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon through the sea route. Earlier, Israel had foiled an attempt by Iran to supply weapons and



financial aid to Hezbollah in Lebanon through planes.

Campaign to expel Houthi rebels from Yemen



Urdu Times (April 15) states that the internationally-recognised Yemen government has decided to send 80,000 soldiers into battle to crush the Houthi rebels active in Yemen. This would be the biggest-ever military operation in the civil war that has been taking place in Yemen for years. These soldiers will try to seize the Hudaydah Port in Yemen in a major military operation. Currently, this port is under the control of Houthi rebels and Iran supplies drones and missiles to Houthis through this port. In 2014, the Houthis captured Yemen capital Sana'a with the help of Iran. The US may provide air cover and drone surveillance to Yemeni troops during this operation. A spokesperson of US Western Defense Command confirmed that during this attack, the US military aircraft will provide air cover so that Iran

does not provide a new batch of weapons to Houthis.

It is to be noted that last week, the commander of US Central Command General Michael Erik Kurilla held secret talks with the commanders of Saudi and Yemeni militaries in Saudi Arabia. The plan for this attack was prepared during this meeting.

Urdu Times (April 16) states that the US has unleashed a strong campaign against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. In this connection, 123 people have been killed in Sana'a so far. US President Donald Trump said we will not rest until we have completely destroyed the Houthis.

Roznama Sahara (April 6) states that US President Donald Trump announced that the US and its allied countries have launched a massive military operation against Houthis in Yemen. Now they will not muster courage to attack our vessels. In this connection, he also released a video related to the airstrikes carried out against the Houthis recently. This video was possibly shot from a drone or a military aircraft. It shows plumes of smoke after explosions in several bases of the

Houthis. He claimed that the Houthi rebels are continuously attacking the ships of the US and its allied countries at the behest of Iran. Due to this, the entire sea traffic has come to a halt, hence we had to take action against the Houthis. In the past one week, at least 67 Houthi rebels were killed in the US air strike. The places where the US has made its target include Hudaydah, Sadah, Sana'a and Hajjah.

White House Press Secretary Caroline Levitt said Iran has been weakened by the attacks on Yemen and due to our pressure many Houthi leaders who had taken refuge in Iran have been expelled from there. This includes those Houthi leaders who were directing attacks on US ships. In just one day, 200 airstrikes were carried out on Yemen.

Roznama Sahara (April 7) states that a spokesperson of Houthis claimed they had attacked several ships of the US in Red Sea. This includes US aircraft carrier USS Harry S Truman. The spokesperson claimed that until Israel vacates Gaza their attacks will continue.

Inquilab (April 8) quoting Al Arabia news channel said the US carried out air strikes on the Houthi bases located in Kamran islands in Yemen. At least four senior Houthi commanders were killed in this air strike. US spokesperson said we have got information from intelligence sources that a secret meeting of Houthi

commanders was taking place in this island. It was based on this information that the US aircraft had targeted the island.

Avadhnama (April 10) states that the Houthis in Yemen have claimed to have shot down a US MQ 9 Reaper drone. Till now, the Houthis have shot down 10 similar drones.

Munsif (April 2) in its editorial said the US has launched a fierce attack on the Houthis in Yemen. The US wants to destroy the Houthis so that the Red Sea can be made safe for maritime traffic. Due to attacks from the Houthis, the US and its allied countries are facing losses worth billions of dollars, because their ships are forced to take a round of Cape of Good Hope of South Africa. The US is attacking the Houthis because they could force Iran to surrender on its terms.

The newspaper said the ships used to pass through the Red Sea route for trade between Asia and Europe. At one point of time, Bab-el-Mandeb port in Yemen was counted among the world's most important military bases. Currently, Yemen is in the midst of a civil war. The recognised government is limited to the border areas of Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Whereas the Iran-supported Houthis have occupied the Gulf of Eden and the Red Sea. The population of Yemen is nearly four crore. Its capital is Sana'a. Currently, Sana's is under the control of Houthis.

Talks between the US and Iran

Inquilab (April 14) states that recently US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steven Witkoff held a meeting with Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi in Oman's capital Muscat. As per a statement of White House, the special envoy of the President told Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister that President Trump had directed him that if possible the differences between the two countries shall be resolved through talks and diplomatic initiatives. It has been stated in the statement that the issue is very complex, but the talks held

between the representatives of the two countries are positive till now. It is hoped that the efforts of the two countries in this direction will continue. Earlier, the Iranian media had also described this meeting as positive. This was the first time that the US was holding direct talks with Iran after Trump became the President for the second time. President Trump had time and again said that it was necessary to prepare Iran for such a deal to ensure that Iran would not develop nuclear weapons. If it does not do so, it would have to face US attacks

again. Iran's external affairs ministry has confirmed that the talks held in Oman's capital Muscat was positive and the next phase of talks is likely to be in April 19.

Siasat (April 13) states that Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi, while talking to government media, said Iran wants a fair and respectable agreement with the US regarding nuclear energy. The Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister also held talks with Oman's Foreign Affairs Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi in Muscat.

Etemaad (April 13) states that US President Donald Trump had threatened several times that if Iran does not reach on an agreement, the US will launch air strikes to target its nuclear project. Iranian sources have indicated that Iran will continue with its Uranium enrichment programme so that nuclear weapons could be manufactured if the need arises. Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi said that Iran wants to negotiate on a basis of equality and hence it is taking part in this talks. The newspaper said the US and Israel want to stop Iran from manufacturing nuclear weapons. Whereas Iran said that its nuclear development programme is for peaceful purposes. However, international experts opine that Iran has enriched Uranium to the level where it could manufacture nuclear weapons and bombs. It is worth mentioning that the US President had sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in which he proposed direct talks between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian had warned that if the talks between Iran and the US fail, it would create problems of various kinds. We want to resolve this issue at the political level. It is worth mentioning that in 2018, Donald Trump had cancelled the nuclear deal with Iran. He was also fed up with Iran-supported milita Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels in the Middle-East. It is



worth mentioning that a nuclear deal was signed between Iran and world powers in 2015 after several years' talks. As part of this deal, the sanctions imposed on Iran have been softened and Iran had capped its nuclear development programme. Later Trump scrapped this agreement. Joe Biden also tried for the agreement but he failed.

Avadhnama (April 5) states that after holding discussions with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian told media that Iran is not a supporter of any war or conflict. Nor is it in favour of using nuclear energy for military purposes.

Urdu Times (April 3) states that Russia has come out in support of Iran after US President Trump threatened Iran with war. According to British news agency 'Reuters,' Russia has warned the US that if it attacks the nuclear centres of Iran, it would result in the destruction of the world. Russia said that it is not appropriate for the US President to threaten Iran.

Qaumi Tanzeem (April 12) states that US journal 'Newsweek,' quoting Iranian sources claimed that the Iranian military is giving special focus on developing drone aircraft. For this, many new drone bases are being established. Iran took this decision after the threat issued by US President Trump. Iranian military commander Brigadier General Kiomars Haidari said that planes capable of hitting the intended target are being developed. Earlier, in the beginning of this year, Iranian military had claimed that it had

prepared 1,000 drones. Its range is 1,200 miles and it is capable of inflicting huge damages on its target. The design of these drones have been developed by Iranian scientists.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (April 8) in its editorial alleged that ever since Donald Trump became the President of the US for the second time, he has been following the policy of creating chaos all over the world. Recently he threatened to attack Iran. This apart, he is giving such statements on the Russia-Ukraine war which no one would be able to accept. It seems that Trump is not only the contractor of America but also of the world and in his eyes the sovereignty of any other country has no value. The

newspaper expressed happiness that Iran has refused to bend before this threat and has also indicated of taking retaliatory action.

Hindustan (April 13) in its editorial has expressed happiness over the beginning of talks between Iran and the US. The newspaper said that in the current situation in the Middle-East, now only Iran remains a threat to Israel. Israel survives on the strength of US and America's hostility towards Iran is only because it wants to support Israel at any cost. This is the reason why it is putting pressure on Iran that it should stop its nuclear development programme so that there would not be any danger for Israel in future.

USA cancels visas of 450 Muslim students supporting Palestine



Roznama Sahara (April 9) states that the US government has cancelled the visas of more than 450 foreign Muslim students studying in different universities of the country. They include the students of Muslim nations including Pakistan. As per the US media reports, the visas of these students have been cancelled without any due process. According to newspapers, the Trump administration is targeting those foreign students who took part in various protests that took place in the US in support of Palestinians or involved in anti-Jewish campaigns. The highest number of 150 visas were cancelled in Texas University. Following this, the visas of more than 70

students were cancelled in Michigan University. These students were directed to immediately return to their native countries, failing which stringent action will be taken against them after considering them as illegal infiltrators. The university administrations have opposed this decision of

the US government. They have approached the courts in this connection.

Roznama Sahara (April 3) states that the US State Department has directed the US embassies located in all countries that before granting visa to any foreign student or to any other category, conduct an inquiry into the social media account of the person concerned so that such people could be stopped from entering the US, who thinks against Israel and the Jews. The US administration has issued an order and decided to expel those foreign citizens from the US who keep enmity towards the government or are against the American culture. This apart, a decision has been

taken to expel those who take part in anti-Jewish activities as well. Intelligence agencies have been given strict instructions to trace such people. Till now, the US administration has issued directives to expel more than 300 anti-Israel students from the country. This campaign started with the expulsion of a Muslim student Mahmoud Khalil studying in Columbia University. Khalil had organised a dharna at Columbia University against the Israeli attack on Gaza.

Siasat (April 10) states that the US administration has cancelled the visas of 40 foreign students studying in Northwestern University. This has been confirmed by the public relations head of the University. According to the US newspapers, in the past one week, the visas of students of at least nine other universities were also cancelled. Earlier, when the visa of the students used to be revoked, they were not

immediately expelled from the US. The students used to appeal in the court, but the Trump administration in a latest order has imposed this restriction that the visas of those who have been revoked cannot question the decision in the court.

In another news published in this newspaper, the US administration has indicated to the administrators of US universities that if the students whose visas were revoked do not immediately return to their native countries, then a fine of 998 dollars per day shall be imposed on them.

As per another news, the government aid of the students of those universities who held rallies in support of Palestine or organised dharna have been stopped. It is being said that the grants of 60 universities have been stopped at the behest of Trump administration. Earlier, these universities were being given nine billion dollars as grants.

18,000 infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia



Urdu Times (April 7) states that Saudi Arabia has started the preparations for Haj. The Saudi government has asked all those who have arrived for Umrah to return to their countries before April 19, otherwise stringent action will be taken against them. Saudi Arabia's Ministry for Haj and Umrah

said earlier people belonging to different countries used to camp in Saudi Arabia with Umrah visa. Due to this, there used to be huge crowd during the Haj and due to this the entire system used to collapse.

Siasat (April 10) states that the authorities in Saudi Arabia arrested 18,407

people in the past one week on charges of violating different laws. Now the process to expel them from Saudi Arabia has started. The infiltrators include 62% Ethiopians, 36% Yemeni and the rest citizens of other countries. Eleven citizens of Saudi Arabia were arrested on charges of giving refuge to infiltrators. Those who have been arrested have been awarded a jail term of 15 years each and a fine of 10 lakh Riyals

each. The government has appealed to the citizens of Saudi Arabia that they provide information to the government regarding suspected infiltrators. If they do not provide information to the government in this connection, then stringent legal action will be taken against them. The government also announced that doing Haj on a visitor visa is illegal. Anyone entering Ka'aba, Mina, Mount Arafat and Medina without permission during Haj will have to pay a fine of 10,000 Riyals. Apart from this, the person will be expelled from Saudi Arabia.

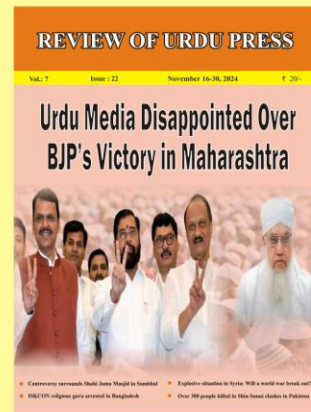
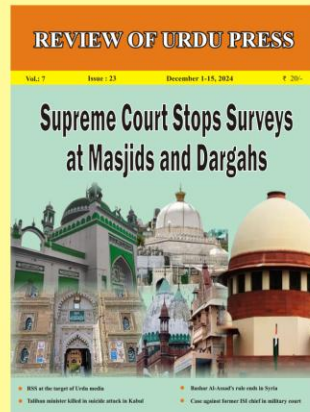
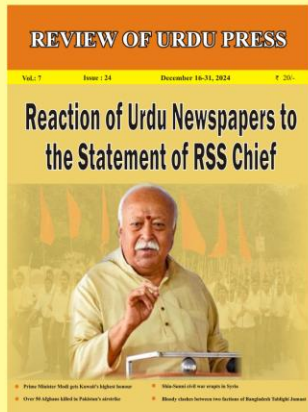
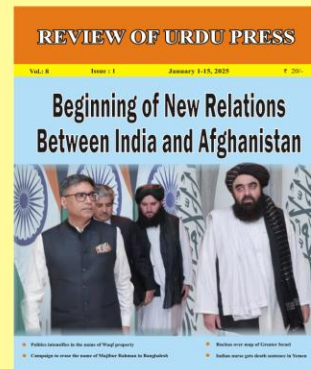
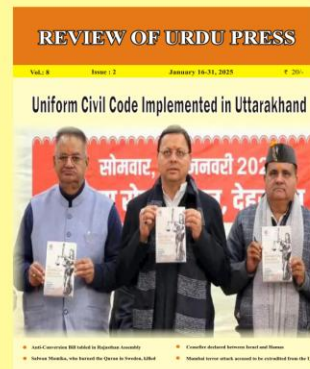
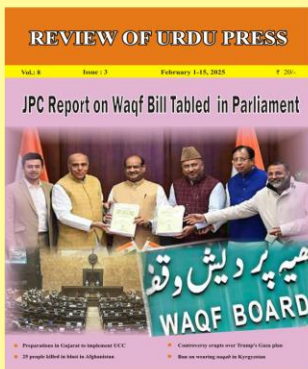
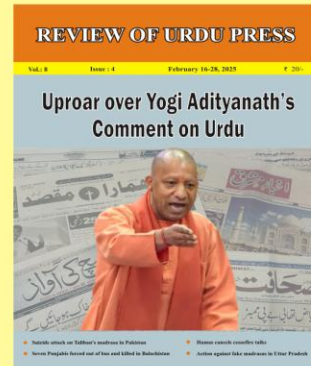
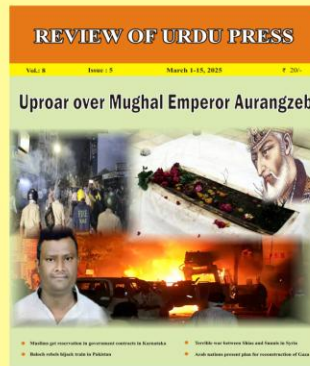
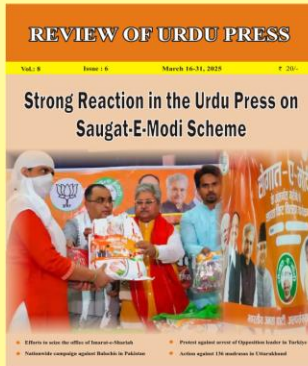
Siasat (April 7) states that the Saudi government has imposed restrictions on issuing visa to citizens of 14 countries. This includes Bharat, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This ban will be applicable on business, family and Umrah visa. The Saudi government said that this step has been taken so that un-registered people do not try to do Haj. This ban will be applicable till the Haj season is over. In a firman,



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman said this order has been issued to stop incidents like the stampede that took place during the Haj last year. More than 1,000 people were killed in the stampede.

Aurangabad Times (April 9) states that the Saudi government has announced that all those who have arrived in Saudi Arabia on Umrah visa shall return to their native countries before April 29. Otherwise stringent legal action will be taken against them.

Etemaad (April 11) in its editorial has welcomed the government restrictions. The newspaper said the Saudi government has imposed restrictions on issuing visa to children during the Haj. This decision has been taken in view of the security of the children. According to Saudi government sources, 20 lakh people are likely to do Haj this year. This includes 18 lakh people from 22 countries and the rest Saudi citizens. Earlier in 1990 also stampede took place during the Haj. Nearly 2,000 people were killed in this stampede.



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