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Record Selection of Muslim Candidates in Civil Services Exam



- Supreme Court stresses on implementation of UCC
- Pakistan's fierce attack on Afghanistan
- President Trump isolated globally over Hormuz crisis
- Anti-conversion bill passed in Maharashtra

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Summary

It has generally been alleged by certain Muslim organizations in the country that the Modi government is pursuing anti-Muslim policies. However, the results of the Civil Services Examination published by the Union Public Services Commission recently has once again exposed this propaganda. This year, a record-breaking number of Muslim candidates have been selected for the All India Services. The total number of selected Muslim candidates this year is 53, which includes 13 women as well. In the 76-year history of UPSC, such a large selection of Muslim candidates never took place.

It is to be noted that the Ministry of Minority Affairs provides special facilities to minority candidates who appear for this examination. This includes free coaching, accommodation and study material apart from the financial help. Despite this, no worthy change is visible in the stand of the Urdu media. Instead of giving credit to the policies of the Modi government for the increased representation of Muslims in the All India Services, the Urdu newspapers have given the credit to the individual effort of the Muslim youths and efforts aimed at ensuring appropriate participation in the governance system.

These newspapers appealed to Muslims to take part in higher numbers in this exam so that they could get appropriate representation in the administrative setup of the country.

Recently, the Supreme Court, during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by 'Nyay Naari Foundation' stressed on the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country. The court expressed hope that the country's parliament will create an appropriate law in this connection. This organisation had demanded amendments in certain sections of Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937 so that Muslim women could get their rightful share in the ancestral property.

It is worth mentioning that after Independence, several such laws were made in the country where Hindu women get equal representation in ancestral property, like the men. It is regrettable that this law is not implementable on Muslim women. Even today, they remain victims of centuries-old discriminatory Shariah laws. Under Shariah, in inherited property, Muslim women are generally given half the share compared to men. The root cause of this discord is the Act of 1937, which provides for the application of Shariah law to the Muslim community. Whenever there is some discussion on the improvement of this law, some Islamic organisations start opposing it.

In Afghanistan, the situation is turning worse day-by-day. The Afghan government does not have a modern air force or any effective defence mechanism to stop bomber aircraft, a situation Pakistan is exploiting. Violating international laws, Pakistan has been entering Afghan airspace and targeting different cities. Due to these attacks, innocent citizens are killed in large numbers. However, the Indian government has strongly criticised the killing of Afghan citizens in Pakistani attacks, but the world community is silently watching this genocide.

The Israel-Iran war has been ongoing for the past 19 days, and currently, there appears to be no possibility of this conflict coming to an end. Several top leaders and military commanders of Iran were killed in the Israeli and US attacks. Despite this, Iran has gone ahead with the war. Since Iran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, the economy of Asian countries has gone for a toss, because there has been a huge increase in the prices of petroleum and gas. In order to end the blockade, US President Donald Trump has urged NATO nations to send their warships to the Hormuz region, which majority of the countries have rejected. Also, no other country is ready to be part of this war.

Record-breaking selection of Muslim candidates in Civil Services Exam



Inquilab (March 7) states that the list of successful candidates in the Civil Services Examination, 2025 conducted by the Union Public Services Commission has been published. Rajasthan resident Anuj Agnihotri has secured the first rank while Tamil Nadu resident Rajeshwari Suve M secured the second and Haryana's Akansh Dhull got the third rank. In this exam, Muslim candidates also achieved record-breaking success. This year, there are 53 Muslims among the total 958 successful candidates. Similarly, among the top 30 candidates, there are three Muslims, while only 26 Muslim candidates were successful last time. The interesting thing is that there are 13 women among the 53 successful Muslim candidates.

Urdu Times (March 7) states that a total of 38 candidates got selected from the residential coaching academy of Jamia Millia Islamia, which included 15 women as well. Jamia's chief public relations officer (PRO) Saima Sayeed said this success was due to the hard work of the candidates and the guidance of the University administration.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 8) reports that among the successful Muslim candidates who cleared the Civil Services

Exam 2025 include 30-year-old vision-impaired candidate Jaseela Jannat P from Kerala. She has an MA degree from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai. The interesting thing is that this time the highest number successful Muslim candidates are from Bihar and among the top also there are two candidates from Bihar.

The following are the names of the successful Muslim candidates in the Civil Services Exam 2025.

Serial No.	Name	Rank
1.	A.R. Rajah Mohaideen	7
2.	Ifra Shams Ansari	24
3.	Nabiya Parvez	29
4.	Hasan Khan	95
5.	Arfa Usmani	124
6.	Khan Saima Siraj Ahmed	135
7.	Wasim-ur-Rahman	157
8.	Sofia Siddiqui	253
9.	Tausif Ahmad Ganaie	254
10.	Mantasha	307
11.	Asad Aqeel	321
12.	Mohammad Ishtiaq Rahman	354
13.	Mohammad Ashmal Shah	382

14.	Shahida Begum S	411
15.	Shadab Ali Khan	415
16.	Mohammad Sualah T A	429
17.	Shoaib	455
18.	Nazia Parveen	478
19.	Sheikh Mohammad Habisuddin S	485
20.	Sheikh Mohammad Nishat M	497
21.	Minhaj Shakeel	513
22.	Gulfiza	535
23.	Hashmi Mohammad Umar	549
24.	Shah Rukh Khan	575
25.	Asna Anwar	576
26.	Muneeb Afzal Parra	581
27.	Azeem Ahmad	588
28.	Shaista Parveen	614
29.	Noor Alam	625
30.	Mohammad Irfan Qaim Khani	646
31.	Mohsina Bano	648
32.	Ghulam Maya Din	663
33.	Danish Rabbani Khan	665
34.	Mohammad Nayab Anjum	668
35.	Mohammad Abu Zar Ansari	671
36.	Insa Khan	678
37.	Abdul Sufiyan K	695
38.	Feroz Fatima M	708
39.	Mohammad Hashim K	713
40.	Mohammad Sohail	718
41.	Tausifullah Khan	741
42.	Koh-e-Safa	763
43.	Sana Azmi	764
44.	Reshma M	773
45.	Yasir Ahmad Bhatti	811
46.	Ghulam Haider	832
47.	Mohammad Sheezan C P	860
48.	Mohammad Ejazur Rahman	869
49.	Azhar Asif Khan	886
50.	Mohammad Sarfaraz Chaudhary	936
51.	Abdullah Afridi A	942
52.	Mohammad Shahid Raza Khan	955
53.	Irfan Ahmad Lone	957

Hindustan Express (March 15) in its editorial said that the history of Muslims bears witness to the fact that whenever they made education the central objective of their lives, they not only transformed their own destiny but also assumed global leadership in the field of education.

Unfortunately, in the present times, a planned conspiracy has been hatched at the behest of the government to keep Muslims backward educationally, socially and financially. In spite of this, the recent results of the Civil Services Examination have proved that despite the government's adverse policies, Muslims possess the capability to achieve resounding success. If Muslims continue to make education their weapon in this manner and instil self-confidence within themselves, then no power in the world can keep them backward.

Urdu Times (March 7) in its editorial has stressed the fact that Muslim students should now focus more on getting into Civil Service instead of becoming doctors and engineers. It has been said in the editorial that Muslims should enter administrative service and thereby foil the government conspiracy to keep Muslims backward in every sector. This year, a total of 53 Muslim candidates got elected who will definitely hold important posts in the administrative system. It is a happy thing that institutions like Jamia Millia Islamia, Zakat Foundation and Shaheen group are making consistent efforts in sending Muslim youths to the administration.

It is worth mentioning that this year, 38 candidates from the residential coaching academy of Jamia Millia Islamia got selected, where they were given free accommodation, food and study material. Earlier, institutions like the Mumbai-located Haj House and Hamdard Foundation also used to take such efforts but due to some reasons, these centres are not active now. In the current anti-Muslim atmosphere, the success of this 53 Muslim candidates is an important opportunity, but instead of remaining satisfactory Muslims should go ahead with their efforts to



Sayed Hameed established 'Hamdard Study Circle' and started preparing Muslim candidates for UPSC. That time Sayed Hameed had said, "If we are unable to occupy the seat of power, at least we can stand behind those who sit on the chair and give suggestions."

The newspaper expressed satisfaction that the Muslims instead of becoming victims of government's negligence have focused on finding solution to it. Muslim institutions like Zakat Foundation, Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University and Haj House have done credible work in this direction.

In the present circumstances, it is not possible for Muslims to spend lakhs of rupees in the expensive coaching centres in Delhi, hence the well-off section among the Muslims and religious institutions provided financial aid to these centres. The result is that the selection of Muslim candidates has rapidly increased. This year, a record 53 Muslim candidates got success, which is 5.53 percent of the total successful candidates.

Comment: A concern has been expressed in the past several decades over the decreasing representation of Muslims in the country's administrative setup. In 1983, the Indian government had constituted the Dr Gopal Singh Committee to study the representation of minorities in the higher government jobs. This report had concluded that the contribution of Sikhs and Christians in the country's administrative structure is satisfactory, whereas the representation of Muslims is constantly on the decline. This committee in its report had said that the total number of IAS officers in the country is 3,975. Among them, there are 165 Sikhs, 128 Muslims and 109 Christians. The total number of IPS officers are 2,159, out of which there are 117 Sikhs, 57 Muslims and 49 Christians. That time the representation of Muslims in IAS was 3.22 percent and in IPS it was 2.64 percent, whereas the population of Muslims in the country was nearly 12 percent.

increase their participation in the administration of the country.

Hamara Samaj (March 8) in its editorial said that the Muslim youth must make earnest efforts to secure maximum participation in the country's governance system, so that the government's anti-Muslim policies can be effectively countered and Muslims could get justice. It would be appropriate to say that the success of any young individual in the Civil Services is a significant feature of Indian democracy, which provides equal opportunity to every capable person to participate in the country's administration. The newspaper advised that the Muslim youths should make consistent effort to increase their participation in the country's administrative setup.

Inqilab (March 17) in its editorial said that in the modern democratic system, the civil services position is not just a job, instead it is the backbone of the country's governance system. It is regrettable that after Independence, the participation of Muslims in the country's administrative system has fallen short of expectations. In its report, the Sachar Committee expressed concern that the representation of the country's biggest minority population in the civil services is just three percent. In order to address this deficiency, the founder of Hamdard medicine Hakim Abdul Hameed and senior bureaucrat



In 2006, on the basis of this data, the Rajendra Sachar Committee in its report had concluded that the representation of Muslims in civil services is much low compared to their population.

As per the data, in the civil services examination in 2016, a total of 52 Muslim candidates got selected. Following which in 2023, 51 Muslim candidates cleared the exam. Similarly, 31 students cleared in 2009, 21 in 2010, 31 in 2011, 30 in 2012, 34 in 2013, 38 in 2014, 34 in 2015, 50 in 2017, 28 in 2018, 44 in 2019, 31 in 2020,

25 in 2021 and 29 Muslim candidates cleared in 2022. Last year (2024), only 26 Muslim candidates got selected.

At present nearly 10 Muslim institutions in the country have been running 51 centres in order to prepare Muslim candidates for the competitive examinations. In these centres, free accommodation, food and study materials are being provided to the candidates. Along with this, retired Muslim senior officials are providing free guidance for the students.

Supreme Court stresses on implementation of UCC

Hindustan Express (March 11) reports that the Supreme Court has made some important observations while hearing a petition related to the inheritance rights of Muslim women. The court said that now time has come to seriously think about implementing Uniform Civil Code in the country. However, the court also said that scrapping of the sections related to Shariah law is a very sensitive issue. Only the Parliament could take any concrete decision on this matter. The hearing in this case was being conducted by a division bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant. The division bench also comprises Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice R Mahadevan.

It is worth mentioning that the division bench was hearing a petition questioning a few provisions of Muslim

Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937. It was argued in the petition that this law was discriminatory towards Muslim women as they are given only half of the property compared to men. The court during the hearing said that if it scraps the provisions related to division of property in the Shariah law, then it could lead to a legal vacuum. The reason is that currently there is no proper law regarding the division of property among the Muslims.

Senior lawyer appearing for the petitioners, Prashant Bhushan, argued that a few sections of the 1937 law related to Muslims violate the right to equality guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution. On this, the Chief Justice told Prashant Bhushan that no such step shall be taken in a hurry to improve the law as the women may receive even fewer rights than



their existing ones. Justice Bagchi made it clear that the case of discrimination in the petition is quite strong. However, it would be more appropriate if the parliament takes a decision in this regard. He said that under the Directive Principles of the Constitution, the responsibility to implement Uniform Civil Code rests with the Parliament. The court also reiterated that it has recommended the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country on several occasions in the past.

Prashant Bhushan argued that the court could give a clear direction that Muslim women should receive an equal share as men in the distribution of property. He had also said that if the controversial provisions of Shariah law are removed, the Indian Succession Act, 1925, can be applied in such cases.

Inquilab (March 11) states that the lawyer for the petitioners, Prashant Bhushan, argued that just as Triple Talaq was declared unconstitutional and invalid, the discriminatory provisions of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937, should also be struck down on the same grounds. On this, Justice Bagchi, while mentioning about an earlier judgment of the Bombay High Court, said that whether Muslim Personal Law can be brought within the ambit of constitutional scrutiny is a question worthy of consideration. In his arguments, Prashant Bhushan said that the matter of

inheritance is linked to civil rights, hence it should not be given protection under Article 25 (Religious Freedom). On this, the Chief Justice said that the permanent solution to this problem is the Uniform Civil Code alone and it would be better if the job to make the law shall be left to the Parliament. The division bench also said that in case if a Muslim woman files a petition herself in the court, then the court could intervene in it. On this, Prashant Bhushan said that there are a few Muslim women also among the petitioners. In the end, the division bench advised Bhushan that he change his original petition and also include the suggestion that if the Muslim Personal Law Act, 1937 is scrapped, what would be the alternative solution?

According to **Etemaad** (March 13), the All India Muslim Personal Law Board described the demand of Nyay Naari Foundation as mischievous, where it has been demanded to scrap certain sections of Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Act, 1937. Spokesperson of the board, Sayed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that the Bombay High Court had already given the verdict that the Muslim Personal Law cannot be brought within the ambit of Constitutional scrutiny. He argued that it is an act of ignorance not to regard Muslim inheritance law as a mandatory religious injunction.

Shariah law is based directly on Quran and the Sunnah, and it is the religious duty of every Muslim to follow it.



It is wrong to say that Shariah law is discriminatory towards woman. In Islam, man and woman are given equal treatment, but their responsibilities are different. The responsibility for women's sustenance and the entire household expenditure rests upon men, whereas women are exempted from this.

Ilyas said the government on the pretext of discrimination towards Muslim women is looking for an opportunity to interfere with the Shariah law. Indian Muslims will not tolerate this under any circumstance. He claimed that more than five crore Muslims have given their opinion against UCC before the Law Commission. They include women as well. Ilyas said that the Supreme Court does not have the power to interfere in Shariah law and make amendments in the succession issue.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 12) in its editorial has strongly opposed the effort to interfere with Muslim personal law. The newspaper said the personal law is not just for Muslims, but several other religious communities also have their own personal law. The intriguing thing is that in a state like Uttarakhand, the UCC is limited only to Muslims and other communities are

exempted from it. It is clear from it that only Muslims are being targeted.

Inquilab (March 15) said that several Muslim members of the Constituent Assembly especially Mohammad Ismail and Naziruddin Ahmed of Muslim League had strongly opposed the inclusion of Uniform Civil Code in the Directive Principles of the Constitution. They described it as against the religious freedom of Muslims. During the debates held

in the Constituent Assembly, speakers argued that Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution guarantee every citizen the right to profess and practice their religion; therefore, the religious rights of Muslims—as well as their personal laws—should remain inviolate.

It is worth mentioning that during the first term of the Modi government, the Law Commission had presented a detailed report to the government in August 2018 regarding the implementation of UCC in the country. In this report, it has been clearly mentioned that it is not possible to implement UCC in a country like India where there are different religions, culture and ideology. The surprising thing is that despite this clear opinion of the Law Commission, the Supreme Court has been recommending the implementation of the UCC. Recently, the Pushkar Singh Dhami government in Uttarakhand has implemented the UCC. However, the tribals have been kept out of its provision. Now the other BJP-ruled states are also looking for ways to forcibly impose the UCC. However, this is completely contrary to the spirit of the protections granted to minorities under the Constitution. ■

Anti-Conversion Bill passed in Maharashtra

Aurangabad Times (March 17) states that the 'Freedom of Religious Bill, 2026' has been passed in the Maharashtra Assembly through a voice vote following a heated debate in the House. The Mahayuti

government strongly supported the Bill by describing it as a necessity in the present times. Shiv Sena (UBT) also supported this Bill, while there are sharp differences in the Opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi

over this issue. A few Opposition parties including Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar group) and Samajwadi Party opposed this bill. The bill provides for a prison sentence of seven years and a fine ranging from Rs 1 to 5 lakh for individuals who induce religious conversion through inducement or deception in ordinary cases. Similarly, in issues related to women, minors, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there is a provision for a jail term of up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 7 lakh.



Inquilab (March 15) states that Maharashtra's Minister of State for Home Dr Pankaj Bhojar, while tabling the Bill in the House, said that it is mandatory to give a written notice to the District Magistrate 60 days in advance for voluntary religious conversion. The marriage through illegal conversion will be considered as null and void. Now this Bill will be tabled in the State legislative council. During the discussion in the Assembly, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that this law is not against any particular religion, instead its goal is to stop conversion through force, fraud and allurements. He said that anti-conversion law is present in several states like Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan. In view of this, Maharashtra also decided to implement such a law. He said that Article 25 of the Indian Constitution gives the freedom to practice any religion to every citizen. Those who want to change their religion on their own, the door is open for them. They have to just follow the prescribed legal procedure.

Supporting this bill, Bhaskar Jadhav of Shiv Sena (UBT) said that its aim is to protect the right to religious freedom and stop illegal conversion. Following the debate, MLA of NCP (Sharad Pawar

group) Jitendra Awhad opposed the bill. When the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was mentioned on this occasion, an uproar took place in the House.

Inquilab (March 15) states that this bill contains a provision stating that the parents, relatives, or any other individual connected to the person undergoing religious conversion—whether through ties of blood, marriage, or adoption—may file a complaint with the police regarding such unlawful conversion. If the police find the complaint as genuine after the investigation, it could file an FIR against the individual or institution involved in the conversion. The most important thing about this Bill is that if a case is registered against any person on charges of illegal conversion, it would be the responsibility of the accused to prove that he is innocent. The government will provide help for the rehabilitation of the person affected by the illegal conversion. This apart, the government will not provide any kind of financial help or grant to any organisation found involved in illegal conversions.

Etemaad (March 6) states that the Maharashtra cabinet has granted its approval for the draft of this Bill. This law has specially been brought to deal with increasing incidents of Love Jihad and forced conversions in the state. BJP leader and a minister in the state, Nitesh Rana said that the Mahayuti government has promised during the elections to bring a stringent law to stop forced conversions in Maharashtra, which Chief Minister Fadnavis has fulfilled.



Hindustan (March 15) in its editorial said that the direct goal of this law is to hamper the right to religious freedom being given to minorities in the Constitution. The Indian Constitution gives every citizen the right to choose a religion of one's own will and preference. This apart, he has also been given the full freedom to propagate his religion. Despite this, anti-Muslim party BJP has brought this law for the polarisation of the votes. The newspaper said that if any individual

leaves his original religion and adopts Islam or Christianity, it is neither against the Constitution nor is it a violation of any law present in the country.

The newspaper said that the BJP has been widely hyping up the issue of Love Jihad. However, this issue has been raised repeatedly with ulterior political motives. The truth is that the ruling party wants to implement this law in order to fulfil its political goal. Its main aim is to stop the spread of Islam and Christianity, whereas the Constitution grants all religions the permission to propagate and disseminate their respective faiths. Following the passing of this bill, an atmosphere of fear has risen among the minorities especially Muslims. They have this fear that the government under the pretext of this law targets the tabligh (religious propagation) and wants to stop the spread of Islam and Christianity. ■

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College's name changed



Inquilab (March 12) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, notorious for his hatred for Muslims, announced that the state cabinet has decided to change the name of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College to Barpeta Medical College. This medical college was established in 2011 during the UPA regime and it has been named after former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

The newspaper said the BJP government in the state has played this new game in order to attract the voters of majority community in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said all the 15 medical colleges in the state are named after the respective districts where they are located. For example, the medical college located in Guwahati is Gauhati Medical College and



the name of the medical college in Dhubri is known as Dhubri Medical College. This is the reason why the state cabinet decided to change the name of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College located in Barpeta as Barpeta Medical College. He said that the former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was a prominent leader of the country and he belonged to Assam. Hence, some other institution will be named after him.

Strongly criticising this decision of the state government, Jamiat Ulema has said that the decision arose from an anti-Muslim mentality. All India Muslim Personal Law Board also, while criticising this decision of the state government, said that the ruling party has been running a campaign to change the names associated with Muslims. This decision is part of that campaign.

Hindustan Express (March 16) in its editorial strongly criticised the decision to change the name of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College. The BJP may face challenges in returning to power in the upcoming assembly elections. Therefore, it

is raking up communal issues. Among the total 120 seats in Assam Assembly, the Muslim population in 40 seats is more than 40 percent. Out of them, Badruddin Ajmal's party, All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), had registered victory in 15 seats in the previous elections. As the AIUDF refused to enter into an electoral alliance with the Congress, the Muslim vote got divided, directly benefiting the BJP

and it came to power. Similarly, Congress won in 29 seats out of the total 126 seats. The division of Muslim votes benefited BJP and the party won in seven Muslim-majority seats. Had Ajmal's party and the Congress formed a secular front, the election results would have been totally different.

The newspaper has written that the Muslim population in Assam is nearly 37 percent, whereas the population of Hindus is 60 percent and the population of Christians is nearly four percent. In order to polarise Hindu votes in the elections, the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are raising the issue of 'Muslim infiltration' prominently. They are stressing on the fact that majority of Muslims residing in Assam are Bangladeshi infiltrators and they will be sent back to Bangladesh. Last time, one major reason for the victory of BJP was its alliance with regional parties like Asom Gana Parishad. Due to the anti-Muslim policy of Himanta Biswa Sarma, the political atmosphere in the state is likely to change this time.

Attack on former Jammu-Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah

Aurangabad Times (March 13) states that the when the president of National Conference and former chief minister of Jammu-Kashmir Farooq Abdullah was taking part in a wedding ceremony in Jammu, a man opened fire at him, but he narrowly escaped due to the alertness of the security personnel. The security personnel arrested the attacker from the spot itself. It

is to be noted that Farooq Abdullah has Z+ security.

Commenting on this incident, Farooq Abdullah said he does not know the attacker. He said he does not even know why he attacked him and what was his enmity towards him. He added that when he was coming out of the wedding ceremony, he thought the sound he heard



was of crackers being burst as part of wedding ceremony. The security personnel immediately shifted me to the car. Later they told me that it was the sound of firing which was directed at me, he said. Farooq Abdullah further said that the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu-Kashmir and several other ministers were also present at the wedding ceremony, but the state government, especially the Lt Governor, did not make any proper security arrangements. He said he got a call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah assured him that a high-level inquiry will be conducted into the incident.

Abdullah alleged that an atmosphere of hatred is being spread in the country and it is growing day-by-day. No space is left for those who talk about friendship and love. He said that in a democracy it is natural to have differences. However, everyone should work together and everyone should have the right to keep his word.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, while raising the issue of the deadly attack on Farooq Abdullah in the Rajya Sabha, said the situation is turning worse due to government's decision to scrap Article 370 and divide Jammu-Kashmir and the foreign terrorists are killing innocent people. He demanded restoration of full statehood to Jammu Kashmir. Kharge said that when Jammu-Kashmir was a full state, the police and the security there were under the state government but now its security is the responsibility of Union Home Ministry. Due to this, the situation is turning worse. Conspiracies are hatched to target even

national-level leaders. Had there been even a slight lapse, it would have been difficult to save Farooq Abdullah.

Chattan (March 13) reports that the accused who attacked Farooq Abdullah has been identified as 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal, who stays in the old market area of Jammu. During interrogation he said that he has been making preparations to carry out an attack on Farooq Abdullah for the past 20 years. Jammu Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, during a meeting with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, assured that an investigation is being conducted into the attack. In this connection, the Director General of Police have been directed unravel the conspiracy and take stringent action against the accused.

As per another news, Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed concern over the attack that took place on his father Farooq Abdullah. He alleged that the Central government has failed to maintain peace in the state.

The newspaper said that the National Conference organised protest marches in several places in the state against this attack. The protesters carried the flag and placards of the party, in which it was written, 'Restore peace' and 'Conduct inquiry into firing incident.'

Several Kashmiri leaders including former chief minister of Jammu-Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti, Sajjad Lone and Tariq Hameed Karra condemned the attack that took place on Farooq Abdullah. He blamed the Central government for the attack and demanded that the full statehood of Jammu Kashmir should be restored.

Pakistan launches fierce attack on Afghanistan



Inquilab (March 18) states that the Pakistan's military carried out indiscriminate bombing on Afghanistan's capital Kabul. At least 400 people were killed in this attack and 250 were injured. According to local media, this attack was carried out on the 2,000-bed Umeed Drug De-Addiction Hospital. According to the deputy spokesperson of Taliban Hamdullah Fitrat, a major portion of the hospital got destroyed in this attack and the rescue team is removing the debris. There is a possibility of the number of deceased going up. Fitrat said this action of Pakistan is against international laws and they deliberately targeted this hospital. Meanwhile, Pakistan claims that the operation has been carried out against terrorist bases.

The spokesperson India's external affairs ministry, while strongly condemning the attack, said that the attack on hospital is against humanity. He also said that Pakistan is trying to pass off this genocide as a military operation.

Qaumi Tanseem (March 15), quoting a government spokesperson of Taliban, said that at least 14 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 11 were injured in a retaliatory action by Taliban soldiers. A spokesperson of Afghan defence ministry claimed that Afghan soldiers attacked the Pakistani military outposts located on the border on Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. Three tanks and two armoured vehicles of

Pakistani army were destroyed in this attack.

It is to be noted that earlier Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari had warned the Taliban government that if they attack the Pakistani army, they will have to face serious consequences. Similarly, the Pakistan government claims that the Pakistan army had fired more than 200 rockets at terrorist bases located in Afghanistan in which at least 100 terrorists were killed.

Chattan (March 4) states that Pakistan's information minister Ataulah Tarar claimed that the Afghan Taliban had attacked Fort Saifullah in Balochistan, 16 other places in Nushki and Chaman districts while clashes took place between Pakistan army and Afghanistan soldiers in 25 places. Tarar said the Pakistan army did not suffer any damages in this attack. He also claimed that 27 Afghan Taliban soldiers were killed in Pakistan army's retaliation. On the other hand, Afghan spokesperson claimed that more than 75 Pakistani soldiers were killed in these attacks including a colonel and two majors. He also confirmed that the Pakistan air force carried out attacks on four cities of Afghanistan. This apart, military bases were also targeted in which several people were killed.

Chattan (March 8) states that the founder of Afghan Taliban Mullah Mohammed Omar's son and Afghanistan's



defence minister Mullah Yaqoob Mujahid warned that if Pakistan continues with its attack on Kabul, we will launch retaliatory attacks on Islamabad as well. He made it clear that we do not want a war with Pakistan, but if a war is imposed on us, then we are ready to fight the war against Pakistan for the next 10 years. Mujahid said that if Pakistan kills even one Afghan citizen, we will target a dozen Pakistanis. He said we reject this claim of Pakistan that 'Durand Line' is the border between the two nations. Mujahid claimed that the British government in 1893 had put pressure on the then King of Afghanistan Abdur Rahman Khan and prepared this border line. Describing it as illegal, he said this border line was prepared by pointing the gun to the head of the Afghans, which we will never accept.

On the other hand, Pakistan's information minister Ataullah Tarar claimed that till now 527 terrorists were killed and more than 700 were injured in Pakistan army's operation.

Chattan (March 7) states that the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) High Commissioner Volkar Turk said that 56 Afghan citizens including 24 children were killed in a clash with neighbouring country Pakistan last week. He stressed on ending the tension on the border and appealed to both the countries to maintain peace.

In another news, the newspaper quoting the United Nations claimed that more than one lakh Afghan and thousands of Pakistanis were rendered homeless in the clash between the two countries on the

border. The United Nations Refugee Agency claimed that nearly 1.15 lakh people in Afghanistan and nearly 3,000 people in Pakistan were displaced.

Urdu Times (March 13) states that the Pakistan government has claimed that five members of one family were killed after a mortar shell fired by Afghan soldiers fell in Tirah Valley in Khyber district.

Chattan (March 14) states that Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid claimed that several members of one family were killed in an attack by Pakistan army in Kandahar. A spokesperson of Afghanistan's defence ministry claimed that at least 12 soldiers were killed in a drone attack on a military cantonment located in Kohat. Meanwhile, Pakistan government claimed that none of its soldiers were killed in this attack. A spokesperson of Afghan government also informed that with the cooperation of a few countries, ceasefire talks were started with Pakistan. However, the talks failed as we have doubts about the intentions of Pakistan.

Chattan (March 15) states that Afghan Taliban had alleged that the Pakistan military attacked Kabul on Friday night in which more than a dozen Afghan citizens were killed. Similarly, Pakistan claimed that its air force destroyed oil depots and the radar centre of Afghan army during an attack on the Kandahar airport.

Chattan (March 16) states that Afghanistan's defence ministry claimed that the clash between the two countries are continuing in the border. Twentyfour Pakistani soldiers were killed and 35 were injured in these clashes. The Pakistan army fled from border outposts leaving their weapons behind. The Afghan army seized these check-posts. This apart, at least 20 Pakistani soldiers were killed in a drone attack on the strategic centre of the Pakistan army in capital Islamabad. ■

Ban on iftar parties in Pakistan

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 12) states that in view of the war in West Asia, the Pakistan government has announced that the government offices will remain open only for four days in a week in the country. This apart, 50 percent employees will work from home. However, this decision will not be applicable for



banks. Also, an announcement has been made to keep universities, schools and colleges closed for two weeks. In an address to the nation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the entire West Asia is in the grip of war and we are trying to cope with it. He said that he held talks with friendly nations regarding the war and given an assurance that Pakistan stands firmly with them at this critical juncture. He appealed to Iran that it should not target Muslim nations.

Sharif said that the prices of petrol and gas have gone up in international market due to the war, but the government has decided not to increase their prices so that there will not be too much financial burden on the people. The financial losses to oil companies will be borne by the Pakistan government. In order to save fuel, a ban has been imposed on the running of 60 percent vehicles of all government departments. He also announced that government ministers,

advisors and special assistants will not get salary for the next two months. This apart, a 25% reduction has been announced in the salary of MPs. Shehbaz Sharif said that a ban has been imposed on the foreign visits of all ministers and officials. This time, there will be a complete stop on official dinners and iftar parties.

Inqilab (March 10) states that the Bangladesh government also announced its decision to shut down all the universities and colleges in the country in view of the energy crisis arising out of the war in the West Asia. The decision has been taken to reduce the consumption of electricity and fuel. The Eid holidays were also announced before time so that the consumption of electricity could be reduced. This apart, the government has appealed to the citizens of the country that instead of spending money in organising Eid festivities, the money shall be collected to help the victims of war in Iran.

Ban on pro-Palestine protests in Britain

Avadhnama (March 12) reports that Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has imposed a ban on pro-Palestine protests and rallies in the country. This ban has been imposed on the basis of the intelligence report of security agencies. The police had shared an intelligence report with the Home Secretary that the country's peaceful atmosphere could be disturbed if

protests are taken out on the occasion of 'Al-Quds Day.' Shabana Mahmood said that some Muslim organisations have announced taking out marches on the occasion of 'Jumu'atul Wida' (last Friday of Ramzan). Intelligence agencies had claimed that these protest marches were being organised against the attacks launched against Iran by Israel and the US

and in support of Palestine, which could be a threat to the internal security of the country. Spokesperson of Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) Faisal Bodi strongly criticised this decision of the British government and described it as unfortunate for Muslims.

According to the newspaper, lakhs of Muslims staying in Britain were supposed to take part in this protests. Meanwhile, the organisers of this march had claimed that it was an effort to create a peaceful atmosphere against the attacks on Iran and support Palestine. After the ban, the organisers had announced that they will not organise mass protests, instead will gather in one place and take out only a peace march, but the police did not allow even that. According to the newspaper, after 2012, this was the first time that such a complete ban has been imposed on a protest march in Britain. Shabana Mahmood said, "I am happy about this report of the police. This march will increase the sentiments of hatred and division in the society." Metropolitan police announced that this ban will remain in force for one month.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 15) states that a school building suffered huge damages in a blast that took place in a Jewish school in Netherlands capital Amsterdam. However, there is no information about any person being killed or injured in this attack. Amsterdam mayor *Femke Halsema* said this was a cowardly attack against Jewish community. Following this attack, the security at the places of worship and institutions of Jews has been stepped up. Similarly, a petrol



bomb was thrown at a Jewish place of worship in Belgium as well. These incidents have put the security agencies on high alert over the growing anti-Jewish sentiments in Europe.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 7) states that the British police have arrested four persons on charges of conspiring to attack Jews. It is said they belonged to an intelligence organisation in Iran. There is one Iranian citizen among the arrested persons, whereas the other three are British citizens of Iranian origin. According to police, this gang has been under scanner for a long time. British Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy said that Iran is major supporter of international terrorism and it is a matter of concern that now Iranian spies have infiltrated into British society as well. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced that the security arrangements at Jewish colonies and places of worship have been tightened. The chief of British intelligence agency MI-5 said that between 2022 and 2024, the security agencies have arrested nearly 20 Iranian agents across the country.

Maldives ban entry of Israeli citizens

Inqilab (March 9) states that the Maldives government has imposed on a ban on the entry of Israeli passport holders in the country. In this connection, President

Mohamed Muizzu issued an order amending the Immigration Act. This decision has been taken following a unanimous recommendation of the MPs. It



has been stated in the order issued by the government that this step has been taken in protest against the Israeli military action in Gaza and the situation of Palestinian people. Israel government has described this step by the Maldives government as discriminatory.

It is to be noted that Maldives had cut off its diplomatic relationship with

Israel for the first time in 1974. In 2014, an announcement was made to boycott Israeli products in protest against Israeli military action. However, in order to promote tourism, Maldives allowed Israeli tourists to visit Maldives, resulting in nearly 11,000 Israeli tourists visiting Maldives in 2023 alone. In 2024, after the Gaza war started, an 88 percent decline in the number of Israeli tourists visiting Maldives has been observed.

It is to be noted that nearly 25 percent portion of Maldives's GDP comes directly from tourism. The population of Maldives is nearly 5.2 lakh and tourism is the country's main source of income. Israel's foreign ministry has advised its citizens not to travel to Maldives and asked its citizens present there to return immediately.

Plot to assassinate US President Trump exposed

Urdu Times (March 6) reports that Pakistan citizen Asif Merchant, who has been accused of conspiring for the murder of US President Donald Trump has made a huge revelation in the court. According to New York Post, Merchant has admitted in the US court that Iranian spies have forced him to conspire for the murder of Trump. This conspiracy has been hatched at the behest of Iran's Pasdaran-e-Inquilab (IRGC).

According to the newspaper, former banker Asif Merchant, after spending some time in Iran, arrived in the US from Pakistan in April 2024. In Iran, he met a member of IRGC Mehrdad Yousef. Merchant also admitted that his family stays in Iran and the IRGC put pressure on him that if he does not get involved in the conspiracy to kill US leaders, his family members will be killed.

Merchant told the court that the life of his family members was in danger and hence he was forced to be part of this conspiracy. He was directed to establish



contact with three Iranian spies in the US, who will introduce him to professional killers. The people whom Asif Merchant met thinking they were professional killers, were actually undercover agents of FBI. Merchant even paid them an initial amount of 5,000 dollars to assassinate Trump. According to US officials, his plan was to give the final orders for the murder after leaving the US. However, the FBI exposed this conspiracy over a period of time and arrested him in August 2024. It is being said that Merchant could be awarded life-term in jail as punishment for this crime.

President Trump isolated globally over Hormuz crisis



Inqilab (March 17) reports that US President Donald Trump has warned that the future of NATO could be in jeopardy if the US's allied nations do not send their warships to lift the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, he said: "I have appealed to more than seven allied nations to send their navies to help reopen this maritime route, as this blockade is causing an unprecedented rise in global oil prices."

Trump claimed that while the US does not depend on this route for its own oil needs, he is seeking cooperation from these countries, so that they can unite militarily to protect their interests. Citing China as an example, he said that China receives 90 per cent of its required oil through this route. Therefore, all these nations should deploy their warships, mine sweepers, and troops in this region to foil the Iranian blockade.

The notable point is that despite repeated requests from President Trump, no allied nation has yet agreed to send its warships to this region.

According to British newspaper, The Guardian, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has flatly refused to send their warships to the Strait of Hormuz region.

Before this, Japan, Australia and France have also refused to send their warships. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer stated that Britain will not become the US's partner in a war with Iran. However, he clarified that Britain is adopting other alternative routes to get this blockade lifted. Starmer said that instead of military action, adopting the path of dialogue to lift the blockade of Hormuz would be more effective.

German foreign minister Johann Wadepuhl said he does not see any role for NATO in getting the Strait of Hormuz opened.

He said, "I don't think NATO can take any responsibility in this matter. If that were the case, the countries involved in the NATO treaty would have been seen taking necessary action in this regard." He further stated that despite the uncertain situation in West Asia, the European Union's priority remains Ukraine. The German foreign minister said that easing sanctions on Russia is a wrong policy.

According to another news report, French President Emmanuel Macron has refused to send his soldiers to the Strait of Hormuz. He said they are trying to resolve this issue through talks with Iran. In this context, Macron also discussed the matter



in detail over the telephone with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

IRGC commander Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi has announced the start of Operation Wada-e-Sadiq-4 in this region. Under this operation, US military bases and missile centres located in West Asia will be targeted. He said that until now Iran was using decade-old missiles, but now attacks will be carried out on US military bases and Israel with state-of-the-art missiles. In addition, the blockade of Hormuz will continue. General Vahidi challenged that if the US has the courage, then it should send its warships to this region. Iran will destroy them and give a befitting reply to the US. Greek government spokesperson Pavlos Marinakis stated that Greece will not participate in any military action in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Financial Times, President Trump said in an interview that the US has spent billions of dollars on NATO, but despite this, no NATO country is ready to send its warships to the Strait of Hormuz. He said the NATO treaty was not created just for the US to squander billions

of dollars. “After all, what is the benefit of this treaty if no country is ready to support us in the war during this time of crisis?” He warned that the US will now reconsider the future of the NATO treaty.

According to reports published in **Inqilab** (March 18), Joe Kent, the director of the US National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), resigned from his post,

expressing resentment toward President Trump's Iran policy. In his letter to the President, Kent said, “I cannot support a war with Iran against my conscience.” It is noteworthy that Trump appointed Kent to this post last July, and the US Senate also confirmed it. Kent wrote in his resignation that Iran did not pose any direct threat to the US. He alleged that this war was started under pressure from the pro-Israel lobby.”

According to another news report published in the same newspaper, in West Asia, following Israeli attacks, China has announced the sending of emergency aid to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian stated that the purpose of this assistance is to provide relief to war victims and alleviate their problems. The US media has claimed that messages were sent from the foreign ministry to the White House to end the war. In this regard, a conversation took place between Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi and a White House official. However, the Iranian foreign minister has dismissed these US claims, calling them fabricated and false.

US spends 12 billion dollars in the war against Iran

Inqilab (March 17) reports that the US treasury department has confirmed that the United States has already spent 12 billion dollars in the first 12 days of the war against Iran. The US department of defense has indicated that this expenditure may increase further in the coming days, as the

US plans to accelerate this military campaign.

According to the US media, more than USD 5 billion were spent on weapons and ammunition in just the first four days of the war. Experts believe that this war will not have a major negative impact on

the US economy, because US has now become the world's largest oil-producing country. The US economy is directly benefiting from the rising oil prices in the international market.



According to the newspaper, US Senator Chris Van Hollen has warned that US President Trump has opened a new Pandora's box by starting a war against Iran. Senator Hollen said that the US will not gain anything from this war; rather, the country has become trapped in such a web that it is extremely difficult to get out of.

Inqilab (March 18) states that heavy inflationary pressure is being seen in the international market due to US and Israeli attacks on Iran. According to a special report by *Al Jazeera*, the price of crude oil was \$72 per barrel at the start of the war, which has now increased to \$106 per barrel. In this way, oil prices have seen a 40 per cent increase. Prices of LNG have also increased by up to 60 per cent.

According to Arab media, nearly 20 per cent of the world's total oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz. Due to the blockade of this important waterway by Iran, Asian countries' economy have come under heavy pressure. Currently, an increase of 50-70 per cent in petrol prices has been recorded in at least 85 countries worldwide. Considering the seriousness of the situation, about 60 countries have started rationing petrol and gas.

Al Jazeera reports that the stock markets around the world have seen a decline of 6 to 10 per cent. Economic experts have warned that if this war drags on, the growth rate of the European

economy could also decrease by 6 to 10 per cent. Airfares in Asian countries have seen a sharp increase of 40-60 per cent.

Inqilab (March 8) states that the US administration has approved the sale of weapons worth \$151 million to Israel. This deal includes a large amount of ammunition and defence equipment. Notably, this deal was not presented for the approval of the US Congress. Instead, the President gave it the green light by using his emergency powers. This supply includes 12,000 bomb casings, each weighing one thousand pounds. Additionally, for Israel, engineering, logistics and technical services will also be provided. Israel had specifically requested 12,000 BLU and 111 AB general-purpose bomb casings, which the US State Department has accepted.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said this decision was taken in the interest of the US. However, Democratic Congressman Gregory Meeks has raised a strong objection to this. He said it is improper for the President to bypass Congress. Meeks stated that this is an indication that the government was not fully prepared for the war against Iran and is now hastily resorting to emergency powers, which raises doubts about the President's claims.

Mojtaba Khamenei nominated Iran's new Supreme Leader

Chattan (March 12) reports that following the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a joint US-

Israeli airstrike, his 56-year-old son, Mojtaba Khamenei, has now been chosen as the new Supreme Leader of Iran. He was

selected by Iran's Assembly of Experts. He was born in the eastern Iranian city of Mashhad on September 8, 1969.

US President Donald Trump has stated that "the new Supreme Leader has no status. Our opinion was not sought in his selection. If he does not take approval from us, he will not remain alive for long".

Commenting on this statement by the US President, a spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry said that this decision belongs to the Iranian people. They stated that they will not allow any power in the world to interfere in their internal affairs.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said that the US President should apologise to us for pushing Iran into war.

The newly appointed Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is considered a hardliner. He has been associated with Iran's IRGC. Contrary to his father's opinion, Mojtaba has been a supporter of the idea that Iran should build an atomic bomb as soon as possible so that it can protect itself.

According to another news report, Mojtaba has not been directly involved in Iran's administrative affairs for the last two decades. He works quietly. There are very few public photos and videos of him. To date, he has not given an interview to any major channel or newspaper. This is the reason why he does not have a public profile. Ali Khamenei himself had also said that he did not want his son to be his successor.

Iran's reformist leaders have been against Mojtaba from the beginning because his policies are hardline.

Etemaad (March 13), upon taking office, Mojtaba Khamenei said, "We will use the Strait of Hormuz for Iranian interests and will continue attacks on neighbouring countries, because the US and Israel are using their land to attack Iran."

He added that Iran would take revenge for the innocent girls killed in the



attacks by the US and Israel and will completely destroy these countries. Attacks on the US bases located in this region then will continue until they are closed. Mojtaba has appealed to the Gulf countries to put pressure on the US to close these military bases immediately.

Inqilab (March 18) reports that many kinds of rumours are spreading in the world about Mojtaba Khamenei. Israel has claimed that Mojtaba Khamenei was seriously injured in one of its attacks and his condition is critical. A senior Iranian leader told the Kuwaiti newspaper 'Al-Jarida' that the new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei had already been injured along with other members of his family in the US and Israeli attacks. Currently, he is undergoing treatment at a hospital in the Russian capital, Moscow.

The report stated that after this attack, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian over the phone and suggested sending the injured Mojtaba Khamenei to Moscow for treatment. According to Russian sources, the two leaders spoke on March 10. After this, a Russian plane reached Tehran and departed for Moscow with the injured Mojtaba from a secret airport. There, Russian doctors performed surgery on him. Now, he is resting after treatment in an underground part of the Russian Prime Minister's office.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 10) in its editorial, stated that Iran has torn the US President Trump to shreds. The US had issued a threat that Iran would have to

choose its new supreme leader whom the US likes, otherwise whichever supreme leader Iran chooses will be put to death. Mocking this, Iran said that Trump could not even choose the mayor of New York City in his own country according to his own will, yet he is giving threats to others. Now is the time for the US to be afraid. Iran has not only chosen a new supreme leader, but the new leader has also given a fitting response to the US.

The newspaper stated that Mojtaba has been associated with Iran's powerful organisation, the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), from the very

beginning. He joined the IRGC during his youth. This is the reason why the IRGC has strongly welcomed his selection. At the age of 17, Mojtaba participated in the Iran-Iraq War on the side of Iran. He is a high-ranking Shia scholar who has been honoured with the title of 'Ayatollah' by Qom University.

Some people hope that Mojtaba will follow his father's moderate policies, while most believe that a person who has lost his parents, wife, and children in an US-Israeli attack, and who now has nothing left to lose —why would he not firmly confront the attackers?

Iran rejects ceasefire proposal

Inqilab (March 18) states that Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared in no uncertain terms that Iran will not surrender to the US and Israel at any cost and will continue the war until the very last breath. He stated that Iran did not start the war; rather, this war was imposed upon it. He demanded that the use of US military bases in West Asia against Iran must stop, as it is damaging relations between Iran and its neighbouring countries.

President Pezeshkian has also requested French President Emmanuel Macron to ensure that as long as we are not assured that there will be no future attacks on Iran, this war will continue.

Iranian military spokesperson Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi has warned that if the US uses any country's military base to attack Iranian oil reserves located on Kharg Island, the Iranian military, in retaliatory action, will target that country's oil reserves and other important establishments. They stated that when the Iranian military gives a warning on any matter, they also carry it out.

It is noteworthy that Kharg Island is located at a distance of 15 nautical miles from the Iranian coast. Several important establishments related to the Iran's oil industry are located on this island. Ninety



per cent of Iranian oil is exported from this very island.

An IRGC spokesperson has claimed that Iran has attacked US bases in Qatar and Israel's Iron Dome. The statement mentioned that the IRGC targeted the Al-Udeid military base in Qatar using missiles like Al-Zulfiqar and Qiam.

According to another report, Israel has claimed that it has killed senior IRGC commander Gholam Reza Soleimani and the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larijani. Iran has also confirmed the death of Larijani.

Notably, Ali Larijani was the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian had appointed him to this post in August 2025. Additionally, he was the

permanent representative of Iran's Supreme Leader in the council. He also served as the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament for 12 years. He was considered a leader of the liberal faction in Iran. His brother, Sadeq Larijani, is also appointed to a very important position in the Iranian missile system.



According to the BBC, Ali Larijani was the head of the state broadcasting department from 1994 to 2004. Before this, he had also been the culture minister of Iran. He was the son of a renowned Shia scholar, Ayatollah Mirza Hashim Amoli. All four of his brothers hold important positions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had also filed his nomination for the presidential election, which was rejected by the 'Guardian Council'.

Ali Larijani has been a prominent figure in Iranian politics, serving in various high-level capacities. Throughout his career, he has frequently addressed international relations and the role of Iran within the Islamic world. His public statements often emphasise the importance of unity among Muslim nations and critique the influence of foreign powers in

the region. He has also been vocal about the political challenges facing the Middle East, advocating for a cohesive approach to regional security and diplomatic independence.

According to news reports, the former Prime Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, discussed his perspectives on regional dynamics. His remarks suggested a view that external influences could lead to increased tensions between Iran and other Gulf nations. He indicated that in the event of a conflict, support from international allies might not be guaranteed for all parties involved. Further, he highlighted the importance of the relationship between Qatar and Iran, noting their status as neighbours.

Arrest of Pakistanis for spreading videos of Iranian attacks in Bahrain



Inqilab (March 11) reports that Bahrain's ministry of interior declared that six persons have been arrested for allegedly creating videos of Iranian attacks and circulating them on social media. Those arrested have been identified as

Mohammad Moiz Akbar, Afzal Khan, Ahmed Mumtaz, Arsalan Ali Sajid, Abdul Rehman Abdul Sattar.

All of them are Pakistani nationals, while the sixth accused, Mohammad Israfil Mir, is a Bangladeshi national. The

government stated that these videos spread fear among citizens and were intended to disturb the peace of the country.

An attempt was made to incite people against the government. Legal action is being taken against them in court.

Inqilab (March 13) states that the Bahrain government has arrested four of its citizens on charges of spying for the IRGC. They are accused of sending sensitive images and confidential information of US military bases in Bahrain to Iran. Those arrested include Murtaza Hussain Awal (25 years), Ahmed Isa Al-Haiki (34 years), Sara Abdulnabi Marhoon (36 years), and Elias Salman Mirza (22 years). The leader of this gang, Ali Mohammad Hassan Al-Sheikh, has fled the country.

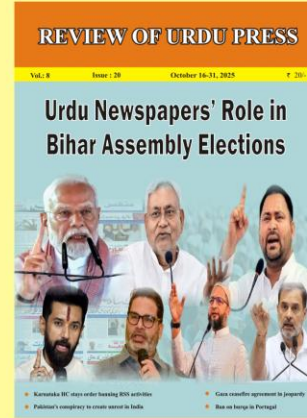
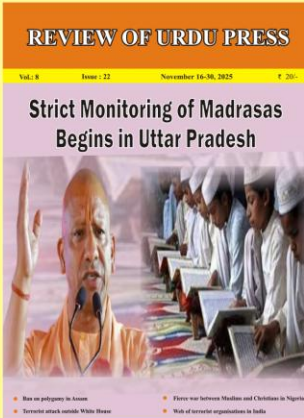
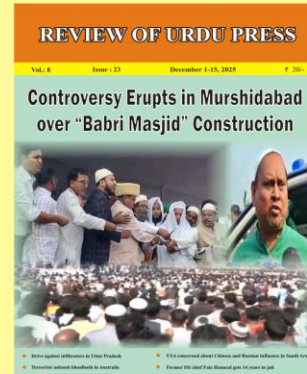
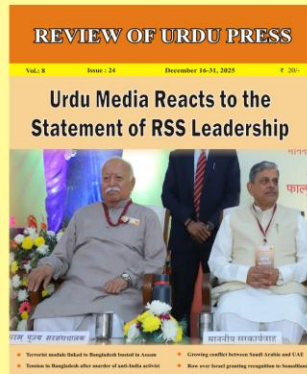
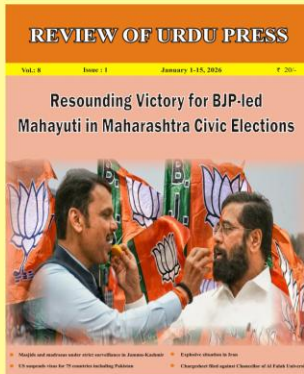
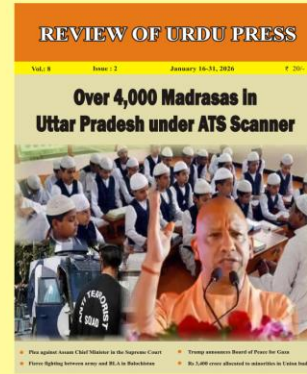
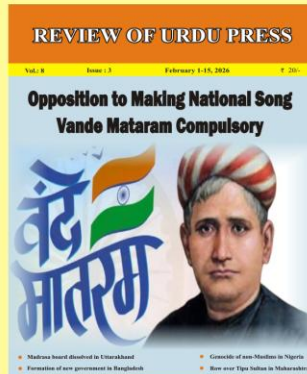
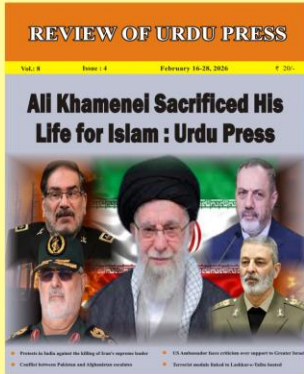
Inqilab (March 10) states that the Qatar government arrested 313 people, including Indian and Pakistani citizens, on charges of spreading rumours. They have been accused of broadcasting videos of Iranian attacks on Qatar. The government has appealed to people to only trust official



information and not to make videos of any unconfirmed incidents.

Inqilab (March 17) reports that Iranian security forces have arrested more than 500 people. Police and security agencies claim that these people were spying for Israel and sending videos of military bases and protest demonstrations. According to the government news agency, Tasnim, among those arrested are also 20 soldiers and security officials.

According to another news report, the Iranian government has declared the US Central Command a terrorist organisation. Iranian army spokesperson Brigadier General Abulfazl Shekarchi has instructed his fighters that wherever US soldiers are seen, they should be shot immediately. ■



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