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Urdu Media Reacts to the Statement of RSS Leadership



- Terrorist module linked to Bangladesh busted in Assam
- Growing conflict between Saudi Arabia and UAE
- Tension in Bangladesh after murder of anti-India activist
- Row over Israel granting recognition to Somaliland

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Summary

The Urdu media have strongly reacted to the statements of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat and Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale. The Urdu newspapers have criticised the Sangh chief for describing Bharat as a Hindu Rashtra. These newspapers also allege that Mohan Bhagwat has urged only Hindus to get united so that the atrocities being committed against Hindu minorities in Bangladesh can be addressed. The Urdu media say that this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is against the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution of India is not limited to any particular religion or community.

This apart, Dattatreya Hosabale had recently urged Muslims to worship the sun, rivers and trees to improve environment and health. He also urged Muslims to adopt Surya Namaskar. On this, the chief of Jamiat Ulema Mahmoud Madani said that even an educated person like Dattatreya Hosabale has no knowledge about the basic principles of Islam. According to Islamic beliefs, Muslims keep faith in Tawhid (the oneness of Allah). If a Muslim worships or bows down to anyone other than Allah, it is against Islamic beliefs, and such a person is expelled from Islam.

The relations between India and Bangladesh are becoming increasingly strained day-by-day. Recently, a few masked assailants shot and killed Sharif Osman Hadi, a hardline leader who had played an active role in violent protests against Sheikh Hasina's government. Hadi was considered as anti-India. Following the death of Hadi, an anti-India campaign was unleashed across Bangladesh and the Hindu minority there was selectively targeted. This trend is still continuing. The fundamentalists in Bangladesh did not even spare media groups. They vandalised the offices of two big newspapers of Bangladesh and set fire to them.

Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI is active in Bangladesh. It is trying hard to transform Bangladesh into a fundamentalist Islamic nation and also preparing radical Muslim youths to infiltrate the security establishment. The Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has a major role in this plan. The ISI is trying to spread terrorism in India's north-eastern states with the cooperation of Bangladesh's intelligence agency. Recently, 11 terrorists belonging to an Islamic terrorist organisation in Bangladesh were arrested from Assam and Tripura. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged that Pakistan in collusion with Bangladesh is plotting to disrupt the population balance in North-eastern India.

The Muslim politics in the world has taken a twist. Recently, the United Arab Emirates-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) has once again seized a few cities of Yemen and some oil reserves. A dispute has broken out between the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia over this. Following the arrival of a shipment of weapons from UAE in Yemen, Saudi Arabia bombed a Yemeni port. This apart, there are serious differences between the two countries over several other issues. Pakistan is facing a dilemma because of this. Recently, it had signed a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia. As per this agreement, if Saudi Arabia seeks military cooperation from Pakistan for its operations against UAE, then the latter cannot refuse it. This will result in a strained relationship between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates. Pakistan is scared that in such a situation, the United Arab Emirates will expel nearly 20 lakh Pakistani citizens from the country. If that happens, major trouble will arise for Pakistan.

Urdu media's reaction to the statements of top leadership of RSS



Hindustan (December 23) states that RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat has mentioned about the developments in Bangladesh while addressing a meeting held in Kolkata. He urged the Hindus in Bangladesh to remain united. He also urged Hindus across the world to extend help to the Hindus in Bangladesh who are victims of persecution. He said that the situation of minority Hindus in Bangladesh is very worrying. Mohan Bhagwat said we should explore all possibilities and we are doing that as well. The Indian government should also do something in this connection. They might already be doing something. Some things are in public domain, some not. Sometimes the results are seen, sometimes not, but something must be done. Mentioning about the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, Bhagwat said that Islamic fundamentalism is spreading rapidly in Bengal. There has been an increase in the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. Due to the situation in Bangladesh and the infiltration of Muslims, the situation is turning worse day-by-day in West Bengal.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 22) states that Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has reacted to the laying of the foundation of

Babri Masjid in West Bengal. He said that it is a political conspiracy. The decision to construct Babri Masjid has been taken to gather votes. Neither Hindus will benefit from this, nor Muslims. It is to be noted that suspended Trinamool Congress legislator Humayun Kabir has laid the foundation of Babri Masjid at Beldanga in Murshidabad. When Mohan Bhagwat was asked whether it was appropriate to use government's money for the construction of any religious place, he said the government should not establish any religious place. When Somnath Mandir was reconstructed, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the Home Minister. The then President Dr Rajendra Prasad took part in the inaugural ceremony of the temple, but the government's money was not used for its construction. Similarly, the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was constructed following the Supreme Court verdict. The government was told to create a trust and it did so, but the government did not provide any money for the construction of the temple. We have constructed the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya with the cooperation of people.

Mohan Bhagwat said that Bharat is a Hindu nation. There is no need to prove this, just like the Sun rises in the east. We



Dattatreya Hosabale said that Hindu dharma is supreme. He suggested that the Muslims of India should adopt traditions like the worship of rivers, trees and the Sun. This will protect the environment and improve people's health. He questioned the objections raised against Hindu traditions, asking what harm it would do if Muslim brothers also performed

don't know when it started rising, so does it also require Constitutional approval? Whoever consider Bharat as their motherland and respect Indian culture are Hindu and are under Hindu influence. This is the approach of Sangh. Whether the Parliament ever amends the Constitution to declare India a Hindu nation or not makes no difference to us. The truth is that we are Hindus and Bharat is a Hindu Rashtra. He said that many people view the RSS from the perspective of BJP. You can't understand it by just looking at it. You have to feel it. Bhagwat said that training and exercises do not mean that we intend to attack anyone.

Mohan Bhagwat was asked how can Hindus be protected within the framework of secularism, and how can young people be nurtured on the basis of Hindutva? On this, Bhagwat said that the RSS is not against Muslims. The nation is run as per the law, not on the basis of religion. While separating Hindutva from the rituals, Bhagwat said that simply going to the temple is not the only mark of being a Hindu; rather, a person's conduct, morality, and behaviour towards society constitute their true religion. He clarified that secularism is not a Western concept that has been forcibly imposed on us, but rather a system of governance. Secularism is a policy of the government. The system that runs the country will remain secular and the nation will remain secular.

Aurangabad Times (December 22) states that the Sarkaryavah of RSS

Surya. It does not mean that they will be stopped from going to masjids. Our Hindu religion is supreme. It speaks for everyone. Hosabale has said that Surya Namaskar is not related to religion, but is based on scientific principles and health benefits. "Is it wrong if those who offer namaz also do the namaskar? We are not saying that if you do Surya Namaskar, you have to stop namaz." He said that traditions associated with nature worship are a part of India's cultural heritage.

"These traditions are beneficial for all citizens. If Muslims also worship rivers and trees through an environmental perspective, what will be wrong with it? RSS does not consider any community to be its enemy. We just want to ensure that they take part in the programmes meant for the welfare of the society and the nation. People have the freedom to follow any religion, but in our opinion, human values should be given priority." Mentioning about the Partition of India, Hosabale said that everyone knows what had happened to the Hindus that time. Hindu philosophy teaches non-violence towards all living beings and nature.

Avadhnama (December 24) states that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmud Madani has strongly objected to the statement of RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale. It is worth mentioning that Hosabale has advised Muslims to worship the sun, rivers and trees. Madani said that Hindus and Muslims have been living together in this country for centuries.

Muslims believe in 'tawhid' (the one and only Allah) and their method of worship is not hidden from any sensible person. Maulana Madani said that it is unfortunate that even an educated person like Hosabale has no knowledge about Islam and Muslims. He said that tawhid (the oneness of God) and Risalat (prophethood) are the basic pillars of Islam. Those who do not accept these two are expelled from Islam. Loving and protecting the soil and nature of this country is completely different from worshipping it. Advising Indian Muslims who believe in monotheism to worship trees, the earth, the sun, the sea, or rivers is proof that the Sangh has failed to understand and explain the fundamental difference between what is 'dear' and what is 'worshipped'. This also shows that the organization lacks the ability to guide the country ideologically and practically.

Maulana Madani said that Jamiat Ulema had made continuous efforts for harmony, dialogue and mutual respect. We have moved ahead and tried to remove the misunderstandings regarding Islam and Muslims in the minds of Sangh and other Hinduvadi organisations. In this context, we also held lengthy meetings with the then Sarsanghchalak of Sangh K S Sudarshan. Jamiat Ulema is ready for talks even today, but we regret that instead of responding positively to this goodwill initiative, some office-bearers of the organization are adopting an aggressive and provocative attitude towards Muslims and Islam.

It is even to the extent that they are trying to impose their method of worship on Muslims. This is not acceptable in any form. Jamiat Ulema's clear and principled stance is that the foundation of the nation in India is the country itself. All the citizens living in this country are one nation, irrespective of their religion and ideology. In our view, nationhood is linked to the land, whereas the RSS wants to base the concept of nation on the Hindu community and a specific cultural ideology.

Urdu Times (December 29) said in its editorial that the remote control of BJP



is in the hands of RSS. It cannot be denied that BJP is the political arm of RSS. Today, it's the swayamsevak of the Sangh who are in the leadership of BJP and the nation. RSS describes itself as a cultural organisation, but all the policies of BJP are prepared by it. Mohan Bhagwat's saying that the intention of RSS is not to support any political party is far from reality. The truth is that though RSS claims to be a cultural organisation, its goal is political. The ideology of Hindu Rashtra is a political ideology. If the RSS is merely a cultural organization, then what is the point of its involvement in the debate on a Hindu nation? RSS is issuing political statements and putting the unity of the country and social harmony in trouble. Despite this, it claims that it has nothing to do with politics. Which Bill should be brought in the Parliament and what kind of law should be implemented in the country, all these are prepared in the headquarters of the RSS. After this also, Sangh Parivar demands that it should not be linked to any political party. This is like blindfolding the eyes against the truth.

The newspaper said that the entire world knows that RSS and BJP are not different from each other. Whatever RSS thinks, the BJP implements it across the country. Wasn't the RSS behind issues ranging from the Vande Mataram controversy to the debate over removing the words 'secular' and 'socialist' from the Constitution? Had the Sangh got no role in formulating the National Education Policy which has been implemented in the



country? Yoga has been included in textbooks in the name of physical exercise. Gita recital has been made mandatory in educational institutions. Mythological tales and stories have been included in textbooks. Hasn't all these been done at the behest of RSS? Hasn't the orders of RSS not behind the removal of Muslim rule from the textbooks? These are some harsh realities that neither the Sangh Parivar nor those in power can deny. Despite this, the Sangh chief says that those people who link RSS and BJP are getting it wrong. Every Indian knows how much truth is there in this statement of Sangh chief.

Siasat (December 24) in its editorial has criticised the statement of Sangh chief. The newspaper said that Mohan Bhagwat stated that it is wrong to associate the RSS with the BJP. This statement by him is a calculated political and social message. Mohan Bhagwat has tried to disprove the notion that the RSS operates under a political agenda or that its main objective is to support a particular political party. According to Mohan Bhagwat, the sole aim of Sangh is the unity, solidarity and well-being of Hindu society. The truth is that the leadership of BJP has always been in the hands of leaders belonging to the RSS. Despite this, Mohan Bhagwat says that it is totally wrong to say that BJP and RSS are one organisation. The question is, when the source of ideological training, intellectual guidance, and organizational discipline is the same, how can it be wrong to connect these two? Mohan Bhagwat claims that the RSS does not operate with a confrontational mindset. This is certainly a

moral stance, but its interpretation in practical politics has been controversial.

Hindustan (December 28) has criticised Mohan Bhagwat for describing Bharat as a Hindu Rashtra. The newspaper said that the Sangh chief has described Bharat as a Hindu Rashtra. He also said that for this there is no need for any Constitutional nod. This claim by the Sangh chief is nothing new. He had always said that the DNA of all the people living in the country

are same, hence all are Hindu. RSS has been trying to make Bharat a Hindu Rashtra right from its inception. Now in the centenary year of the Sangh, it has been stated that India is not a secular state, instead a Hindu nation. From this statement of the Sangh chief, the question that arises is what is the basis of Hindu Rashtra and what kind of Hindu Rashtra they want to create? Will the concept of secularism, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution, remain intact after India becomes a Hindu nation? In the Hindu nation that the RSS envisions, is it possible for all citizens of the country to be treated equally? If the Hindutva ideology does not grant equal status to all Hindus, will there be any place left for minorities in this so-called Hindu nation?

The newspaper stated that at one level Mohan Bhagwat says that the country is run as per the law, not religion. On the other hand, he advocates for making this country a Hindu Rashtra. He also claims that secularism is not a Western concept which has been forcibly imposed on this country. In his view, secularism is a policy of the government. However, he also emphasised the importance of organizing the Hindu community. If Mohan Bhagwat believes in secularism, then he should be concerned with uniting all Indians, not just Hindus. By appealing to a specific section of the country to unite, he is proving that this unity of Hindus is not for the protection of the country's shared culture and traditions, but rather to strengthen Hindu supremacy and the roots of Hindutva so that India can be transformed into a



of one nation, one language and one culture is being forcibly imposed on the country. This is a threat to the unity of the country.

The question is when Bharat turns into a Hindu Rashtra, where will secular India disappear into? It is a historical truth that a decision to entrust India to any particular religion or community was neither made during the freedom struggle nor was any step taken in this regard after the country gained independence. On the contrary, the Indian Constitution has decided to provide justice and equality to all religions and citizens. The newspaper alleged that RSS wants to end this old tradition of the country and change a secular nation to a Hindu nation.

Hindu nation. The statements of the Sangh leaders prove that those who talk about Hindu unity do not accept the ideology of 'unity in diversity'. Today, the atmosphere of hatred and discrimination that is growing in the country is a result of the narrow-minded thinking of the Sangh. The concept

Terrorist module linked to Bangladesh busted in Assam



Hamara Samaj (December 31) states that 11 terrorists belonging to a terrorist organisation in Bangladesh have been arrested from Assam and Tripura. This Islamic terrorist organisation has been preparing to create instability in North-eastern India through violent activities. Guwahati police commissioner Parth Sarathi Mahanta told correspondents that on the basis of the information received from Central intelligence agencies, a massive search operation has been carried out in Barpeta, Chirang, Baksa and Darrang

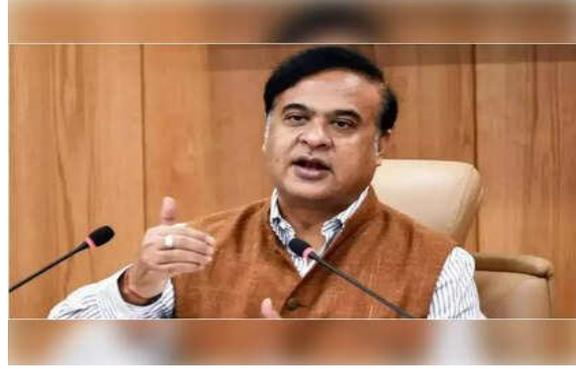
districts of Assam apart from neighbouring state Tripura. During this time, 11 Islamic terrorists were arrested. Among the arrested people, 10 were residents of Assam. One terrorist among them, Jagir Mian, was arrested from Tripura. His links are with an Islamic terrorist organisation in Bangladesh. Police commissioner Mahanta said that all those who have been arrested belonged to banned Islamic terrorist organisation 'Imam Mahmuder Kafila' (IMK). A large quantity of incriminating material was seized from their possession.

The arrested terrorists have been identified as Nasimuddin, Junab Ali, Afarahim Hussain, Mizanur Rahman, Sultan Mahmood, Mohammad Siddiq Ali, Rashidul Alam, Mahibul Khan, Shahrukh Hussain, Mohammad Dilbar Razzak and Jagir Mian.

According to Central intelligence agencies, IMK is linked to an Islamic terrorist organisation based in Bangladesh namely Jamat-ul-Mujahideen. This terrorist organisation is banned in India. The banned Islamic terrorist organisation IMK was established by Jewel Mahmud alias Imam Mahmud Habibullah alias Sohail in 2018. He had been a member of Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh. Imam Mahmud Habibullah used to claim himself as the Amir of IMK and propagate the ideology of Ghazwa-e-Hind. This organisation wants to establish Islamic rule in Bharat through violence. In August 2024, following the change of power in Bangladesh, the new government has released terrorists belonging to Islamic terrorists organisations like Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, Ansarullah Bangla Team and Al Qaida who were lodged in jails in Bangladesh.

The intelligence agencies of Bangladesh, in collusion with the intelligence agencies of Pakistan, want to destabilise the governments in North-eastern India through violent methods. With this goal, two Bangladeshi citizens, Umar and Khalid, have been given the responsibility to spread terrorist activities in Assam. Later, these two terrorists recruited local youths in Assam to their terrorist organisations. These youths were given training in making bombs and in guerrilla warfare in secret training camps.

Inquilab (December 30) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa



Sarma claimed that Pakistan in collusion with Bangladesh is conspiring to make Assam a Muslim-majority state. He said that currently nearly 40 percent population of Assam is Bangladeshi Muslims. Pakistan's effort is to increase this by another 10 percent. With this objective, they are facilitating the infiltration of Bangladeshi Muslims into Tripura and Assam. He said that when he entered politics, the population of Bangladeshi Mian Muslims in Assam was 21 percent which increased to 34 percent as per the 2011 Census and now it is more than 40 percent. Bangladesh does not need to wage war to seize control of Northeast India; instead, it wants to make this region its own by altering the demographic balance. Recently, Bangladeshi infiltrators were arrested from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia in large numbers.

Chief Minister Sarma said that a leader of National Citizen Party of Bangladesh Hasnat Abdullah claimed that several localities in North-eastern India will soon be separated from India. The intelligence agencies of Bangladesh and Pakistan are actively working with this goal. They are infiltrating terrorists into Indian states to carry out the Ghazwa-e-Hind plan. He said the people of the country should remain alert against these anti-national activities.

Prime Minister Modi's visits to Jordan, Oman and Ethiopia

Hindustan (December 17) states that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has signed five agreements during his official visit to

Jordan. This includes agreements on renewable energy, water resource management, cultural exchanges, digital



solutions and a partnership between Petra and Ellora caves. Prime Minister Modi expressed hope that these agreements would help begin a new chapter in the cooperation between the two countries. Earlier, King Abdullah II of Jordan welcomed Prime Minister Modi at Al-Husseiniya Palace. In a meeting held between the two leaders later, discussions were held on several issues including strengthening mutual relationship, regional stability, increase in trade, investments, defence and security, cooperation against terrorism and agriculture.

According to the newspaper, India has announced cooperation with the India-Jordan Information Technology Centre of Excellence established at Al-Hussein Technical University in Jordan's capital Amman. Prime Minister Modi expressed hope that the bilateral trade between the two countries will reach five billion dollars in the next five years. Modi said that India is the fastest growing economy and is on the path to become the world's third biggest economy. Prime Minister Modi stressed that the two countries need to restart their old trade relations. Modi also mentioned about the old trade route that connected Gujarat to Europe via Petra. There used to be trade with Jordan from the Bharuch Port in Gujarat through the Arabian Sea route. Prime Minister Modi expressed hope that there would be a huge growth in trade and tourism due to the

mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Urdu Times (December 18) states that after his successful visit to Jordan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. This was Prime Minister Modi's first visit to Ethiopia. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali welcomed Prime Minister Modi at the Addis Ababa airport. He also showed the Science Museum and Friendship Park to Modi. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi also addressed a joint session of Ethiopian Parliament. Ethiopia is an important African nation and the headquarters of African Union is located in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Prime Minister Modi said his visit will mark a new beginning in India's relations with Africa.

Hindustan (December 19) states that Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al-Sayed honoured Prime Minister Modi with Oman's highest award 'Order of Oman' in Muscat. Modi had arrived in Oman on a two-day visit. An agreement has also been signed between the two countries on economic participation. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi said this will mark the beginning of a new chapter in trade and capital investment between the two countries. This will accelerate the pace of development in both countries and create new employment opportunities. Earlier, addressing citizens of Indian origin living

in Oman, Prime Minister Modi said that India is determined about their welfare and development. More than 700 students from different schools being run by India in Oman took part in this meeting. These schools were established in Oman nearly 50 years ago.



Prime Minister Modi said that wherever our people need help, the government would be available for them. He said that India and Oman had centuries-old relationship from Mandvi to Muscat. He thanked Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq and said that India would cooperate with Oman in sectors like basic infrastructure, health and empowerment of women. He said India is at the forefront in Asia in digital payments. Recently, India had even reached moon. Prime Minister Modi said that India is not

just a market, instead a model for the world. In this connection, he also addressed a meeting of industrialists of Oman. He said that India and Oman have a 70-year-old diplomatic relationship. The two countries also signed on six agreements on higher education, agriculture and maritime cooperation.

Chadar offered at Ajmer dargah on behalf of PM Modi



Inquilab (December 23) states that a chadar has been offered at Ajmer Sharif dargah on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju reached Ajmer dargah on behalf of the Prime Minister and offered this chadar in the presence of lakhs of zayareen (devotees). The sajjadanashin of the dargah, Syed

Salman Chishti, welcomed Rijiju. As per the tradition of the dargah, Rijiju was tied a turban. On this occasion, Rijiju also delivered a message from Prime Minister Modi. In this message, Prime Minister Modi extended his greetings to all devotees on the occasion of 814th Urs of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and urged them to pray for peace, brotherhood and



development in the country. The **Inquilab** reporter asked Salman Chishti whether Kiren Rijiju had come to the dargah to offer the chadar on his behalf or that of the Union government or the Prime Minister? On this, he said that this chadar was offered on behalf of the entire cabinet including the Prime Minister.

Earlier, the president of Hindu Sena Vishnu Gupta and the chief of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh Jitendra Singh Visen filed a petition in the Supreme Court and urged the court to direct the prime minister not to send the chadar to the Ajmer Sharif dargah, because it would influence the petition that they had filed in the local court. It is worth mentioning that Vishnu Gupta had filed a petition in a local court in Ajmer in which it had been claimed that the Ajmer dargah was built on the ruins of Bhagwan Shri Sankatmochan Mahadev Virajman Mandir. This issue is pending in

the court. A special bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant refused to hear this matter immediately. He said he would not list this case. On this, the petitioners said that this matter shall be listed at least by December 26 but the chief justice refused to accept this demand by them.

Reacting to this petition, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the chadar will be offered as a tribute for the development of the country and the well-being of its people. I am not going to Ajmer dargah to play politics and neither the court has stopped the offering of chadar at the dargah.

Hamara Samaj (December 23) claimed that since the petition is pending in the court, no programme was organised at the Prime Minister's house in connection with the chadar being offered at the Ajmer dargah and neither the president of BJP's minority morcha Jamaluddin Siddiqui got any information about the visit there. The state government had made stringent security arrangements on the occasion of Urs. Along with Rijiju, Union Ministers Bhagirath Choudhary, Rajasthan Minister Suresh Rawat and the son of the Diwan of Ajmer Dargah Nasruddin Chishti were present on the occasion. This time, no devotees have come from Pakistan. ■

Humayun Kabir's new party in West Bengal

Urdu Times (December 23) states that Humayun Kabir, the MLA from Bharatpur Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district in West Bengal, has announced the formation of a new party. It has been named as 'Janata Unnayan Party.' It is worth mentioning that the ruling TMC in West Bengal has suspended Humayun Kabir from the party following his announcement on laying the foundation of a Babri Masjid. Announcing the decision to form a new party at Mirzapur in Murshidabad, Humayun Kabir said that the aim of his party is development and welfare of people. He expressed hope that the people of West Bengal will join his new



party. It is noteworthy that Humayun Kabir had been a member of several parties. In 2011, he had won the Assembly elections



on a Congress ticket. Later he left Congress and joined TMC and became a minister in Mamata Banerjee's government. He joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 and contested the Lok Sabha elections from Murshidabad seat, but failed. In 2021, he once again joined TMC and became an MLA from Bharatpur Assembly constituency. Humayun Kabir announced that he would contest from two Assembly constituencies in Murshidabad district, Beldenga and Rejinagar.

Hamara Samaj (December 23) states that Humayun Kabir had sought 'table' as election symbol from election commission. He indicated that if no political party is willing to have an alliance with him, then he is prepared to field candidates in all the 294 seats in the State

Assembly. He urged the people of the state to support his party in order to remove Mamata Banerjee from power and stop the BJP from coming to power. Kabir, while mentioning about Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat criticism of laying of the foundation of Babri Masjid in Murshidabad, said that he respects Sangh chief but he does not agree with his opinion on West Bengal. He alleged that Mamata Banerjee has an understanding with RSS. This is the reason why the domination of RSS in the state increased after Mamata Banerjee came to power. He said he would announce the names of his party's office-bearers next week. Humayun Kabir said he is an original resident of Murshidabad and hence he would establish the headquarters of his party in Murshidabad itself. ■

Tension over killing of anti-India activist in Bangladesh



Chattan (December 20) states that after the killing of a youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, who was part of movement that overthrew the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, massive anti-India protests have started across the country. Once again a series of attacks on Hindus has intensified across Bangladesh. It was reported that when Hadi came out of the masjid after offering namaz, a few masked gunmen opened fire at him. Hadi was admitted to Dhaka Medical College hospital in an injured condition, but when his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Singapore in a special air ambulance. He died there while undergoing treatment.

It is worth mentioning that Sharif Osman Hadi had announced his decision to contest the general elections in Bangladesh to be held in February 2026 as an independent candidate. As soon as news about the death of Hadi came, a series of violent protests erupted across Bangladesh. The protesters attacked the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Museum located in Dhanmondi and destroyed it. Later they attacked the offices of two major newspapers of Bangladesh namely 'Prothom Alo' and 'The Daily Star', vandalised them and set them on fire. 32-year-old Sharif Osman Hadi was a leader of radical group 'Inquilab Manch.' He was considered one

of India's staunchest critics. Hadi had got an 'Alim' degree from a madrasa. Later he also studied at Dhaka University. These days he has been working as a teacher at a private university. He gained prominence in the media during the violent protests against the Sheikh Hasina government.

Avadhnama (December 21) states that after conducting the final rites of Hadi in Dhaka, a series of riots broke out in the country. Anti-India slogans were raised during the funeral procession of Hadi and it was said the hands of India's intelligence agency 'Raw' were behind this attack. During this time, in the city of Mymensingh in Bangladesh, a mob of extremist Muslims surrounded and killed a Hindu youth named Dipu Chandra Das. Whereas in Laxmipur, the houses of BNP leaders were set on fire. The namaz-e-janaza of Hadi was held at the south plaza of the Bangladeshi Parliament House. Later he was buried next to the grave of Bangladesh's national poet Qazi Nazrul Islam in the Kabristan on the premises of Dhaka University.

Hindustan (December 21) reports that international organization 'Media Freedom Coalition' has condemned the attacks on journalists and on the offices of media institutions in Bangladesh. The embassies of several countries located in

Dhaka, while condemning these attacks, described it as against democratic sentiments.

Etemaad (December 23) states that some unidentified gunmen shot at yet another student leader, Motaleb Sikdar, who had actively taken part in the mass protests against the Sheikh Hasina government. Joint chief coordinator of National Citizen Party Mahmuda Mitu said that Sikdar was shot at in Khulna



locality. Later he was admitted to hospital in a serious condition. Following these incidents, tension increased between India and Bangladesh. The protesters tried to enter the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. In retaliation to this, protest marches took place outside the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi. Several leaders of Bangladesh threatened that India, which has given refuge to traitor Sheikh Hasina, will be fragmented, and the north-eastern states of India will be merged with Bangladesh to create a 'Greater Bangladesh.' Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma accused the Bangladesh government of promoting anti-India elements.

Urdu Times (December 18) states that the Indian government has temporarily suspended the operation of Indian visa application centres in Bangladesh. Earlier, India's external affairs ministry summoned the Bangladesh High Commissioner based in New Delhi Riaz Hamidullah and expressed concern over the attack on Indian embassy in Bangladesh by the protesters and the growing insecurity among the minorities in Bangladesh.

Aurangabad Times (December 20) states that the Bangladesh High Commission in India also temporarily closed its visa section.

Aurangabad Times (December 27) states that India has condemned the attacks taking place on the minorities in Bangladesh. Indian foreign ministry said that more than 3,000 incidents of attack on minorities, especially Hindus, took place in

Bangladesh ever since Mohammad Yunus took over power. These incidents include murder, loot, setting fire and forceful occupation of land.

Etemaad (December 27) states that protests were held in several places in Nepal against the attacks on minorities, especially Hindus in Bangladesh. The protesters demanded the Bangladesh government to provide security to minorities. Meanwhile, the effigy of Bangladesh's caretaker prime minister Mohammad Yunus was burned in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

Urdu Times (December 22) states that the Bangladesh government has changed the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall at Dhaka University as 'Shaheed Sharif Osman Hadi Hall.' This apart, the protesters set fire to the picture of Mujibur Rahman displayed at the university.

Etemaad (December 29) states that Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police S N Mohammad Nazrul Islam alleged that the two accused in the murder of Osman Hadi fled to India from Bangladesh. He said the two suspected attackers Faisal Karim Masood and Alamgir Sheikh entered India through the Halaughat border in Mymensingh. Following this, a taxi driver, Sami, took them to Tura town in Meghalaya. These people currently stay there. Nazrul Islam said the Bangladesh government has urged the Indian government to return these suspected attackers. On the other hand, the Indian government, while rejecting this



allegation, said that no suspected person has entered Meghalaya.

Aurangabad Times (December 31) claimed that Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI is devising a plan to establish an extremist organization National Armed Reserve (NAR) in Bangladesh. As per the information, a plan has been devised to include nearly 9,000 radical Muslim youths in NAR with the goal of imposing Shariah law in Bangladesh and to influence the security system in the country. ISI wants to make Bangladesh a fully fundamentalist Islamic nation. In order to supervise this extremist organization, the former chief of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Gulam Azam's son and retired brigadier general Abdullahil Aman Azmi has been selected.

Hamara Samaj (December 25) in its editorial expressed concern over the worsening India-Bangladesh relations. The newspaper said that the flames of hatred being spread in Bangladesh will not be limited to Bangladesh, instead its effect will be on several countries in south Asia.

Hindustan Express (December 24) in its editorial said that some powers in India are trying to create an atmosphere against Muslims on the pretext of the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh. This is a threat to national unity and integrity.

Hamara Samaj (December 19) in its editorial expressed concern over the tension in the relations between India and Bangladesh. The newspaper has urged the governments of both countries that they take some credible steps to find a solution to the problems.

Siasat (December 20) in its editorial said that taking advantage of the developments in Bangladesh, a feeling of hatred is being spread against the minorities in India. The newspaper urged the governments of both the countries to provide full protection to the minorities in their respective countries.

Libya's army chief dies after signing defence agreement with Pakistan

Hindustan (December 28) states that a defence agreement worth four billion dollars was signed between Pakistan and Libya a few days ago. A few days after this agreement, Libyan army's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Mohammed Ali Ahmed al-Haddad, was killed in a plane crash in Turkiye. It is worth mentioning that recently, Pakistan's army chief General Asim Munir visited Libya. He had signed an agreement with Libya's national army to sell weapons worth four billion dollars. According to the newspaper, he signed this agreement during a high-level meeting between Libya's powerful military leader in its eastern region Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and his



son Lt General Saddam Haftar. It has been decided during the agreement that Pakistan would provide Libya with military aircraft, tanks, guns and ammunition in huge quantity.



It is worth mentioning that currently there is a huge economic crisis in Pakistan. Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir signed this agreement with Libya's national army as an effort to overcome this. The newspaper claimed that this agreement signed with Pakistan is an open violation of the sanctions imposed on Libya by the United Nations. In 2011, the United Nations had imposed a ban on Libya over buying and selling of military equipment. It is worth mentioning that currently two parallel governments are in power in Libya. The eastern Libya is under the control of National Army. Its chief is Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. Haftar has the support of Libya's house of representatives. The United Nations has not granted recognition to National Army till now. Whereas the prime minister of internationally recognised government is Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh. The headquarters of this government is Tripoli. According to the newspaper, this agreement is an open violation of the sanctions imposed on Libya by the United Nations.

Etemaad (December 25) states that eight persons including the army chief of Libya General Mohammed Ali Ahmed al-Haddad have died in the plane crash. This mishap took place near Turkiye's capital Ankara. Turkiye's interior minister Ali Yerlikaya told British news agency 'Reuters' that Turkish government search

teams are trying to locate the wreckage of the crashed plane. This delegation from Libya's military high command was returning to the country after holding talks with Turkiye on military agreement. Turkiye's interior minister told correspondents at the mishap spot that the wreckage of the crashed plane was spread over three kilometres. This area is mountainous and therefore

difficult to access, which is making it challenging to find the remains.

Libya's Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, while confirming the crash, said this was a huge setback to Libya. Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a telephonic conversation with the Prime Minister of Libya. While offering condolences for the deceased, Erdogan said that a high-level inquiry will be conducted into the crash. Erdogan said there is no possibility of a conspiracy behind the crash, instead the crash took place due to technical reasons. The Libyan government announced a three-day national mourning. According to the newspaper, Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi was killed during a military rebellion in 2011. Since then, Libya is a victim of civil war. The Turkish army remains deployed in Libya in support of the internationally recognised government. Tripoli and its neighbouring localities are under the control of this government's jurisdiction. In 2020, following a military agreement signed between the two countries, the Turkiye's military has been sent to Libya. Whereas the other parts of Libya are under the control of various groups of the army. The National Army, with which Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir signed a military agreement, is not recognised at the international level.

Imran Khan and his wife get 17 years in jail



Urdu Times (December 21) states that a special court hearing Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cases has awarded 17 years of rigorous imprisonment each to former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshkhana-2 case. This verdict was delivered by special judge Shahruxh Arjumand at Adiala jail in Rawalpindi. This matter was related to the costly jewellery set given to Imran Khan as a gift during his visit to Saudi Arabia in May 2021. This jewellery set was given to Imran Khan as a gift by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. It was alleged that Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi purchased this priceless jewellery set from the government treasury at a very low price. FIA alleged that the rules were violated in the buying and selling of gifts, and the national treasury suffered losses.

The court has awarded 10 years in jail to Imran Khan under criminal breach of trust and another seven years in jail under the anti-corruption Act. Bushra Bibi has also been awarded 17 years in jail under

these provisions. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.64 crore on the two. They have to spend extra years in jail if fine is not paid. On the other hand, the lawyer of Imran Khan argued in the court that the prescribed official rules have been followed for the purchase of this gift, but the present government in Pakistan wants to punish Imran Khan and his wife by trapping them in fake cases due to political enmity.

It is to be noted that Imran Khan is in jail for nearly two-and-a-half years on different cases. Imran Khan's conflict with the current military dictator of Pakistan Asim Munir is well-known. On this issue, Asim Munir has the support of Nawaz Sharif's party Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Bilawal Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Chattan (December 21) states that 73-year-old Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) has condemned the punishment awarded to Imran Khan and his wife. It has been stated in a press release issued by PTI that a puppet court delivered this verdict in a closed room inside the jail at the behest of the Asim Munir. The hearing in this case was not done in a fair manner. Rejecting this statement of PTI, Pakistan's Information Minister Ataullah Tarar said that the court delivered the verdict fairly and without any pressure. Tarar alleged that Imran Khan has seized power by committing fraud in the elections with the help of a dissatisfied group in the Pakistan army.

Increase in the attacks by Baloch Liberation Front in Pakistan

Hindustan (December 28) states that Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) has claimed that their fighters had killed six Pakistani soldiers in two separate attacks in Ormara and Surab in Balochistan on

December 25. Spokesperson of another Baloch organisation, Baloch Republican Guards, Dosten Baloch confirmed that their fighters had attacked a police camp in Dhadar locality in Kachhi district in



Balochistan. Several security personnel were killed in this attack. He said that this series of attacks would continue.

Urdu Times (December 23) states that the media wing of Pakistan army claimed that nine terrorists were killed in two separate operations by Pakistan army in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is said that these terrorists belonged to banned Islamic terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Hindustan Express (December 20) states that TTP attacked a military camp located at Boya locality in North Waziristan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A suicide attacker rammed a car filled with explosives at the perimeter wall of the camp, due to which a huge explosion took place. Soon five armed attackers tried to enter the camp. In the exchange of fire that took place between the terrorists and security forces, three terrorists were killed on the spot. Whereas five security personnel were also killed.

Chattan (December 24) states that terrorists attacked a police van and killed

five police personnel on the spot at Karak district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan's interior minister Mohsen Naqvi has condemned this attack. He said that the government will give adequate compensation to the kin of the deceased police personnel.

Chattan (December 27) states that it has been claimed in the report of anti-terrorism police that 1,588 terrorist incidents took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2005. This includes 54 drone attacks as well. Pakistan's interior ministry alleged that these attacks were carried out from Afghanistan. The highest number of 391 attacks were registered in Bannu locality. Whereas 181 incidents were registered in North Waziristan. Nearly 27 police personnel were killed in the campaign against terrorists in Bannu. Meanwhile, in the retaliatory action by the police, 53 terrorists were killed. In Peshawar, 163 terrorist incidents took place. In Dera Ismail Khan, 152 and in Khyber 119 terrorist incidents were registered.

Decision to ban burqa in educational institutions in Denmark



Urdu Times (December 25) states that the Denmark government has decided to ban the use of burqa and naqab in all the schools and colleges in the country. It is worth mentioning that there is already a ban on wearing burqa and naqab in public places in Denmark. Denmark Minister Rasmus Stoklund said that no permission could be granted for wearing burqa, naqab or any veil that cover the face at the educational institutions in the country. It is worth mentioning that the Denmark government in 2018 had imposed a ban on wearing burqa, hijab and naqab in public places. A provision had also been made to impose fine on those who violate this ban. Now the government wants to extend this to the educational institutions as well. In this connection, a bill was tabled in Denmark Parliament in February 2026.

Human rights organisations and Muslim groups opposed this decision of the Denmark government. They described this step of the government as discriminatory.

They say that this was a violation of religious freedom and women's freedom of choice. Whereas the government supporters say that this will help Muslims with a migrant background integrate into Danish society. Earlier, the Austrian Parliament passed a law imposing a ban on wearing of hijab for girls less than 14 years of age in schools.

Meanwhile, the Muslims in Agra opposed this decision of the Denmark government. They say that this decision of the Denmark government is an interference in the constitutional rights and religious matters of Muslims. A Muslim youth Nadeem Noor said that Denmark is a separate country and he is a citizen of India. As per Indian constitution, Muslims have the complete freedom to live their life according to their religious beliefs. A social worker, Mohammad Sharif Qureshi said that in Islam veil is mandatory for women, hence Muslim women wear naqab and burqa.

Growing conflict between Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates



Etemaad (December 31) has reported a rift developing between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the occupation of some areas in Yemen. Saudi Arabia bombed the Mukalla port in South Yemen after a consignment of weapons arrived from the UAE.

Saudi Arabia has warned that it considers these actions by the UAE very dangerous, as it is providing military assistance to the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a rebel organisation occupying the southern areas of Yemen. Despite Saudi Arabia's warning, the STC has announced that they will maintain their relations with the UAE. Meanwhile, the Saudi-led military coalition has warned that if the UAE army does not evacuate Yemen within 24 hours, there will be serious consequences. At the same time, the UAE has appealed to Saudi Arabia not to promote war in the region and to act wisely.

Following this development, a new front of war has opened in Yemen. It is significant that for the past decade, a war has been going on between the Houthi rebels and Yemen's internationally recognised government, the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC). The PLC has

established its headquarters in Saudi Arabia. From there, it is fighting the Houthis with the help of the Saudi army. Saudi Arabia has announced that if its security is threatened, it will not sit silently and will give a befitting reply. The Saudi foreign ministry has said that the UAE's decision is against the rules of the Arab solidarity coalition. Significantly, the northern part of Yemen is occupied by Houthi rebels. While a fierce war has broken out between the Saudi Arabia-led coalition and the UAE-backed STC for control of the southern part.

According to the Pakistani newspaper **Jang**, there has been a cultural and social relationship between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The tribes that are settled in Yemen are related to the tribes of Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Houthis have been living in Yemen for the past 1,500 years. The Houthis are related to the Shia sect of Islam. This is the reason why their conflict with Saudi Arabia-backed Sunni tribes has been going on for a long time.

There has been a long-standing relationship between the Shia country, Iran, and the Houthis. Iran has been providing large quantities of weapons to the Houthis for the past decade. Due to the civil war

that broke out in Yemen in 2014, the internationally recognised government of Yemen (PLC) had to flee to Saudi Arabia.

According to the newspaper, Yemen is currently divided into four parts. One part is occupied by Houthi rebels. While the second part is controlled by the Saudi Arabia-backed government (PLC). The third part is occupied by the UAE-backed STC. While the fourth part is occupied by local tribes.

The developments in Yemen have created trouble to Pakistan because it has close relations with both Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Pakistan has a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia. Under this agreement, if any country attacks Saudi Arabia or Pakistan, it will be considered an attack on both countries and both countries will take action against the attacking country together.

On the other hand, nearly 2 million Pakistani citizens are living in the UAE. If Pakistan helps Saudi Arabia, its relations with the UAE will deteriorate. In such a situation, Pakistani citizens living in the UAE will have to pack their bags and leave. Pakistan is trying to get Saudi Arabia and the UAE to reach an agreement through US mediation. However, it has not been successful in this so far.

Etemaad (December 31), reports that the President of the Saudi Arabia-backed PLC and President of Yemen, Rashad al-Alimi, has ordered the UAE to immediately withdraw its troops from Yemen. In this way, he has ended the defence agreement between Yemen and the UAE. Al-Alimi has declared a state of emergency across the country for 90 days.

Hindustan Express (December 31) states that PLC President Rashad al-Alimi has announced the cancellation of the defence agreement with the UAE. Al-Alimi said that the government has decided to blockade all ports and routes in Yemen to



stop the UAE-backed STC from war. He confirmed that the Saudi Arabia-led coalition has attacked STC positions three times.

The Saudi Arabian foreign ministry said in a statement that the aggressive action being taken by our Muslim brother UAE in Yemen is very dangerous. Due to this, peace and stability in the region may be endangered and a new war may begin.

Background: The UAE-backed STC last week again targeted several important cities and oil depots in the south-eastern region of Yemen and captured them. Earlier, these areas were under the control of Saudi-backed forces. After the ceasefire agreement in 2022, the Saudi-backed forces had vacated the area. The media of Saudi Arabia and UAE is presenting the developments in Yemen in their own way. UAE-backed 'Sky News Arabia' has broadcast an interview with STC leader Mansour Saleh in which he has said that in view of the possibilities of war in this region, the STC has taken action to establish peace. Qatar's 'Al Jazeera TV' has claimed citing government sources that members of the Yemeni government have gone to Saudi Arabia to protest against the STC's military expansion in the Hadhramaut and Al-Mahrah provinces.

On the other hand, Saudi-backed Al Arabiya News has said in its coverage that the leader of the Saudi Arabia-backed PLC, Rashad Al-Alimi, has condemned the recent unilateral actions of the STC. He has said that such actions harm the legal status and public interests of Yemen.



BBC has said in its report that the developments in Yemen make it clear that in the geographical, political and economic spheres, the UAE and Saudi's fight for dominance between the Arabs has intensified. There are serious differences between these two Gulf countries on decisions made in OPEC, Sudan, Yemen,

and several other issues. The possibility that the US is behind the UAE's stance to end Saudi Arabia's dominance cannot be ruled out.

The US is troubled by China and Russia's growing influence in Saudi Arabia. Recently, the organisation of oil-producing countries, OPEC, decided to cut oil production, with which the UAE does not agree. The UAE has threatened that it will sever its ties with OPEC. Another reason for the dispute between the UAE and Saudi Arabia is the UAE declaring the Yasat area a 'marine protected area'. Saudi Arabia has lodged a complaint with the United Nations against this decision of the UAE.

Row over Israel's recognition of Somaliland



Qaumi Tanzeem (December 27), reports that a new dispute has started due to Israel's recognition of Somaliland as an independent country. Arab countries have protested Israel's decision. Footage of a video call between Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been released. In it, Netanyahu is shown signing the official documents of recognition. It is noteworthy that Somaliland and its capital, Hargeisa, are located in the north-western region of

Somalia. Its area is 1,75,000 square kilometres. Its borders are with Ethiopia in the southwest, Djibouti in the northwest, the Gulf of Aden in the north, and the Puntland region of Somalia in the east. The country's coastline is 740 km long.

In 1991, due to the civil war, rebels overthrew the then President of Somalia, Mohamed Siad Barre. After this, he had to flee the country. This created instability in Somalia. Taking advantage of this, Somaliland declared separation from Somalia and Abdirahman Ahmed Ali Tour

became the President of Somaliland. The government of Somaliland presented a draft constitution in August 2000. This confirmed the separation from Somalia. In 2001, a referendum was held in the region, in which people voted in favour of Somaliland. Somaliland has its own government, army and police system.



Despite this, no foreign government had recognised it as yet. In the 2024 elections in Somaliland, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi was elected president. The population of Somaliland is approximately 6.2 million. There are three tribes in it. Among these, the Isaaq tribe is the largest and dominates the country's politics. While people of the Dir tribe live in the western region, people of the Darod tribe live in the eastern region. Somali, Arabic, and English languages are spoken in Somaliland.

The newspaper says that Somaliland is a more stable country than Somalia. Somalia is said to be a democratic country, but it cannot be called a fully developed democracy. The Islamic terrorist organisation Al-Shabaab, linked to Al-Qaeda, has a dominance in Somalia. Somaliland has a multi-party democratic system and is more developed than Somalia. It has a Parliament with two Houses. Both Houses have 82-82 members. Somaliland was previously a British colony and gained independence from Britain in 1960. Then it joined with the Somalia under Italian occupation and became part of the Somali Republic. In 1991, a civil war started in Somalia, which Somaliland took advantage of and declared its independence.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 29), reports that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and 21 Muslim countries have expressed concern in a joint statement over Israel's recognition of Somaliland. These countries have demanded that Israel immediately revoke

the recognition of Somaliland. Signatories to this statement include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, Oman and Yemen.

The statement said that this decision will have a bad impact on the peace and order of the region of Africa and the Red Sea. The statement also alleged that Israel has violated international rules and the UN Charter. Its goal is to displace the Palestinian people from their land. These countries have expressed concern that Israel might displace Palestinians from Gaza and settle them in Somaliland.

The European Union has called Israel's decision a violation of Somalia's constitution, sovereignty and independence. Additionally, an emergency session of the Arab League was held in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. The crisis arising from Israel's recognition of Somaliland was considered in this session. Somalia's information minister Daud Aweis Jama told the Saudi media network Al Arabiya that Israel's decision is a serious attack on the sovereignty of democratic Somalia. They welcomed US's statement, in which it had said that it does not agree with Israel's decision.

Hindustan (December 29), Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, addressing a special session of the Somali Parliament, said that Israel's decision is a major attack on the sovereignty and integrity of Somalia. He said that Somaliland is an integral and

indivisible part of Somalia. Mohamud said that Israel's decision will encourage separatist movements and peace and order in many parts of the world will be endangered. He said that Somalia will not accept the decision to evict Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, nor will it accept the establishment of any foreign base on its land.

Aurangabad Times (December 28), reports that Somalia's minister of state for foreign affairs Ali Mohamed Omar termed Israel's recognition of Somaliland as an independent country as an attack on Somalia. He demanded from Israel that it immediately withdraw its decision. On the other hand, Somaliland's President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, without naming Palestine, said that they are not against any country nor do they want to endanger regional peace. Celebrations are being held throughout Somaliland after Israel recognised Somaliland.

Hindustan (December 31), states that Somalia's representative to the United Nations, Abukar Dahir Osman, has demanded that the UN Security Council pressure Israel to revoke its recognition of Somaliland. He said that Israel's decision could destroy the peace of Africa and the Red Sea. He said that we will not tolerate the disintegration of Somalia under any circumstances and will fight it strongly.

Hindustan (December 30), Somalia's information minister Daud Aweys has alleged that Israel is deploying its military in Somaliland and wants to establish a base. He said that Israel's decision is a threat to Arab countries, so all Arab countries should unite and fight it.

Etemaad (December 30), Yemen's Houthi group has expressed concern over the growing friendship between Israel and Somaliland and warned that if Israel does not change its decision, Houthi rebels will take military action against it. Turkey's former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said that Israel's recognition of Somaliland is a wake-up call for Islam.



Israel wants to break the unity of Muslim countries and through this it wants to reach the Gulf of Aden. Its goal is to encircle Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Etemaad (December 28), commenting on Israel's recognition of Somaliland, US President Donald Trump said that he currently does not support any such plan. He taunted, "Does anyone know what Somaliland is?" On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel will cooperate with Somaliland in agriculture, health, technology and economic fields. He has also invited the President of Somaliland to visit Israel.

Urdu Times (December 28), in its editorial, said that Israel's decision to recognise Somaliland is part of a very dangerous geo-strategic plan. Its impact will be from Africa to the Middle East and the entire Islamic world. This step comes at a time when the future of Gaza is uncertain. This is why Israel's decision has put Muslim countries around the world in a state of anxiety and danger.

The most concerning reaction is that of the Palestinian foreign ministry. It has called Israel's decision a threat to the Arab world and Islam. The Palestinian foreign ministry has expressed suspicion that Israel wants to use this as an excuse to expel Palestinians from Gaza and bury the Palestinian problem forever. This decision of Israel is a serious challenge for the whole world. All countries should fight it together.

Israel warns of another attack on Iran

Urdu Times (December 23), Israeli army chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir has said that the Israeli army can take action against its enemies at any time. He said that after the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, the war expanded. Many countries including Iran and Yemen got involved in this war.

In such a situation, Israel will take action against enemies when and where it deems necessary. He accused Iran of continuously providing financial and military assistance to elements active against Israel. Iran is behind every plan to harm Israel. Israel can go to any extent to defend itself, can attack any enemy and destroy them.

Before this, the US media claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu might talk about a new attack on Iran during his meeting with US President Trump in Washington. After this, the statement of the Israeli army chief emerged.

According to media reports, Israel is concerned that Iran is expanding its ballistic missile programme. On the other hand, Iran has also expressed concern over new Israeli attacks. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi has said that the possibility of another attack on Iran cannot be completely ignored. In an interview given to Russian media, he said that Iran does not want war, but if war is imposed on it, it will give a befitting reply. He claimed that we are ready to fight on every front.

According to **Hindustan** (December 25), Israeli defence minister Israel Katz said that Israel will never completely vacate Gaza and a military unit will be established inside the Palestinian territory. He said that the Israeli army will remain deployed throughout Gaza. "We are inside Gaza and we will never leave it. We will establish posts for an Israeli infantry



brigade in northern Gaza. Its purpose will be to defend Israel," he reportedly said.

Etemaad (December 25) said that a senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, had said that we will not accept foreign intervention in Gaza. He accused Israel of repeatedly violating the ceasefire agreement. Israel is not ready to implement the second phase of the ceasefire. In such a situation, we will not implement the disarmament plan and will not accept Israeli interference in the internal affairs of the Palestinians.

Siasat (December 22) has claimed in its editorial that Israel is preparing to start another war. Israel is preparing to target Iran once again under the pretext of the ballistic missile programme, and the US is indirectly supporting this. Israel has no intention of vacating Palestine. This is the reason why the Israeli defence minister has clearly announced that the Israeli army will not vacate Gaza.

In such a situation, it becomes the responsibility of US President Trump and other countries of the world to stop Netanyahu from igniting the flames of war again. Every country in the world has the full right to build weapons to defend itself. History is witness that Israel has never come under pressure from the US or Western countries. This is the reason why Israel, after wreaking havoc in Gaza, is now preparing to make Iran its target again.

USA attacks ISIS bases



Chattan (December 27), states that the US military has launched massive attacks on the bases of the Islamic terrorist organisation, ISIS, in north-western Nigeria. Earlier, US President Donald Trump had threatened that if Islamic terrorists attack Christians in Nigeria, their backs would be broken.

Nigeria's foreign ministry has confirmed the attacks. While Trump said the attacks were carried out on Christmas night. Trump wrote on social media platform 'Truth Social' that I had already warned these terrorists that if they did not stop killing Christians, they would be sent to hell, and now we have sent them to hell. A Pentagon spokesman said the attacks were carried out in cooperation with the Nigerian government. The US has stopped the issuance of visas to Nigerian citizens. US aid to Nigeria has also been heavily cut. It is significant that a civil war has been going on in Nigeria for the past 15 years. Boko Haram terrorists linked to ISIS in Nigeria have so far killed 40,000 people and 2 million people have become homeless.

Etemaad (December 21) states that the US has also attacked ISIS bases in

Syria. US President Trump has claimed that ISIS had killed three US citizens in Syria, which is why action has been taken against it. He said that until ISIS is eliminated, the future of Syria cannot be bright. US defence secretary Pete Hegseth has clarified that these attacks were not for the beginning of any war, but to take revenge for the killing of innocent US citizens. In these attacks, ISIS camps and weapons depots have been targeted.

Etemaad (December 27) reports that five people were killed and more than two dozen injured in a blast at a mosque in the Shia-majority city of Homs in Syria. According to government sources, terrorists are behind this attack.

Aurangabad Times (December 31) states that after the attack on the army by ISIS terrorists in the north-western region of Turkey, a campaign has been launched across the country against ISIS supporters.

Turkish interior minister Ali Yerlikaya has claimed that the army has raided 21 provinces of the country simultaneously and arrested 357 terrorists. They are related to ISIS. Earlier, more than 100 suspects were arrested on the occasion of Christmas.

Pakistan's army chief gets Saudi Arabia's highest honour

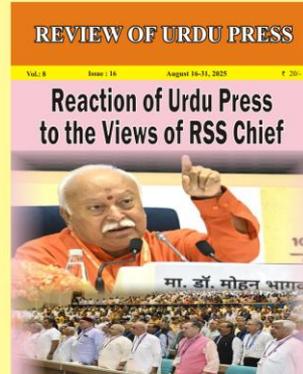
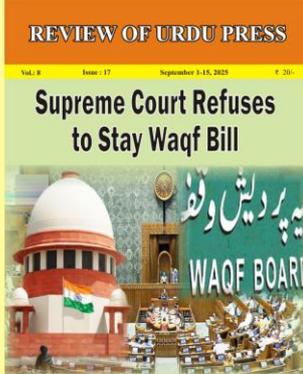
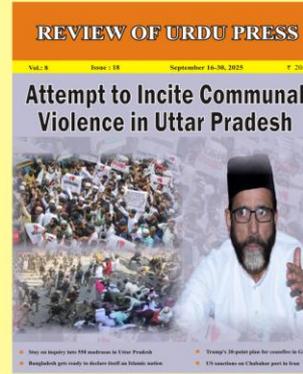
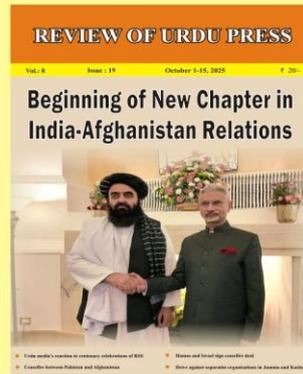
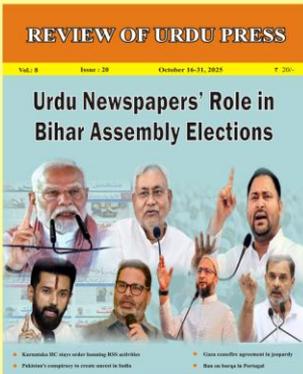
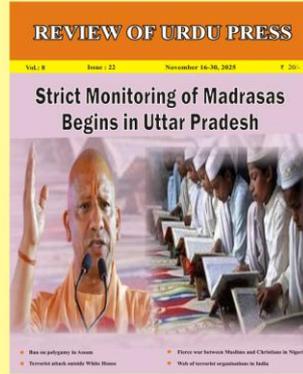
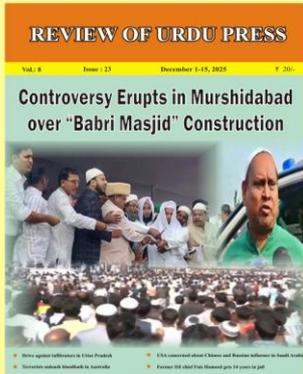


Etemaad (December 23), Saudi Arabia's defence minister Prince Khalid bin Salman has honoured Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir with Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour, the 'King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellence', for giving a new direction to Saudi Arabia-Pakistan relations. In this regard, a special ceremony was recently organised in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh. Asim Munir had come to Saudi Arabia to participate in this ceremony. On this occasion, views were exchanged on giving a new direction to defence relations between the two countries and cooperating with each other in military affairs.

Urdu Times (December 20), the Saudi Arabian government, has deported 24,000 Pakistanis from the country on charges of begging. Riffat Mukhtar Raja, head of Pakistan's Federal Investigation

Agency, confirming this news, said that the Pakistani citizens whom Saudi Arabia has deported from its country were begging in many cities, including Mecca and Medina. These people had misused Umrah and tourist visas. Riffat Mukhtar said that along with Saudi Arabia, the UAE has also taken action against Pakistani beggars. This year, 6,000 Pakistani beggars have been deported from the UAE. He said that the Pakistan government has taken strict steps to stop beggars going to Arab countries.

In the last two years, 1.5 lakh suspects have been stopped from going to Arab countries at airports. Additionally, Azerbaijan has also expelled two and a half thousand Pakistani beggars from its country. He said that the passports of those who have been deported from abroad on charges of begging have been cancelled.



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