

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 8

Issue : 3

February 1-15, 2026

₹ 20/-

Opposition to Making National Song Vande Mataram Compulsory



- Madrasa board dissolved in Uttarakhand
- Formation of new government in Bangladesh

- Genocide of non-Muslims in Nigeria
- Row over Tipu Sultan in Maharashtra

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-79687620

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

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>	
Opposition to making national song Vande Mataram compulsory	04
Madrassa board dissolved in Uttarakhand	06
Govt permission not necessary to offer namaz on private property	08
Row over Tipu Sultan in Maharashtra	10
Action against Tablighi Jamaat activists in Rajasthan	11
<u>World</u>	
Formation of new government in Bangladesh	13
Six sentenced to death in Bangladesh	15
Bloodbath of Shias in Pakistan	16
Britain lifts ban on Palestine Action Group	18
Malaysia and India sign on 11 agreements	19
<u>West Asia</u>	
Gaddafi's son killed in Libya's power struggle	20
Defence agreement between Somalia and Saudi Arabia	21
Genocide of non-Muslims in Nigeria	22
Flames of civil war erupts in Sudan	23
British Prince's visit to Saudi Arabia	24

Summary

The Union Home Ministry recently issued an order making it compulsory to sing all the six stanzas of national song ‘Vande Mataram’ before singing ‘Jana Gana Mana’ at all government programmes, schools and at official events. However, Muslim leaders and the Urdu media started vehemently opposing this government decision. Some people with a Khalistani mindset are also chiming in with them. The truth is that in Islam, there is no concept of motherland. Muslims have always claimed that their love is not limited to any one country, instead they consider the entire world as their homeland. This is the reason why Pakistan’s national poet Mohammad Iqbal had written in ‘Tarana-e-Milli’ in 1910 that, “Cheen-o-Arab hamara, Hindostan hamara, Muslim hai hum, watan hai sara jahan hamara.” It is due to this very premise that Muslims have been opposing ‘Vande Mataram’ right from the very beginning.

The Uttarakhand government has decided to dissolve the madrasa board. In place of it, Uttarakhand State Minorities Education Authority has been constituted. The state government has also issued a notification in this connection. All the minority education institutions in the state will be under the control of this authority. The representatives of minority communities have been included in this authority. This apart, the government has decided to conduct a probe into the land allocated to the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmoud Madani, in Dehradun. In 2004, the then Congress chief minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari had allocated this land to Sheikh ul-Hind Education Charitable Trust. The chairman of this trust is Maulana Mahmoud Madani. There was a plan to establish an Islamic university on the lines of Muslim educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband on this land. This land is located very close to the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun. Hence the army had objected to the allocation of this land.

Sunnis have held dominance in Pakistan from the very beginning. They are not ready to tolerate any other sects among the Muslims. Recently, Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS carried out a suicide attack on a masjid of Shias in Islamabad. More than 50 people were killed in this attack and hundreds were injured. The Shia-Sunni clashes used to take place even before the Partition. Radical organisations like Sipah-e-Sahaba and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were formed to persecute Shias. These organisations consider Shias as *kafirs*. In the decade of 1980, during the reign of General Zia-ul Haq, there was a spike in the anti-Shia campaign, which continues even today.

In Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has returned to power after two decades. Former Bangladesh prime minister Khalida Zia’s son Tarique Rahman has taken oath as the prime minister. It is to be noted that Tarique Rahman was sent to jail in 2007 on charges of corruption. Later he got permission to go to Britain for medical treatment. Since then, he has been living in exile in Britain. The interesting thing is that during the elections, it was predicted that Pakistan-supported Jamaat-e-Islami would come to power, but they had to suffer defeat in this elections.

The Arab countries have opposed the decision taken by Israel to grant recognition to Somaliland. On the other hand, Somalia’s President Sheikh Hassan Mohamud alleged that Israel is likely to establish its military base in Somaliland and attack the neighbouring Arab countries. The government of Somaliland consider itself as an independent and sovereign nation. Whereas the Somalian government claims that Somaliland is an integral part of the country.

Opposition to making national song Vande Mataram compulsory



Inquilab (February 12) states that the Central government has issued new guidelines regarding national song Vande Mataram. The Union home ministry has issued an order making it compulsory to sing national song Vande Mataram at all government programmes, in schools and at official events. On the occasion, like the national anthem, everyone will have to stand in attention in respect of the national song. It has been stated in the order that if at any programme the national song 'Vande Mataram' is sung along with national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana,' then the national song shall be sung first. The government order has made it mandatory to sing all the six stanzas of Vande Mataram written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. The total time for singing will be 3 minutes and 10 seconds. This includes the four stanzas of the national song which the Congress Working Committee meeting in 1937 had decided to remove on the recommendations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore due to opposition from Muslims. The interesting thing is that cinema theatres have been kept away from the new rules. If the national song is played as part of any film, it is not necessary for the audience to stand up. As per the government order, when the

National Flag is brought to the parade, the singing of national song is mandatory. This apart, it will be mandatory to play the national song during the unfurling of the Tricolour, during the arrival and departure of the President and the Governor at government events and before and after the President addresses the nation.

This decision of the government has heated up the politics in the country. Chief of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Arshad Madani described this decision of the government as unfortunate. He said this decision of the government is a conspiracy to take away the religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution. He said we do not have any objection to people singing Vande Mataram, but Muslims can never sing it. We believe in the worship of 'One Allah.' Madani alleged that the verses of Vande Mataram, which the government has made compulsory to sing, praise Durga and Saraswati.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant strongly criticised the decision of the government. He said that the BJP and its ideological organisation RSS have remembered Vande Mataram after 50 years. Sawant alleged that the Tricolour was never unfurled at the RSS headquarters

and neither they used to sing the patriotic song. Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen said the BJP government took this decision to collect votes in the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal.

Hindustan (February 12) states that Samajwadi Party leader in Maharashtra Abu Asim Asmi said that Muslims are not opposed to Vande Mataram. However, it is their religious compulsion not to recognise it because they cannot worship anyone other than Allah.

Hindustan (February 13) reports that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has opposed this decision of the government. General Secretary of the board Maulana Mohammad Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi said the decision taken by the government to make singing of Vande Mataram compulsory is unconstitutional and against the religious freedom and secularism. This is not acceptable to Muslims.

Aurangabad Times (February 13) states that Sikh organisation supporting Khalistan, Dal Khalsa, also opposed this decision of the government. Dal Khalsa leader Kunwarpal Singh Bittu described it as against the identity of Sikhs and against their religious sentiments. He said the government is forcibly imposing the Hindutva ideology on Sikhs.

Inquilab (February 17) states that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in Vidhan Parishad that opposing Vande Mataram is akin to treason. Chief Minister Yogi said that honouring national symbols is the responsibility of all of us.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (February 16), while criticising the Central government, said in its editorial that the decision to make singing of all stanzas of Vande Mataram mandatory is a politically motivated one. The government is trying to impose Hindutva ideology on the people. The newspaper said the Congress Working Committee had taken a decision in 1937 to sing only the first two stanzas of Vande



Mataram as national song. This decision was taken because in the later stanzas of this song, Durga, Saraswati and other Hindu deities are praised. The Muslims then opposed it. The Supreme Court had also clarified through its several verdicts that Vande Mataram is a symbol of honour and faith, but nobody can be forced to sing the song.

Hindustan Express (February 15), while criticising the decision of the government, said that the Modi government wants to forcibly impose Hindutva ideology on Muslims so that their Islamic identity ceases to exist.

Hindustan (February 13) said in its editorial that the BJP is adept at playing political tricks. The BJP government took the decision to make Vande Mataram mandatory because Assembly elections are set to take place in West Bengal and it is trying to come to power in the state. Till now, BJP has not achieved anything on the basis of which it can seek votes in the elections. This is the reason why it fights elections on the basis of religion, history and Hindu-Muslim issue and seizes power by making people fools.

The newspaper said that Jana Gana Mana has been recognised as the National Anthem in the Indian Constitution. Meanwhile, Vande Mataram has been given recognition as National Song, but it was never made mandatory. The government knows it very well that Muslims will oppose it, hence it has come out with this controversial decision so that



a huge section of the society could be misled and seize power. The BJP has so far failed to capture power in West Bengal. The religious card has never succeeded in this state. Initially the Congress, Left parties and the present Mamata government did not allow the Sangh Parivar to spread the poison of communalism in the state. Now the BJP is trying to come to power by playing the communal card with the help of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. It has taken this decision to serve its political interests. Though the issue of Vande Mataram gives momentary benefits, but it is likely to inflict long-term damage to national unity.

Urdu Times (February 12) in its editorial said that when the opposition puts the Modi government in trouble and an anti-government atmosphere begins to develop in the country, the government deliberately launches such a campaign, in which the public gets trapped and hides its basic problems.

Recently, the government got trapped on the issues of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and on the book of former Army Chief General M M Naravane. The government had no way to come out of this Chakravyuh. In order to divert the attention of people from these issues, the government issued a new order on Vande

Mataram. This created a new stir in the country's politics. The government knows it very well that due to this order Muslims in the entire country will be disappointed and a series of protests will begin. Following this, Muslims will be declared as anti-nationals. The government will incite the sentiments of people and try to come to power.

Etemaad (February 14) in its editorial alleged that the government had deliberately raked up a controversial issue like Vande

Mataram so that an atmosphere could be created against Muslims and then collect the votes of the majority community. The newspaper said that this song has been a controversial one right from the beginning and Muslims have been opposing it. On the advice of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Gurudev Ravindranath Tagore, the Congress decided to remove the controversial portions from the national song.

The Congress Working Committee had given recognition to its first two stanzas as national song and in 1950, the Constituent Assembly had approved the same. This is the reason why last year, during a debate in the Lok Sabha on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had accused Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru of coming under pressure from Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Congress granting recognition to half of the song. The newspaper has claimed that this song is against our concept of monotheism, because in its remaining four verses various Hindu goddesses have been worshipped. This is against the basic spirit of Islam, hence we object to reciting it, claims the editorial.

Madrasa board dissolved in Uttarakhand

Inquilab (February 5) states that the Pushkar Singh Dhami government in Uttarakhand has dissolved the Madrasa

board. Now Uttarakhand State Minorities Education Authority has been constituted in its place. The notification for the same



has also been issued after getting approval from the Governor. All the minority education institutions will come under the control of this authority. Special secretary of minorities welfare department Dr Parag Madhukar Dhakate said the state Assembly has passed the bill scrapping the madrasa board. Now after getting the approval from the Governor, a new authority will be constituted. The state government has taken this step in order to provide equal facilities to all minorities education institutions. Now all the minority education institutions in the state will have to obtain recognition from Uttarakhand State Minorities Education Authority. This Authority will prepare the syllabus for all the minority education institutions. This means that there will not be any separate system for the madrasas.

In this Authority, educationists from all minority communities will be included. Retired Professor from Roorkee Dr Surjit Singh Gandhi has been appointed as the chairman of this Authority. This apart, Prof Rakesh Jain, Dr Syed Ali Hamid, Prof Pema Tenzin, Dr Elba Medrile, Prof Robina Aman, Prof Gurmeet Singh, social worker Rajendra Singh Bisht and retired official Chandrashekhar Bhatt have been made members of this Authority. Director of College Education, director of State Council of Educational Research and Training and the director of minorities

welfare department have also been made members of this Authority.

Avadhnama (February 3) in its editorial has accused the Pushkar Singh Dhami government in Uttarakhand of adopting an anti-Muslim policy. The newspaper said that on January 24, 2026, members of Hindu Raksha Dal vandalised a mazaar located on the premises of a school in Mussoorie. Though the government has registered a case against three persons, no arrest has taken place so far. The newspaper also alleged that the Dhami government has demolished more than 400 mazaars, madrasas and dargahs on charges of encroaching government land. This apart, a ban has been imposed on the entry of non-Hindus on the premises of Kedarnath and Badrinath temples. The newspaper claimed that Uttarakhand is the only state in the country where a Uniform Civil Code has been implemented. This shows the anti-Muslim policy of the Dhami government. This apart, a stringent law has been formulated to stop religious conversion.

Aurangabad Times (February 11) reports that the Uttarakhand government has decided to conduct an inquiry into the allocation of land to the chief of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Mahmoud Madani in Dehradun. It is to be noted that this land has been allocated by the Congress government of Narayan Dutt Tiwari in

2004 to Sheikh-ul-Hind Education Charitable Trust. The chairman of this trust is Maulana Mahmoud Madani. It is said that the plan was to establish an Islamic University on the lines of Darul Uloom Deoband on this land. Later, the properties adjacent to the allocated land were also illegally occupied, which belonged to the government and the farmers. This land is located close to the Indian Military Academy (IMA), hence the army had objected to the allocation of this land. When the state government started the process to cancel the allocation of the land, Maulana Mahmoud Madani approached the high court, but due to the opposition of the military, he did not get any relief. Now the state government has directed the trust not to establish an Islamic University on the land.



Inquilab (February 5) states that the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to cancel 100 examination centres of the

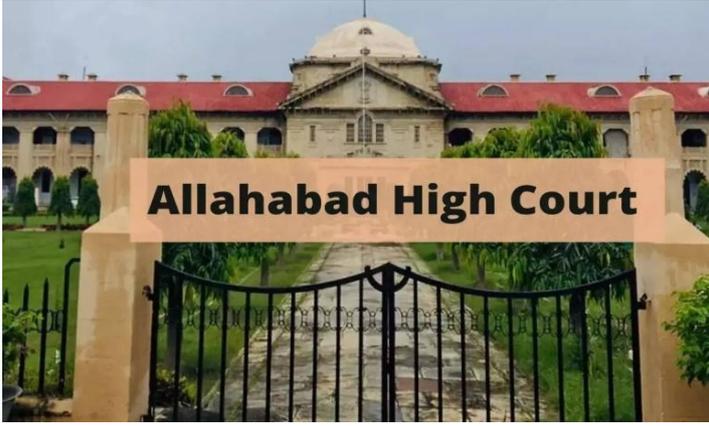
madrasas. According to the state minorities welfare department, these examination centres of the madrasas have been merged with other examination centres where the number of examinees is less than 200. Vice-president of All India Teachers Association Madaris-e-Arabia Maulana Tarique Shamsi said that due to the government decision it will be difficult for the students studying in the madrasas to reach the examination centres and in several places they have to travel for 30 to 40 kilometres. He alleged that the state government deliberately wants to dismantle the madrasa system.

No govt permission required to offer namaz at private property



Urdu Times (February 4) reports that the Allahabad High Court, in an important verdict, has clarified that there is no need for any individual or a community to take permission from the state government or

the administration to organise a religious event on private property. It is noteworthy that in January, a case of offering namaz without administrative permission in a vacant house in Mohammadganj village of



Visharatganj police station area of Bareilly had come to light. The police took 12 people into custody on the complaint of villagers. The police had registered a case against them on charges of disturbing peace. This decision of the administration was questioned in Allahabad High Court. In their plea, the petitioners claimed that as per Indian Constitution, every person has the right to practice his religion. The police and the administration violated the Constitution by arresting people on charges of offering namaz.

The court said that under Article 25 of the Constitution, every individual has the full freedom to follow his religion and to propagate the same. If any religious activity is held on a private property in a peaceful manner, there is no need to take permission from the administration for the same. The court also clarified that if any religious event disturbs public life, or poses a threat to the peace, the administration could take necessary step for the same. The court said that it is mandatory to take permission from the administration before organising any religious meeting or taking out a rally in public places, because it is the responsibility of the administration to maintain peace during the organisation of programmes at public places. However, this law does not apply on religious activities organised on private properties.

It is worth mentioning that the population of the village where this incident took place is nearly 1,500. Among them, 1,200 are Muslims and 300 are non-Muslims. There is no masjid in the village,

hence the Muslims of the village used to go to the nearby village to offer namaz. In such a situation, a resident, Mohammad Hanif, started offering prayers in his vacant house. Later, people started offering juma namaz at this building every week. According to the newspaper, the police sought a written administrative permission from the arrested people, which they failed to produce.

Later, the court released all these accused on bail.

Inquilab (February 4) states that Muslim leaders have welcomed the decision of Allahabad High Court. They say that due to this verdict of the court the supremacy of the Constitution has been established. Chairperson of Islamic Centre of India Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali said that the court has upheld the prestige of the Constitution. General Secretary of All India Shia Personal Law Board Maulana Yasooob Abbas also appreciated the decision of the court. He said this verdict of the court is an important message to the Uttar Pradesh administration. Spokesperson of Samajwadi Party Abdul Hafiz Gandhi also welcomed this decision of the court. He said that during Ramzan people offer namaz at their own houses, hence they got relief due to this verdict of the court.

Inquilab (February 5) in its editorial complained that the administration is taking action against Muslims due to religious hatred. This has led to discontent among the citizens. Now the court has reprimanded the administration and warned it to refrain from such arbitrary actions.

Qaumi Tanzeem (February 19) in its editorial said that taking note of the action taken by the administration over offering namaz at a private building in Mohammadganj village in Visharatganj police station area in Bareilly district, a division bench of Allahabad High Court comprising of Justices Atul Sreedharan and

Sidharth Nandan sought a reply from the district magistrate of Bareilly. Whereas senior superintendent of police Anurag Arya has been issued a notice for contempt of the court. This notice has been issued because the court had said in its previous order that there was no need for any official permission to offer namaz in a peaceful manner in any private property. Despite the court order, the Bareilly administration arrested 12 persons in Mohammadganj village for offering namaz.

Munsif (February 16) in its editorial said that the Allahabad High Court, after hearing a petition filed by a Christian organisation, ruled that it is not mandatory to take permission from police or the administration before organising a religious function in a private property. However, despite this, the Bareilly police took action against those offering namaz at a private building. This is an issue of contempt of court. The satisfactory thing is that the court, while taking cognizance of the matter, issued a notice to the Bareilly district administration.

Inquilab (February 8) in its editorial said the two judges of Allahabad High Court has maintained the dignity of law and the Constitution. The judges not only stopped the bulldozer policy of the government, but also took strong action against the illegal action taken by the Bareilly administration against the namazis. The newspaper has written that



when Justice Atul Sreedharan was a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, he had ordered registration of case against Minister Vijay Shah who had described Colonel Sophia Qureshi as a 'sister of terrorists.' Following this, he was transferred from Madhya Pradesh High Court. Later he was recommended to be sent to Chhattisgarh High Court. However, he was sent to Allahabad High Court on a request by the Central government. The interesting thing is that had he been sent to Chhattisgarh High Court, he would have become the Chief Justice there after a few months. It is possible that after this he would have come to the Supreme Court, but the government has sent him to Allahabad High Court and made his seniority seventh in order. Now he will retire without becoming the chief justice. Despite being a victim of such punishment and injustice, the order he has issued as a judge of the Allahabad High Court clearly shows that he is ready to make any sacrifice for the suffering class. ■

Controversy over Tipu Sultan in Maharashtra

Hindustan (February 8) reports that the newly elected mayor of Malegaon Municipal Corporation Nasreen Bano has landed in a controversy as soon as she took charge. She belongs to the newly formed Islam Party.

Aurangabad Times (February 15) states that the newly elected mayor of Malegaon Municipal Corporation Nasreen Bano Sheikh and deputy mayor Shaan-e-Hind removed the photos of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar from

their office and installed the photos of Tipu Sultan there. Following this, a political controversy erupted in Maharashtra. Shaan-e-Hind is a councillor of Samajwadi Party. Apart from Hindutva organisations, the Shiv Sena (Shinde group) also strongly opposed this. They say that in government offices only the photos recognised by the state government could be installed. Installing the picture of Tipu Sultan has hurt the sentiments of people. In this connection, a delegation of Hindu



organisations also met the commissioner of Malegaon Municipal Corporation Ravindra Jadhav and demanded the removal of the picture of Tipu Sultan installed in the office of the mayor. When the political atmosphere in Malegaon got heated up and a debate regarding the same started in the political circles in Maharashtra, the municipal administration removed the picture of Tipu. Commenting on the incident, deputy mayor Shan-e-Hind said that after winning the elections, his supporters handed him over a picture of Tipu Sultan, which he installed in his office.

Inquilab (February 16) states that politics has intensified in Maharashtra in the name of Tipu Sultan. The BJP and its allied parties are targeting the Congress party. The newspaper said the BJP organised a protest outside the Congress Bhawan in Pune against Maharashtra Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal for comparing Tipu Sultan with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Following this, clashes took place between BJP and Congress activists. Several people were injured in this clash. The police personnel were deployed in huge numbers in order to diffuse the tension. Sapkal alleged that the BJP has wrongly interpreted his statement

on Tipu Sultan. Communal tension erupted in the state due to this. Sapkal said that while mentioning about the establishment of Hindavi Swaraj, he had said that Tipu took inspiration from Shivaji as he unleashed the struggle against the British empire. Following the statement of Sapkal, the BJP alleged that he had compared Chhatrapati Shivaji with a bigot ruler like Tipu Sultan. This is an open insult to Shivaji Maharaj.

Criticising the statement of Congress president Sapkal, BJP Maharashtra president Ravindra Chavan said that had Shivaji been not there, everybody's 'sunnat' would have taken place. He said that Shivaji Maharaj brought together people from different castes and religions and laid the foundation of 'Hindavi Swaraj' for the welfare of the people, religion and the country. In such a situation, how can Tipu, who destroyed temples and oppressed Hindus just to save his kingdom, be equal to Shivaji? Such a thought can arise only from the Mughal mentality of the Congress.

Aurangabad Times (February 17) states that Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, while criticising the BJP over the Tipu Sultan controversy, said that Maharashtra belongs to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. There is no need for BJP to show off its knowledge about this. The BJP is deliberately spoiling the atmosphere in the state. They know that solutions should be found for the problems. Raut said that former president Ram Nath Kovind had described Tipu Sultan as 'national icon' in the Karnataka Assembly. Where was BJP then?

Action against the activists of Tablighi Jamaat in Rajasthan

Inquilab (February 10) states that the police have arrested 12 people associated with Tablighi Jamaat in Banswara district in Rajasthan, but later the court released

them on bail. It is to be noted that in this connection, a complaint was registered at Bagidora police station in Banswara on February 6. It had been alleged in this



that a group of two dozen people were involved in illegal religious propagation. This could endanger peace and order. Following the complaint, when the police launched a probe, it was found that these people were staying in a local masjid. During questioning, they said they belong to Tablighi Jamaat and had come to create awareness about Islam among the people during the Ramzan month. The arrested persons belonged to Godhra in Gujarat. Later these accused were produced in a court. The court released them on bail. Later the Rajasthan police took them to the Gujarat border and released them. It is noteworthy that there is a legal ban on illegal conversions in Rajasthan.

It is to be noted that the foundation of Tablighi Jamaat was laid by Maulana Ilyas Kandhalawi at Kandhala town in Muzaffarnagar in 1926. Maulana Ilyas received his education from Muslim educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband. He was a propagator of the radical Wahabi ideology of Islam. It is said that the Tablighi Jamaat was established in response to the Shuddhi movement of Arya Samaj. During the decade of 1920, a prominent sanyasi of Arya Samaj, Swami Shraddhanad, had given wide prominence to Shuddhi

Andolan. The goal of Shuddhi Andolan was to bring those who Hindus who were forcibly converted to Islam back to Hindu religion. As part of this campaign, thousands of people came back to Hindu religion. Peeved at this movement, a fundamentalist Muslim, Abdul Rashid, entered the ashram of Swami Shraddhanand at Naya Bazar in Delhi on December 23, 1926 and brutally murdered him. It is said that Abdul Rashid was influenced by the ideology of Tablighi Jamaat.

The goal of Tablighi Jamaat is to create awareness among Muslims about Islam and to propagate the same. Its motto is 'Oh Muslims, become true Muslims.' Maulana Ilyas had started his activities from the Mewat locality and made the Banglawali Masjid located at Nizamuddin in Delhi as the headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat. The Tablighi Jamaat claims that it is the world's biggest religious organisation. The Jamaat is currently divided into four groups. Its branches are spread in 140 countries in the world. It is said that the number of its followers are 8 to 10 crore. The interesting thing is that nearly a dozen Islamic countries including the Saudi Arabia has imposed a ban on the activities of Tablighi Jamaat.

Formation of new government in Bangladesh



Inquilab (February 18) states that the chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Tarique Rahman has taken oath as the new prime minister of Bangladesh. President of Bangladesh Mohammad Shahabuddin administered the oath of office and secrecy to him. Fortynine other ministers also took oath along with him. Two ministers, Nitai Roy Chowdhury and Dipen Dewan, who also took oath, belong to minority communities. Nitai Roy Chowdhury belongs to Hindu community while Dipen Dewan comes from the Buddhist community. On behalf of India, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri attended the oath-taking ceremony. On behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Birla handed over an official invitation to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit India.

The newspaper said that Tarique Rahman is the son of Bangladesh's former prime minister Khalida Zia. After the death of Khalida Zia, Rahman took over the reins of BNP. He has been living in exile in Britain for the past 18 years. In 2007, the then government of Bangladesh had arrested Rahman and sent him to jail on charges of corruption. Later he was given permission to go abroad for medical

treatment. The interesting thing is that BNP seized power after defeating fundamentalist party Jamaat-e-Islami. The BNP got 209 seats out of total 299 seats. Interestingly, out of the 36 Hindu majority constituencies, the BNP won 22. In this election, the BNP had fielded four Hindu candidates, out of which two got elected. Similarly, the 11-party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami got 77 seats. The Jamaat-e-Islami alone got 68 seats and National Citizen Party (NCP) got six seats. Observers say that the people of Bangladesh did not support the violent student agitation. This is the reason why NCP got only six seats.

Hindustan Express (February 18) states that a total of 50 people took oath of office and secrecy in Tarique Rahman ministry. Apart from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, 25 people took oath as cabinet ministers and 24 others took oath as ministers of state. Three technocrats have also been made ministers in the new government. Out of the 25 cabinet ministers, 17 have become ministers for the first time. Whereas, all the ministers of the state have become ministers for the first time. The interesting thing is that as soon as he registered victory in the elections,

new prime minister Tarique Rahman held a meeting with the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Shafiqur Rahman and the leaders of NCP. The BNP alliance got a total of 212 seats in this elections.

Inquilab (February 19) said that the population of Hindus in Bangladesh is just 8 percent. Even then a Hindu has been made minister. Whereas the population of Muslims in India is 18 percent, but there is not a single Muslim minister in the Union cabinet. The newspaper said that a comparative study of Bangladesh and India shows that Bangladesh has more concern about its minorities.

Hindustan (February 15) in its editorial has welcomed the BNP's coming to power in Bangladesh. The newspaper said that it is clear from this development that the period of Begums' rule has ended in Bangladesh. In the past one-and-a-half decade, Sheikh Hasina had played the role of a strong ruler, but she has been accused of adopting dictatorial stand and not conducting a fair and transparent elections. It is clear from the recent elections held in Bangladesh that now the atmosphere in the country has changed. If the new government does not adopt a transparent administration and democratic means, a threat of political instability will prevail on Bangladesh. It is necessary for Tarique Rahman to provide a corruption-free administration to the people keeping in view the national interests. Initiatives should be taken towards electoral reforms in the country and no restrictions should be imposed on political activities.

The newspaper said that the new government has ushered in a period of severe testing for India. It is necessary that New Delhi now adopts a real policy and improve relations with the new government there. Instead of giving importance to any particular individual or any particular party, India should give priority for friendly relations with Bangladesh.

Hindustan Express (February 15) said that the history of Bangladesh is



stained in blood. Both the founder of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and military dictator Ziaur Rahman were murdered. The newspaper said that the Sheikh Hasina's rule was a living example of dictatorship. During her reign, several people belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami were hanged to death and more than 30,000 people were lodged in jails. The newspaper claimed that this election was held in a peaceful manner. However, Jamaat-e-Islami complained that fraud took place in 71 seats during the elections. The party has demanded re-election on these seats. Jamaat-e-Islami and its allied parties alleged that Tarique Rahman came to power on the strength of foreign powers.

Avadhnama (February 15) states that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said his party will maintain friendly relations with the three countries China, India and Pakistan, but in this special attention will be given to the national interests of Bangladesh.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (February 15) in its editorial has welcomed the victory of BNP. The newspaper said that the people of Bangladesh rejected the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami. Meanwhile, BNP once again got back to power after 20 years. The party had boycotted the past three elections and Sheikh Hasina had also made BNP a victim of political vendetta.

Hindustan (February 17) in its editorial said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Tarique Rahman for the victory of BNP. He made it clear that India will stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. This statement by Modi has raised hopes that a new chapter may begin



in the relations between the two neighboring countries. India had a tense relationship with the government led by Mohammad Yunus. It is in the interest of both the countries to mitigate it. It is necessary for the economic development of both the countries that there is a friendly relation between the two.

Hindustan Express (February 18) in its editorial said that the path of newly elected Prime Minister of Bangladesh Tarique Rahman is full of thorns. He faces the task of providing a stable government so that the economic condition of the nation becomes strong. At present, it is difficult to say how capable Tarique Rahman will be in fulfilling his new responsibility, because till now the state of democracy in Bangladesh has not been satisfactory. There is uneasiness there. There is unrest among the youth due to economic crisis and rising unemployment. During Mohammad Yunus's reign, tension between India and Bangladesh increased due to the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh.

Hamara Samaj (February 19) states that the election results in Bangladesh were unpredictable. It looked like that a

government led by Jamaat-e-Islami would come to power. However, since the BNP got a huge success in the elections, it became clear that the people of Bangladesh do not have faith in Jamaat-e-Islami.

Siasat (February 18) in its editorial said that in the past one year, the situation in Bangladesh was not good. The new government in Bangladesh should pay special attention to strengthening the economic situation in the country. Until the economic condition of the country is right, the development of Bangladesh cannot happen. The new government should adopt an aggressive policy and try to control the destructive elements so that the relations with neighbouring countries and the trade improves. In the past one year, Pakistan tried to increase its influence in Bangladesh. A few elements in Bangladesh worked as a puppet in the hands of Pakistan. This has created an anti-India atmosphere there. For the new government, it is necessary to control such elements because a stable, strong and friendly relations with India is in the interests of Bangladesh. Without friendly relations with India, Bangladesh's economic condition will not improve. ■

Six get death sentence in Bangladesh

Urdu Times (February 6) states that the International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh (ICT-2) has awarded death sentence to six persons on charges of

killing protesters and setting their bodies on fire during the protests held against the Sheikh Hasina government in July-August 2024. Those who were awarded death



Superintendent of Dhaka police Abdullahil Kafi, former police officer Shahidul Islam, Inspector Arafat Hussain, sub-inspector Abdul Malik, Arafat Uddin, constable Mukul Chokder, Kamarul Hasan and Sheikh Abjalul Haque.

On August 21, 2024, the ICT-2 headed by retired judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court Nazrul Islam Choudhary started hearing in this case.

Constable Sheikh Abjalul Haque accepted his crime and he was made the government witness. As per his statement, the police opened fire at six youths in Ashulia locality in Dhaka on August 5, 2024. Later their bodies were set on fire in police vans. A video of this incident went viral, which had shaken the entire country. Two of the bodies were identified. The viral video showed several bodies in a van. The police officials were seen loading few other bodies into the van. It is being said that these police officers had also set ablaze a few others who were alive at that time.

sentence include former MP Muhammad Saiful Islam, police officer AFM Sayed, former sub-inspector Abdul Malik, former assistant sub-inspector Bishwajit Saha, former constable Mukul Chokder and the youth wing leader of Awami League, Roni Bhuiyan.

This apart, seven other accused were given life-term in jail on the same issue and two others were given seven years in jail. In this case, 16 people have been made the accused. Eight among them have been arrested. The rest of the accused have been said to be absconding. Those who have been arrested include former Additional

Shia bloodshed in Pakistan

Inqilab (February 7) reports that more than 50 people were killed and over 200 were injured in a suicide attack at a Shia mosque Khadijatul Kubra Imambargah in Tarlai Kala region in Pakistan's capital Islamabad. The condition of most of the injured is serious, hence the toll is likely to increase. A large number of people were offering namaz at this Shia masjid at the time of the blast. Pakistan's Minister of State for Interior Talal Choudhary confirmed that this was a terrorist attack. Following this attack, an emergency was declared in Islamabad and its neighbouring regions. The Pakistan government appealed to the people of the country to donate blood to save the life of the injured. Curfew was imposed in Islamabad and the security arrangements were tightened.

Inqilab (February 8) states that Sunni terrorist organization ISIS has claimed responsibility for this attack. The news agency of ISIS 'Amaq' said this

attack was carried out by the fighters of ISIS. Along with this, the photos of suicide attackers were also released. General Secretary of United Nations Antonio Guterres condemned the attack. This apart, the US, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Iran and Afghanistan also condemned the attack. While condemning this attack, Saudi Arabia said that killing namazis inside masjid is an un-Islamic act and blatant terrorism. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry, while condemning this attack, said that Iran condemns all kinds of terrorism. Turkiye's foreign affairs ministry said that no true Muslim can do such a thing. This is a shameful act of terrorism. Spokesperson of Afghan foreign affairs ministry said that it is un-Islamic to target namazis. Those who have done this are enemies of Islam.

Chattan (February 8) states that the Pakistan government has claimed that the suicide attacker was a Pakistan citizen. It is



said the attacker stayed in Afghanistan for five months before this attack. There he received training in weapons and on suicide attack. Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif alleged that the hands of Afghanistan and India were behind this attack. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared that this terrorist gang will be wiped out. It is to be noted that the ISIS had targeted Shias in Pakistan in the past well. This organization targeted five Shia masjids in the past three years.

Qaumi Tanzeem (February 8) states that India has rejected the allegation that its hands were behind the blasts that took place in Islamabad. In a statement, India's external affairs ministry said that it is unfortunate that instead of resolving its internal troubles, Pakistan is blaming the entire troubles on neighbouring countries. India has condemned this blast and Pakistan has been advised to take seriously the problems arising from its social fabric and stop blaming other countries for it.

Avadhnama (February 8), while condemning the murder of Shias in Pakistan, said that it has become a crime to be a Shia in Pakistan. The newspaper alleged that the Shias are not safe in Pakistan. Shias are described as kafir and killed. However, the Shias have the same Quran where it has been stated that killing an innocent is murder of entire humanity.

Expressing grief, the newspaper said, "We are ashamed to say that in Pakistan, the Shias are being killed by those people who describe themselves as Muslims. They believe in the Prophet and the Quran which we also follow. Are we not Muslims? Why our blood is spilled in the name of Islam?" It is to be noted that the 'Avadhnama' being published from Lucknow is a Shia newspaper.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (February 8) in its editorial has condemned the blast that took place in the Shia masjid in Islamabad. The newspaper said that Shias are not safe in Pakistan. Their blood is regularly spilled. This act is very shameful and is against Islam. The newspaper alleged that the policy adopted by the Pakistan government to promote terrorism has become a threat to themselves. The newspaper has written that no religious place is now safe in Pakistan. The government and the military of Pakistan are responsible for the flames of hatred that have flared up between the various Islamic sects in the country.

Siasat (February 7) has condemned the suicide attack that took place at the Shia masjid in Islamabad. The newspaper said that Shias are deliberately targeted in Pakistan. It is a sad thing that a nation which describes itself as an Islamic nation is playing Holi with the blood of Shias. The Shias are being targeted in Pakistan for

several decades and the government has totally failed to provide them security.

Hamara Samaj (February 9) in its editorial said that the manner in which suicide attacks are taking place in Pakistan is against Islam and Muslim unity. The newspaper said that those who have given this the name jihad are enemies of Islamic unity, Quran and the Prophet. The mutual conflict between various sects of Muslims is a matter of



concern. No amount of condemnation is too much for this act.

Ban on Palestine Action Group in Britain lifted



Urdu Times (February 14) states that the UK High Court had said in its order that the decision taken by the British government to impose a ban on Palestine Action Group after declaring it as a terrorist organisation was illegal. In its verdict, the high court stated that this decision of the government is against the British tradition because it affects the freedom of expression and the right to protest. The court also directed that those who were arrested in connection with the protests held in the country shall be released immediately and the cases registered against them in the courts should be withdrawn.

It is to be noted that last year pro-Palestine organisations based in Britain held violent protests across the country and demanded that the British government remain neutral in the war between Israel and Hamas. These organisations had also

demanding that the British government put pressure on the US government and direct Israel to immediately stop the military operations in Gaza. Those associated with Palestine Action Group even entered an airport in Britain and damaged a few aircraft. Later, the British government decided to impose a ban on pro-Palestine protests in the country. The British home ministry declared Palestine

Action Group as a terrorist organisation like other Islamic terrorist organisations Al Qaida and Hamas. The British home ministry also directed that if any individual becomes a member of Palestine Action Group, or extends support to it, or gives any financial aid to it, then the person will be arrested under anti-terrorism law and sentenced to a jail term of up to 14 years.

Huge protests were held in different parts of Britain against this decision of the government. More than 3,000 people who took part in these protests were arrested. Cases have been registered against them in the courts. Human rights organisations had questioned this decision of the British government in the courts. Now, the high court has lifted the ban on Palestine Action Group. However, the government has announced that it would question this verdict of the high court in the higher court.

Malaysia and India sign on 11 agreements



several things that connect the hearts of people from India and Malaysia. He said that India has now become the world's second biggest manufacturer of mobile phones. More than 100 Indian companies are operating in Malaysia. This reflects Malaysia's growing diplomatic and economic significance within India's 'Act East Policy' and Indo-Pacific Vision.

Siasat (February 9) states that Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim have signed on 11 agreements related to defence, energy and trade. On this occasion, the two leaders stressed on strengthening the mutual relations in various sectors. According to sources, talks were also held on strengthening defence cooperation between India and Malaysia. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that in the past few years, a significant progress has been made in the sphere of diplomatic partnership between the two countries. Now, cooperation will be enhanced in the fields of trade, local currencies, energy and food security.

Inquilab (February 8) states that Prime Minister Modi had written on social media platform 'X', "Landed in Kuala Lumpur. Deeply touched by the warm welcome extended by my friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. I look forward to our conversations and to further strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Malaysia."

Indian citizens were present on huge numbers at Kaula Lumpur airport and school children were seen holding Indian national flag in their hands. Prime Minister Modi, while addressing a meeting of people of Indian origin, said there are

Hindustan Express

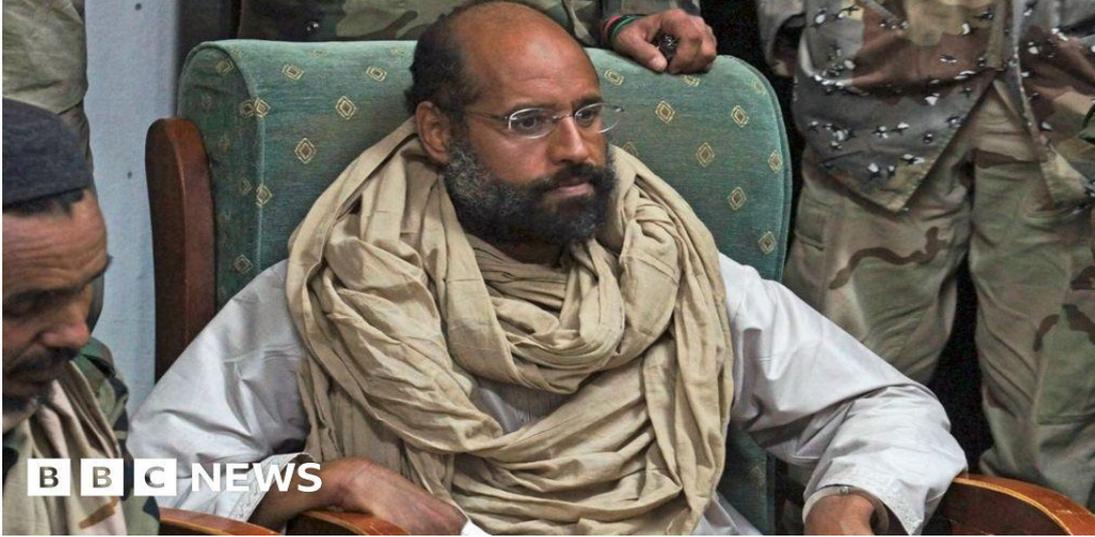
(February 9) reports that under this agreement, a decision has also been taken to conduct trade in local currency and to increase the import of palm oil from Malaysia. It has also been agreed upon to increase defence cooperation and adopt a 'zero tolerance' policy on terrorism.

Urdu Times (February 9) reports during his visit to Malaysia, Prime Minister Modi has sent a strong message to Pakistan over terrorism. Without taking the name of Pakistan, he said that India's message regarding terrorism is very clear. Modi said that on the issue of terrorism, there will not be any double standards and neither there can be any compromise.

Hindustan (February 9) in its editorial has welcomed the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Malaysia. The newspaper said that the relationship between India and Malaysia is not limited to diplomatic relations, instead it is based on long-lasting trade and cultural relations. Since ancient times, merchants, Ulema, Sufis, and sailors from both countries have been visiting the Malay Archipelago.

The newspaper said that Malaysia is a Muslim country, but Hindus are also staying there in large numbers. This is a live example of the historical relations between the two countries.

Gaddafi's son killed in power struggle in Libya



Inqilab (February 6), states that the head of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi's media committee in Libya, Aqila Dalhoum, has alleged that the ruling group in the country has orchestrated the murder of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of the former Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi.

He said that recently Saif al-Islam had announced that he would participate as a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections. This is the reason why the ruling gang got Saif al-Islam murdered to remove him from their path. Aqila Dalhoum has demanded that the murder of Saif al-Islam be investigated under the supervision of an international agency. He said that if the government does not accept our demand, we will file a case in the International Court of Justice.

Qaumi Tanzim (February 5) reports that four masked gunmen attacked the residence of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi in the city of Zintan, Libya. In this attack, Saif al-Islam and his son were also killed. Saif al-Islam's brother, Al-Saadi Gaddafi, confirmed the death of Saif al-Islam and his son, saying that Saif al-Islam had fought the attackers and was killed in that confrontation.

Interestingly, in September 1969, the army led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi

overthrew the King of Libya. After this, Gaddafi became the head of the Libyan army and also became president as the new chairman of the Revolutionary Council. Gaddafi ruled Libya as a dictator for 42 years. In 2011, Gaddafi was killed in a rebellion in Libya.

According to the *BBC*, Muammar Gaddafi was born into a farming family in 1942. Due to his political leanings and ideology during his studies at Benghazi University, he was expelled from the university. After this, he joined the Libyan army. Gaddafi used to be an admirer of the then Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser and his policies. It is said that Gaddafi actively participated in the demonstrations that started in the Arab world against the attack by Britain, France, and Israel after the nationalisation of the Suez Canal by Egypt in 1956.

Immediately after coming to power, Muammar Gaddafi dismantled the US and British military bases located in Libya and forcibly expelled Italians and Jews from his country. Oil reserves were exploited in Libya under Gaddafi's supervision. This made Libya one of the rich Arab countries. However, at that time, the population of Libya was only 3 million. Gaddafi emerged as a notorious leader internationally.



In 1986, a bomb exploded in a club for US soldiers in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Several US citizens were killed in this blast. It is said that Gaddafi was behind this blast. In response to this blast, on the orders of the then US President Ronald Reagan, the US Air Force attacked several cities in Libya. Libya suffered heavy damage in these attacks and many people were killed. The US wanted to target Gaddafi in this attack but he narrowly escaped. However, some of his family members were killed in this attack.

In 1988, an US aircraft crashed. A total of 270 people were killed in this accident. It is said that Gaddafi's agents planted a bomb on this plane. In August 2003, under pressure from the United Nations, the Libyan government took

responsibility for the blast and announced compensation of \$2.7 billion to the victims' families. In return, the United Nations lifted the sanctions imposed on Libya.

In 2011, anti-Gaddafi protests intensified in Libya at the behest of the US. Gaddafi tried to strongly suppress them. Police and army fired bullets at the protesters and fighter jets were also used. The international

community and human rights organisations strongly condemned this move by the Libyan government. On the other hand, several ministers of the Gaddafi government also resigned.

In February 2011, the United Nations Security Council imposed new sanctions on the Gaddafi government and froze the assets of his family. After this, civil war broke out in the country. On April 30, 2011, the NATO air force attacked Gaddafi's palace. His youngest son and three grandsons were killed in this attack, but Gaddafi survived. In August 2011, the rebels captured the capital Tripoli. According to foreign media reports, when Gaddafi was trying to escape from Libya, he was killed in a skirmish with the rebels.

Defence agreement between Somalia and Saudi Arabia

Hindustan (February 10), reports that the ministry of defence of Somalia has announced that a defence agreement has been signed between Somalia and Saudi Arabia. A Saudi government spokesperson confirmed that the agreement, signed in Riyadh, was between Somalia's defence minister Ahmed Moalim Fiqi and Saudi Arabia's defence minister Prince Khalid bin Salman. The details of this agreement have not been shared. It is noteworthy that Israel had previously recognised Somaliland.

Arab countries had opposed this and called Israel's decision a threat to the Arab

world. The government of Somaliland considers itself an independent and sovereign nation, while the government of Somalia calls it an integral part of its territory.

Etemaad (February 10), reports that the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, alleged that Israel is trying to establish illegal military bases on Somalian land. This is why it has recognised the rebel government of Somaliland. In an interview to *Arab News*, the President of Somalia said that we will not allow Israeli military bases to be established in Somaliland. He alleged that Israel could



Bank and build more Jewish settlements there. European Union foreign affairs spokesperson Anwar al-Anouni told reporters that the European Union condemns the Israeli cabinet's decision. This step by Israel is in the wrong direction and will increase tension in the region.

Inquilab (February 16), reports that the Israeli government has declared the

attack neighbouring Arab countries by establishing its military base in Somaliland. He said that we will fight with all our might and defend ourselves.

It is noteworthy that Israel recognised Somaliland as an independent and sovereign nation in December 2025. There was a strong reaction to this in Arab countries. In the conference of Arab countries' foreign ministers held in Saudi Arabia, it was alleged that Israel is trying to establish its military base in Somaliland so that it can implement its plan of Greater Israel. However, Israel and Somaliland both had denied these allegations, but last month a spokesperson for the Somaliland ministry of foreign affairs told Israeli TV Channel 12 that an Israeli military base in Somaliland is being considered.

According to **Chattan** (February 11), the European Union and eight other Muslim countries have condemned Israel's decision to tighten control over the West

land of the West Bank as Israeli state property. According to Israeli radio 'KAN', this plan was presented by finance minister Bezalel Smotrich and justice minister Yariv Levin. Israeli defence minister Israel Katz has supported this plan. On the other hand, Hamas has said that this decision is illegal. Hamas has alleged that Israel forcibly occupied this area of Palestine in 1967. Now it wants to legalize it so that it can be used for military purposes.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey have condemned Israel's decision. A joint statement issued by these countries said that the United Nations has already declared this area as Palestinian territory, so Israel has no right to occupy it. It is worth noting that at present more than five lakh Israelis are living in the West Bank. Whereas the number of Palestinian residents in this area is more than 30 lakh.

Genocide of non-Muslims in Nigeria

Urdu Times (February 6) reports that Islamic terrorists attacked two villages in western Nigeria and killed at least 162 people. Most of the dead are non-Muslims. Mohammad Umar Bayo, the MP of this area, has said that this is the biggest attack by terrorists in recent months.

The attackers belong to an Islamic terrorist organisation called Lakurawa, which is linked to the notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. MP Umar Bayo

said that the bodies of the dead are scattered all around. Ayodeji Emmanuel Babaomo, secretary of the Red Cross Society of Kwara State, said that most of the dead are Christians. According to government television, people have been massacred and their homes burned down. Governor of Kwara Abdul Rahman Abdul Razak has condemned this attack, saying that recently the army had taken strong action against Islamic terrorists. It seems



that the terrorists have taken revenge for the same.

A few days before this incident, Boko Haram terrorists in northeastern Nigeria had attacked a town and a military base, killing 70 people. A Nigerian military spokesman has alleged that after the military revolution in neighbouring Niger

in 2023, the activities of Islamic terrorist organizations have accelerated.

The head of the US Africa Command has claimed that a US military team has been sent to Nigeria on the direction of President Donald Trump. This team will study the situation. It is noteworthy that in November 2025, US President Donald Trump had threatened that if the

genocide of Christians continued in Nigeria, the US would intervene militarily.

Siasat (February 16) reports that at least 32 people have been killed and dozens taken hostage in attacks by motorcycle-riding gunmen in the northern region of Nigeria.

Flames of civil war erupts in Sudan



Inqilab (February 9) reports that a bus carrying refugees in the northern region of Sudan was attacked by a drone. At least 24 people were killed in this attack. Among the dead were eight children and two newborns. According to a spokesperson for the Sudanese ministry of defence, the attack was carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) near the city of Al-Rahad in North Kordofan state. Due to the civil war raging in Sudan, the people on the bus were going to a safe place to save their lives.

The Sudanese foreign ministry has alleged that the RSF is targeting vehicles carrying relief material sent by the United Nations. This is a blatant violation of

international rules. US President's advisor on African affairs, Massad Boulos, has condemned this attack. He said that the US will not tolerate such attacks. According to the United Nations, due to increasing violence in the Kordofan region, more than 88,000 people have been forced to leave their homes.

Urdu Times (February 13) reports that the RSF attacked a mosque located in Kordofan, Sudan with a drone. At the time of the attack, children were reciting the Quran inside the mosque. Two children were killed and more than 13 were injured in this attack. The RSF has not yet issued any statement regarding this incident. A Sudanese mufti has claimed that recently the RSF has attacked 20 mosques. Additionally, more than 165 churches have also been destroyed.

According to **Urdu Times** (February 18), at least 28 people have been killed in a drone attack on a crowded market in central Sudan. The deceased include women, children and the elderly. Fierce

war has been continuing between the Sudanese army and RSF in this area. In the civil war going on in Sudan since April

2023, more than 50,000 people have been killed so far and 13 million people have been displaced.

British Prince's visit to Saudi Arabia



Inquilab (February 11) states that Britain's Prince William has made his first official visit to Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's deputy governor Prince Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman welcomed Prince William. According to a report by *The News International*, the goal of this visit is to strengthen mutual relations between the two countries.

Chattan (February 11) states that the UK is trying to strengthen its relations with Saudi Arabia. This started during the reign of Elizabeth II. Forty years ago in 1986, the then Crown Prince Charles visited Saudi Arabia with his wife Princess Diana. Prince William visited Israel and Palestine in June 2018. Then, he met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. It is significant to note that this region was under the British rule from 1917 to 1948.

According to reliable sources, Britain wants to establish a fighter jet

manufacturing factory in cooperation with the Saudi Arabian government. It is said that Prince William visited Saudi Arabia in this context.

In 2024, it became widely known that Britain's current King Charles III, 77, was suffering from cancer. In such a situation, the importance of Prince William is more significant. Sources in the Saudi Arabian government have confirmed that there is significant potential for defence production between Saudi Arabia and Britain.

Prince William's visit to Saudi Arabia is also being given importance because China and Russia are trying to sign an agreement to purchase defence equipment with Saudi Arabia. After this, America has also come into action. It is trying to ensure that Saudi Arabia cooperates with Britain in the field of defence production so that the efforts of Russia and China in Saudi Arabia get a setback.

