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## Aligarh Muslim University's Minority Status Restored



- Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board Act upheld
- 30 people killed in suicide attack in Balochistan

- Israel defence minister Yoav Gallant sacked
- Ban on import of 'The Satanic Verses' lifted

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## Summary

The Supreme Court has recently delivered two important judgments. These verdicts will have far-reaching impact on Muslim politics. One of these is about the much discussed minority status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). It is to be noted that AMU has been mired in controversies right from the beginning. In 1875, Sir Syed Ahmad had established Muhammadan-Anglo Oriental College with the support of the then Governor General. Its aim was to spread modern education among Muslims. That was the reason why the then Muslim scholars had opposed the establishment of the college and had accused Sir Syed of coming under the influence of British and weaning away the new generation of Muslims from Islam. These Muslim scholars had even declared Sir Syed as a 'Kafir.' The most interesting thing is that in the eyes of the majority of the Muslims in the country, Sir Syed Ahmad was the biggest secular leader. Whereas the bitter truth is that Syed Ahmad was the first leader who sowed the seeds of partition of the country. He had demanded a separate nation for Muslims at the behest of British.

In 1920, the British government passed a law giving Muhammadan-Anglo Oriental College the status of a University and it was named Aligarh Muslim University. In 1950, the Indian Parliament had declared it as an institution of national importance. In 1951, the Parliament brought an amendment to AMU Act and opened the doors of the University to non-Muslims as well. In 1967, in the Azeez Basha case, the Supreme Court ruled that AMU was not a minority institution. Following this, the then Indira Gandhi government in 1981 had amended the AMU Act and gave it the status of a minority institution due to pressure from Muslims. In 2005, when a 50 percent quota was announced for Muslims in the post-graduate medical studies in AMU, it was questioned in the Allahabad High Court. The court, while citing the Azeez Basha case, scrapped the reservation. The Manmohan Singh government and the University administration questioned this verdict of the court in the Supreme Court. Now the Supreme Court has delivered its verdict in the case.

The second verdict is regarding the Islamic madrasas. The Allahabad High Court had declared the Madarsa Education Board Act passed by the Uttar Pradesh government in 2004 as illegal. The court had argued that these madrasas provide religious education which is against the principles of secularism. This decision was also questioned in the Supreme Court. Now the Supreme Court, while reversing the decision of the Allahabad High Court, upheld the Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board Act, 2004 and granted permission to run Islamic madrasas.

In Pakistan, several Baloch organisations are fighting against the exploitation of Balochis. Recently, a prominent rebel organisation, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), carried out a suicide attack at Quetta railway station. At least 30 people were killed in this attack. Whereas, according to BLA sources, the number of killed are around 200, which included 130 Pakistani soldiers. It is said that Balochi rebels are selectively targeting Chinese citizens and Punjabis.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sacked defence minister Yoav Gallant. This apart, several senior officials of Prime Minister's office have been arrested on charges of spying for other countries. The opposition alleged that the blueprint prepared by Israel to carry out attack on Iran was stolen by the spies of Iran. This has dealt a severe blow to the Israeli plan to carry out attack on Iran.

## Aligarh Muslim University's minority status restored



**Inquilab** (November 9) states that the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has overturned its verdict in the Azeez Basha case of 1967. The Supreme Court had then argued that since the Aligarh Muslim University Act was passed by Parliament, it cannot be given minority status. Now, a seven-judge Constitution bench has overturned that verdict through a 4-3 majority. Four out of the seven judges of the Supreme Court argued in their judgment that no institution loses its minority status just because it is passed by the Parliament. To understand the minority status of any institution, the court has to consider who established the institution and whose inspiration was behind it? If these things are pointing towards minority community, then under Article 30 of the Constitution, that institution is entitled to claim as a minority institution.

It has been further said in the verdict of the Supreme Court that whether the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is a minority institution under Article 30 of the Constitution will be decided by a three-member regular bench of the Supreme Court. The verdict was delivered by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice

Manoj Mishra. Whereas the opinion of Justice Surya Kant was different, and he stressed on clarifying the viewpoint of Azeez Basha case. Similarly, Justice Dipankar Dutta and Justice S C Sharma also supported the viewpoint of Justice Surya Kant. Justice Dipankar Dutta in his verdict refused to accept AMU as a minority institution. Whereas Justice S C Sharma said the minorities do not need special protection for receiving education.

The Supreme Court has delivered its verdict in this case after considering four important issues from the legal and constitutional point of view. The most important question before the court was whether an institution established on the basis of a law passed by the Parliament has the right to claim the status of a minority institution or not? This apart, whether the judgment delivered by a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court in the Azeez Basha case in 1967 was correct or not? The court also took into consideration the amendment passed by the Parliament in 1981 to restore the minority status of the AMU following the verdict in the Azeez Basha case. This apart, the Supreme Court also took into consideration the judgment of the Allahabad High Court delivered in 2006.

The Allahabad High Court had declared the AMU (Amendment) Act passed by the Parliament as illegal on the basis of the verdict delivered in the Azeez Basha case and refused to accept it as a minority institution. This decision was questioned in the Supreme Court. Now, the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has delivered its majority verdict in the case.



Commenting on this verdict, chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani said this decision of the court will set an example for other institutions set up by minorities. Chairman of Inter-faith Harmony Foundation Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad has welcomed the verdict of the Supreme Court. Senior journalist Shahid Siddique, while commenting on the verdict, said this will give protection to the rights of the minorities. He said that after the verdict came in the Azeez Basha case in 1967, the university has been a target of communal elements. Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman said that currently this is an incomplete verdict. He said he had moved a private member bill in Rajya Sabha in this connection. I had mentioned in this bill that the Muslims established this university by depositing Rs 30 lakh, hence it is a minority institution.

Former MP and Congress leader Meem Afsal said the verdict of the court was a tight slap on the face of communal parties and the government. Muslim thinker Prof Akhtarul Wase said the verdict of the court is incomplete. It would have been better had the current Constitution bench finds out the solution to it now itself. Former chairperson of AMU students' union Z K Faizan said this decision of the court was a victory for secularism, democracy and Indian Constitution. After this decision of the court, celebrations were held in AMU and sweets were distributed. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while expressing dissatisfaction on the verdict, said it will encourage separatism among minorities.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 9) in its editorial said that different tones are heard in the political corridors over this verdict of the court. The Opposition parties have described the verdict as a major victory for Muslims and said that it will give protection to the rights of minorities. On the other hand, BJP has criticised the judgment. The head of BJP's IT cell Amit Malviya said that giving special status to minority institutions is against national interests. This may create new lines of separatism in the country. He said that if minority institutions expect grant from the government, then they should implement the reservations mentioned in the Constitution in their institutions. The impact of this decision of the Supreme Court will be felt in the minority institutions across the country and a new legal path will open for the protection of their rights. The Central government has expressed concern over the verdict and said that any decision related to the autonomy of educational institutions in the country should be in the overall interest of the country. The government has also given the indication to amend the administrative structure of the university so that the institution remains a secular one.

**Inquilab** (November 10) has published a special editorial written by its editor Wadood Sajid in which it has been stated that two days before retirement, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud has delivered his verdict on the minority status of AMU and made his name immortal in the history of the country. Secondly, he



provided a solid foundation for the protection of crores of Muslims and their thousands of institutions in the country. Due to this decision by him, the communal elements in the country have suffered a setback, who keep getting agitated by the existence of Indian Muslims and their institutions. However, this verdict of the court has created fear and confusion in some people. The question that is raised is when the Supreme Court has ended that basis itself on which the minority status of AMU was stopped, then why the decision to decide on the minority status was left to three judges? The court should have written one more sentence and settled this controversy forever.

Throwing light on the background of AMU, Wadood Sajid said that Sir Syed Ahmad had realised that after the rebellion of 1857, due to the feeling of hatred that has arisen among Muslims against the British, the Muslims of the country should not be left behind in getting modern education. Hence, with the cooperation of British, he established the Muhammadan-Anglo Oriental College in 1875. There is no point starting the debate here that the Muslim scholars of that time had issued a fatwa against these efforts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and he was declared as a Kafir. In 1920, the British government had passed a law and gave this college the status of a university and its name was changed to Aligarh Muslim University. Now there is no doubt that this university

was established by Muslims for Muslims. In 1950, the Indian Parliament has declared AMU as an institution of national importance. In 1951, the AMU Act was amended, in which non-Muslims got the permission to become members of AMU court. In 1965, the AMU Act was amended once again and the powers of executive council of AMU were expanded.

Azeez Basha questioned these two amendments made by the Indian Parliament in the Supreme Court in 1967. The then five-member Constitution bench of the Supreme Court had refused to accept the minority status of AMU.

There was lot of anger among the Muslims in the country against this verdict of the Supreme Court. In order to make them happy, the Indira Gandhi government in 1981 amended the AMU Act, 1920 and restored its minority status. It had also been clarified this university was established to promote educational and cultural advancement of Muslims. In 2005, the AMU had announced a reservation of 50 percent for Muslims in postgraduate medical course. A petition was filed before the Allahabad High Court against this decision of the University administration. In 2006, the Allahabad High Court not only cancelled this reservation, the court, while citing the Azeez Basha case, declared the minority status of AMU also as illegal. Following this, Congress's Manmohan Singh government and the University administration knocked at the doors of the Supreme Court against this decision of Allahabad High Court, but the issue remained pending for 10 years. In 2016, the BJP's Modi government had withdrawn the petition filed in the Supreme Court by the Manmohan Singh government stating that this decision of UPA government is against the decision where the dalits, adivasis and

OBCs have been provided reservation in Central universities. In 2019, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court had recommended to handover the matter before a seven-member Constitution bench.

**Etemaad** (November 9) in its editorial said this decision of the court has dealt a heavy blow to those sections who have been conspiring to wipe out Islam and the Muslims. The Supreme Court has given justice to Muslims and has decided that only Muslims have the right for the legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad.

**Mursiff** (November 9) has said in its editorial said that due to the verdict of the court, the agenda of the ruling dispensation has suffered a massive setback, under which a campaign had been unleashed to wipe out the separate identity of minorities and their religion. The venomous campaign unleashed by the ruling party and the organisations associated with them against Islamic madrasas and Christian schools for the past few years are condemnable.

**Hindustan Express** (November 9) said in its editorial that there is no need for Muslims to celebrate because the Supreme Court has not delivered its final verdict on the minority status of AMU. The court has handed over this matter to another bench, hence it is necessary for Muslims to remain alert.

**Hindustan** (November 9) in its editorial said the Supreme Court has once again hung a sword on the minority status of AMU. Means it is clear that the Muslims in the country have to wage a legal fight again. Had the Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud wanted, this matter could have been settled for ever, but unfortunately it did not happen. Now it is the responsibility of Muslim leadership to fight the second phase of this war with full preparation and planning. AMU is a property of Millat-e-Islamia and we will not accept any kind of interference in this.

**Urdu Times** (November 9) in its editorial said the ruling party in the country is creating all kinds of problems in the path of Muslims. Everybody shouts at the top of their voice that Muslims do not receive

education. However, the truth is that when Muslims try to go for education, several kinds of thorns are laid on their path. The opponents objected that this institution was created through law and hence it is not a property of Muslims. Whereas, earlier the ruling dispensation had described Azam Khan's Mohammad Ali Jauhar University as illegal. It was constituted on the basis of a resolution moved in Uttar Pradesh Assembly. On the other hand, objections have been raised over AMU saying that it had been created through a law and hence it is not a Muslim institution. Means, even if a Muslim establishes a legal institution, it is still illegal. In fact, the ruling dispensation is irritated by the school having the word Muslim in its name. However, Muslims had to prove that the institution where the name Muslim is there, belongs to Muslims.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 12) says that may be the chief justice has stopped the question of AMU being a minority institution, but one cannot say how many days those people who want to end the minority status of AMU will remain silent. A seven-member Constitution bench headed by chief justice, instead of delivering the final verdict, handed over the same to a three-member bench. Until the verdict of this new bench comes, till then Muslims have to live in an atmosphere of fear on this issue. Everyone knows that there are all kinds of pressure on judiciary nowadays. Due to this pressure, the judiciary can take any negative decision, like it happened in the case of Babri Masjid issue. In such a situation, it is necessary for Muslims to remain alert.

**Avadhnama** (November 10) in its editorial, while commenting on the decision of the Supreme Court, said the danger is not over yet. The ruling party wants to finish off Islamic madrasas and Muslim universities at any cost. Seeing this, Muslims need to gear up to fight a lengthy legal battle and should get united for the protection of Islam and the faith.

It is said that there are several Muslim universities in the country like the

Aligarh Muslim University. The prominent among them include Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Hyderabad), Aliah University (Kolkata), BS Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology (Tamil Nadu), Jamia Hamdard University (New Delhi), Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti University (Lucknow), Mohammad Ali Jauhar University (Rampur), Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University (Patna), Osmania University (Hyderabad), Islamic Institute of Science and Technology (Jammu-Kashmir), Khwaja Banda Nawaz University (Karnataka) and Maulana Azad University (Jodhpur).



It is to be noted that according to National Minorities Educational Institution Commission, a minority institution is one which has been established by a person of the minority community or the administration of which is in the hands of minorities. Article 30 (1) of the Constitution permits all language and religious minorities to run or start educational institutions. In 1970, while hearing a petition from a Christian institution from Kerala, the Supreme Court said that if any person of minority community starts an educational institution in the interests of the minorities, then it will get the status of a minority institution. In order to get this status, it is necessary to

obtain a certificate from the National Minorities Educational Institution Commission. The National Minorities Educational Institution Commission had given the certificate of minority institution to 13,602 educational institutions across the country till 2021. The highest 7,550 among them were Christian institutions. Whereas 5,153 belonged to Muslims. As per the data till 2020, there are 50,536 minority schools in the country. Among them, 27,259 were being run by Muslim community. Whereas 15,808 schools were being run by Christian community.

It is said the central institution University Grants Commission (UGC) had given a grant of Rs 5,467 crore to AMU during 2019-23. The Vice-Chancellor of AMU states that a total of 15 percent non-Muslim teachers are there in all the departments of the university.

## Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board Act upheld

**Roznama Sahara** (November 6) states that the Supreme Court, while upholding the constitutional validity of Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board Act, 2004, has overturned the verdict of Allahabad High Court. The Allahabad High Court had described this law as unconstitutional. Following the verdict of the Supreme Court, nearly 17 lakh students studying in 16,000 recognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh got a relief and the sword hanging

over the jobs of 42,000 employees also got removed. Earlier, the Allahabad High Court, while declaring the Madarsa Education Board Act, 2004 as unconstitutional, said the law was against the principles of secularism. The high court also directed that arrangements should be made to enrol the students studying in these madrasas in government-recognised schools so that there are no hurdles in their studies.





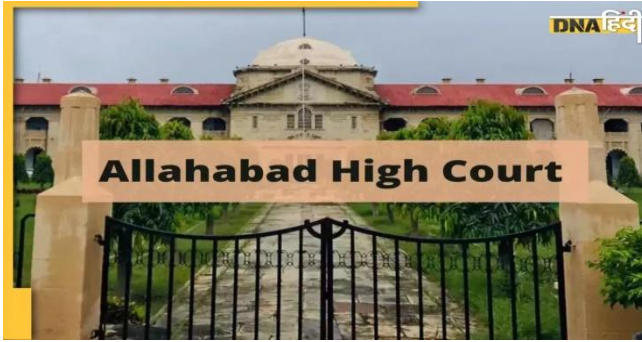
A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said in its verdict that the order of Allahabad High Court was not correct. However, the Uttar Pradesh government has the right to take steps to improve the education levels. The Supreme Court has declared the Madrasa Education Board Act as valid but it declared the Kamil and Fazil degrees issued by the madrasas as against the University Grants Commission Act. It is to be noted that in madrasas, the Kamil degree is considered as equivalent to graduation and the Fazil degree is considered as equivalent to a post-graduate degree. This petition in the Supreme Court was filed by the head of Managers Association Madaris-e-Arabia, Anjuman Qadiri.

**Inquilab** (November 6) states that the verdict of the Supreme Court was a historic one. This will stop the conspiracies against Islamic madrasas and the efforts to shut them down. General secretary of All India Teachers Association Madaris-e-Arabia Wahidullah Khan Sayedi said that due to this decision of the court, the campaign against madrasas by communal organisations will come down and their mouth will be shut. The plan being made by the National Commission for Child Rights to shut down madrasas for a long time will also be foiled. The Supreme Court through its verdict has proved that the madrasas were established by Muslims and its minority status will continue. The government grants being given to madrasas

is not a hurdle in giving religious education and the education being given in these madrasas are not against the principles of secularism.

**Aurangabad Times** (November 6) states that Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said that no law can be struck down on the ground that it violates the fundamental principles of the Constitution and the principles of secularism. This is a mistake of high court. The High Court should have explained which sections of the Constitution were violated due to which the court arrived at this conclusion. The newspaper said that there are 23,500 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, out of which 16,513 have been granted recognition by the court. The government is not ready to give recognition to the rest of the madrasas. This includes university madrasas like Darul Uloom Deoband, Darul Uloom Nadvatul Ulema and Madarsa Mazahir Uloom. However, they have been spreading education among the poor class for centuries.

Chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani, secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Syed Tanvir Ahmed, chief of Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati, and All India Muslim Personal Law Board have welcomed this decision of the Supreme Court. Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi alleged that the Yogi government has been running a campaign to defame madrasas and described the madrasas as the den of



terrorism. The government's effort is to shut down these madrasas on one pretext or the other. This is the reason why the Uttar Pradesh government has not given the wages to 21,000 teachers working in these madrasas for the past several years. As per the data for 2022-23, the amount of salary due to these teachers is Rs 1,628 crore. The newspaper said that these madrasas are the fortresses of religion and Islam and every Muslim must be prepared to protect them.

**Urdu Times** (November 7) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court. The newspaper asked why is the focus of the government only on the madrasas? The religious educational institutions of other religions are also taking grants from the government but the government is not taking any action against them. The glad thing is that the Supreme Court, while displaying impartiality and fairness, has succeeded in winning the trust of minorities especially Muslims. Religious madrasas are the priceless legacy of our community and the government is trying to make the future of our community darker

by inflicting damages to them. The truth is that right from the beginning, the Sangh Parivar and the BJP have been trying to erase the separate identity of Muslims. They do not know that people like Raja Rammohan Roy and Dr Rajendra Prasad also got their education from these madrasas. These are those madrasas which made significant contributions in the freedom movement of the country. The question is will Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma abide by this decision of the court and stop spewing venom against madrasas?

**Siasat** (November 6) in its editorial, while welcoming the decision of the court, said that ever since the BJP government came to power at the Centre and in different states, they are hell bent on destroying Islam and Muslims. Religious madrasas are being looked at with evil eyes and no stone is being left unturned to defame them. All this is being done out of hatred for Muslims.

**Aurangabad Times** (November 7) in its editorial has alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government has become blind in Muslim enmity. The Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board Act, 2004 has been implemented by the Uttar Pradesh government itself and now the state government is hell-bent on describing it as illegal. It is hoped that now the Sangh Parivar will give recognition to the importance of these madrasas. ■

## Appeal to Muslims to vote against BJP in Maharashtra

Various Muslim organisations and Urdu newspapers have urged Muslims in Maharashtra that they get united for Assembly elections and vote against BJP and its allied parties.

According to **Hindustan** (November 14), Maulana Khaleel-ur-Rahman Sajjad Nomani of All India Muslim Personal Law Board said at a press conference that our

entire team met leaders of Maharashtra, thinkers and people belonging to different sections of the society and held discussions on the Assembly elections. After studying seriously about every seat, we have arrived at the decision that support should be given to Maha Vikas Aghadi. He appealed to Muslim voters that they get united and vote in favour of non-BJP candidates.



**Siasat** (November 15) states that this time in the Maharashtra Assembly elections there are 4,136 candidates in the fray, out of which 420 are Muslims. Except BJP, all parties have given tickets to Muslims. The Shiv Sena of Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party are also betting on Muslims. Whereas Congress, Shiv Sena of Uddhav Thackeray and the NCP of Sharad Pawar have also fielded Muslim candidates. Similarly, Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM and Samajwadi Party have also fielded Muslim candidates. There are 12 percent Muslim voters in Maharashtra. The key to victory in 60 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly are in the hands of Muslims. There are 60 percent Muslim voters in Malegaon Assembly constituency. Whereas in 9 states the number of voters is 42%. There are 30 percent Muslims in 15 seats and there are 25 percent Muslims in 38 seats.

The surprising thing is that despite this, not more than 13 Muslim MLAs have ever been elected in the history of Maharashtra. Whereas, as per the population rate, Muslim MLAs should win in 30-35 seats. This time 218 Muslim candidates are in the fray in the form of independent candidates. Whereas 202 Muslim candidates have been fielded in the elections by various political parties. The Maha Vikas Aghadi led by Congress has given ticket to 14 Muslim candidates. While the Mahayuti led by BJP has fielded

seven Muslim candidates in the field, Congress has fielded nine Muslim candidates. Whereas Shiv Sena (UBT) has fielded one Muslim candidate. The party has made Haroon Khan as its candidate from Versova seat in Mumbai. The NCP of Sharad Pawar has given ticket to four Muslim candidates. Whereas Ajit Pawar has fielded five Muslim candidates. Similarly, Eknath Shinde's party Shiv Sena has also given tickets to two Muslim candidates.

According to **Inquilab** (November 17), BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia has alleged in a press conference that Muslim organisations have unleashed a 'vote jihad' by asking Muslims to vote for opposition in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. He said the Election Commission should take stringent action against those who seek votes in the name of religion. Member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Sajjad Nomani has announced support to opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra. He urged Muslims to give vote to Maha Vikas Aghadi in 269 out of total 288 seats in the Assembly. Whereas in the rest of the seats, they should vote for those parties which are opposed to BJP.

**Urdu Times** (November 15) in its editorial has expressed surprise that Maulana Sajjad Nomani has overlooked such Muslim candidates also who are in a position to win. The newspaper alleged that as soon as Nomani announced the support,

he ended his press conference and he stood up and left before replying to questions. It has been alleged in Muslim areas that Sajjad Nomani did not do justice while extending support. On what basis did he extend support to different candidates that also is not clear. For example, in Aurangabad, he extended support to Samajwadi Party candidate instead of supporting the candidate of AIMIM. This apart, instead of extending support to the Muslim candidate from Aurangabad Central constituency, he has extended support to the candidate of Maha Vikas Aghadi, Balasaheb Thorat. Similarly, Maulana Lukman Naqvi has been fielded from Kalina seat in Mumbai as a candidate of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi. However, Nomani has ignored him and extended support to the candidate of Maha Vikas Aghadi. Some people alleged that Nomani by appealing to Muslims to vote in the name of religion, united the Hindu organisations as well against the Muslims. The question that arises here is whether he has done all these at the behest of some party?



According to **Urdu Times** (November 15), the BJP has accused the Maha Vikas Aghadi of being involved in 'vote jihad' in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The party said that funding worth crores has been made for this jihad. In this connection, the Malegaon police on November 13 arrested the mastermind in the 'vote jihad' Siraj Mohammad and the branch manager of Nashik Merchants Cooperative Bank, Deepak Nigam. BJP leader Kirit Somaiyya claimed that Rs 125 crore came in different bank accounts through benami hawala in the Malegaon bank, which were being used for 'vote jihad.' They have filed an FIR in the police station in this connection.

**Avadhnama** (November 13) said the population of Muslims in Maharashtra is 12.9 percent. Whereas their representation in government jobs is only 3 percent. In 2014, the government of Congress and

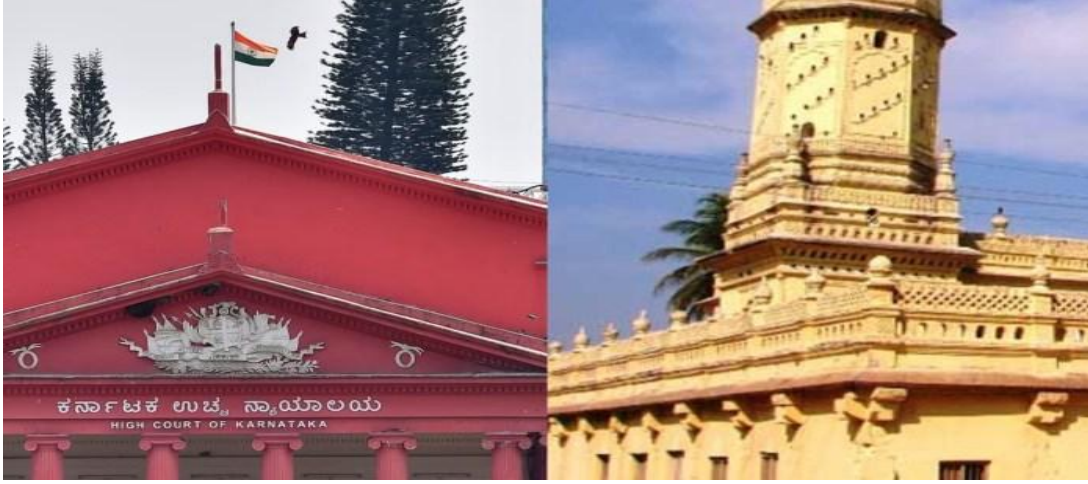
Nationalist Congress Party had announced 5 percent reservation for Muslims but when the BJP came to power, they cancelled the same. In Maharashtra, after Independence, only one Muslim became the chief minister. Abdul Rahman Antule was the chief minister of Maharashtra from June 1980 to January 1982. In Maharashtra Assembly, the representation of Muslims has been constantly declining. The highest number of 13 Muslim MLAs got elected to Maharashtra Assembly in 1980. In 2014, their number was nine. Whereas in 2019, only 10 Muslim candidates managed to enter the Assembly.

**Urdu Times** (November 12) appealed to the Muslims of Maharashtra that they do not give their votes to those Muslim candidates who have been fielded by communal powers to divide the Muslim votes. However, the aim is to defeat anti-Islam and Muslim forces under any circumstance.

**Hindustan** (November 9) in its editorial alleged that during the election campaign in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, only Muslims are being targeted. Now the veil of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has fallen off from the face of BJP. The party has developed a new strategy of inciting Hindus against Muslims and win the elections. The BJP's leadership, under the pretext of vote jihad, is trying to scare Hindus and amass their votes.

**Urdu Times** (November 9) in its editorial has advised Muslims that they do not use Masjids for the campaign of any party, because that will give an opportunity to unite Hindus against Muslims.

## Objection against running of madrasa at Jama Masjid in Srirangapatnam



**Urdu Times** (November 15) states that a new controversy has erupted over the madrasa being run from the Jama Masjid in Srirangapatnam in Karnataka. This controversy was started by a man named Abhishek Gowda. Gowda had filed a Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court and alleged that a madrasa was being run in the Jama Masjid in an illegal manner and demanded the court to shut down the same. The petition came before a division bench headed by the chief justice of Karnataka High Court Justice N V Anjaria for hearing. On behalf of the Central government, Additional Solicitor General K Arvind Kamath appeared in the court during the hearing. He argued that the Central government had declared the Jama Masjid as a protected monument in 1951. In such a situation, it is illegal to run a madrasa from there. Kamath urged the court that it direct the Karnataka government and the Mandya district administration to vacate the madrasa. Whereas the lawyers of Waqf board has objected to the removal of the madrasa. They said that the masjid is a property of Waqf board. The right to decide whether to run a madrasa at the masjid or not is with the Waqf board. The lawyers of Waqf board said that this masjid is under the control of Waqf board from 1963, hence Waqf board is its owner. If it gives

permission to run a madrasa there, then nobody has any right to interfere in it.

According to **Qaumi Tanzeem** (November 15), the government has argued that the Jama Masjid in Srirangapatnam is a protected monument. Running a madrasa there is a threat to the security of the place, hence the court should direct the administration to remove the madrasa from there so that the safety of this historical monument is ensured. It is to be noted that Srirangapatnam was once the capital of Tipu Sultan. Tipu Sultan had constructed the Jama Masjid there in 1784. This monument has historical importance. It attracts tourists, historians and devotees. Kamath had also argued in the court that as per the rules of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), puja-rituals or any other religious activity cannot be done at protected monuments. He said that if the madrasa being run from this masjid is overlooked, then its effect will be on other protected monuments across the country.

**Hindustan Express** (November 16) said that the Central government has a problem over the madrasa being run from the masjid in Srirangapatnam. However, the Waqf Board is committed to run this madrasa. It is to be noted that the controversy over permission to offer namaz at the protected masjids in Delhi has been continuing for decades. This controversy



started in 1989 during the regime of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. That time, permission was granted to offer namaz at protected masjids. The ASI had opposed it. The argument of ASI was that the coming and going of namazis in madrasas will damage these ancient historical buildings, hence permission shall not be given for namaz in them. In spite of this, huge number of namazis, on being provoked by Muslim leaders, entered the Safdarjung tomb premises after breaking the doors of the masjid there. This situation had repeated in several masjids in Delhi.

However, the ASI had filed cases in different police stations in Delhi against this aggression, but due to political pressure, the issue had been put in cold storage. That time, lot of heated exchanges took place in the Parliament as well in this connection. The government had presented a list of 256 protected monuments in the Parliament, where religious activities are being carried out in an illegal manner. This list includes several masjids, dargahs, churches and temples. In the ruckus that took place in the Parliament, the government had argued that only in those protected monuments can religious activities be permitted where such activities were going on before being declared as protected monuments. Recently, the Central government had also banned namaz at the Quwwatul Islam masjid located on the Qutub Minar premises.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (November 5) states that the issue of declaring the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi as a protected monument is also being heard in Delhi

High Court. The intriguing thing is that the ASI has been spending crores of rupees for the maintenance work of this masjid which was constructed by Shahjahan. However, it has no role in the management of this masjid. Its management is run by the Waqf Board and the management committee constituted by the Shahi Imam. In the court, the ASI

had claimed that the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had directed the ASI that the issue of maintenance of this masjid shall be continued like in the past. During the hearing in this case, the ASI had admitted in the court that despite not being declared it as a protected monument, it had spent Rs 61 lakh on its maintenance from 2007 till 2021. Earlier, during the regime of V P Singh, the ASI had spent Rs 1 crore for the maintenance of this masjid.

The Delhi High Court had told ASI that it should produce any blueprint or details of the Jama Masjid in the court and clarify as to how the income obtained from this monument is being used and by whom. This apart, the court also asked the Delhi Waqf Board to reveal when the managing committee of this masjid was formed? The high court also told the ASI to clarify why was this masjid not under its control till now? In an affidavit filed in the court, the ASI said that if this masjid is declared as a protected monument, then there needs to be a total ban on construction activities within 200 metres of it, and whatever constructions have been done, those need to be razed. Now the next hearing in this case will be on December 11.

The most interesting thing is that the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi has been in controversy for decades. Whatever income they earn from this masjid, that is taken away by the Shahi Imam. There is a street market every day near the mosque. The employees of the Jama Masjid take money from the shopkeepers of these markets. Whereas this entire region is under Delhi

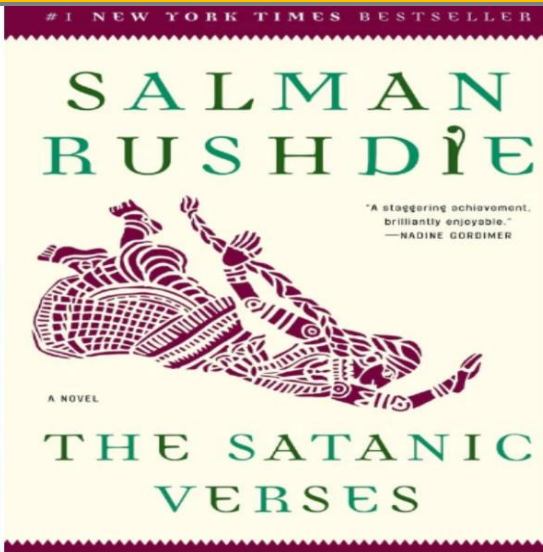
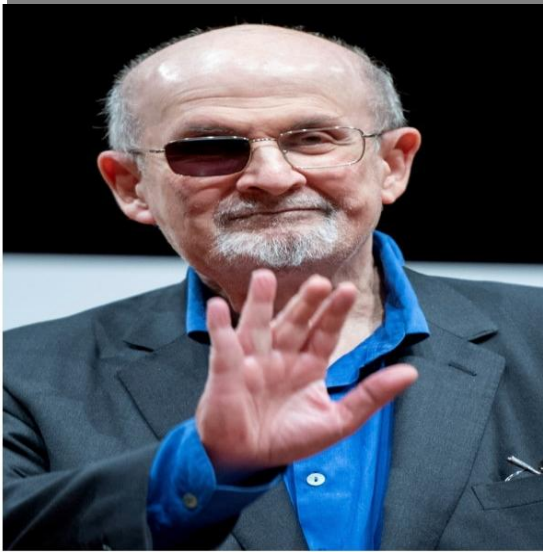
Municipal Corporation. A few years ago, the electricity supply to Jama Masjid was cut off, because the Waqf Board or the Shahi Imam did not pay the electricity bill running into lakhs of rupees. When a huge controversy erupted over it, the then chief minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit had to intervene and the electricity supply to the masjid was restored.



The most interesting thing is that as per the laws in Islam, the post of the imam in any masjid cannot be hereditary, but despite that the imam of this masjid is being appointed on hereditary basis. When Mughal Emperor Shahjahan constructed this masjid, he called a Muslim scholar from Bukhara to Delhi, whose name was Syed Abdul Ghafoor Shah Bukhari. The current imam is the 13<sup>th</sup> Shahi Imam of his

generation. A few years ago, ignoring all Islamic traditions, the current imam, Ahmad Bukhari, declared his son Shaban Bukhari as his successor. The most interesting thing is that he organized a special ceremony to declare his infant grandson as the successor of the Imam of Jama Masjid. The leaders of all political parties in Delhi took part in this function.

## Ban on import of 'The Satanic Verses' lifted



**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (November 9) states that the ban imposed on the import of controversial book 'The Satanic Verses' by British writer of Indian origin Salman Rushdie has been lifted by the Delhi High Court due to a legal error. It is to be noted that this ban was imposed by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1988. A man named Sandhipan Khan had questioned this ban before Delhi High Court in 2019. The court

had directed the officials to produce the notification regarding the ban in the court, but the officials failed to do so. A bench of Justice Rekha Palli and Justice Saurabh Banerjee said this petition has been pending since 2019. The court said we had directed to produce in the court a copy of the notification issued by the then Central government in this connection, but the officer concerned has not produced the

notification in the court. Hence we assume that the then Central government had not issued any such notification and there is no ban in buying this book either from the country or abroad.

Published in 1988, this novel discusses the issue of good and evil. The book mentions about several religious figures including Prophet Mohammad. Muslims all over the world had this objection that Salman Rushdie had deliberately insulted several religious figures including Prophet Mohammad in his book in order to attract the readers of Western nations. This book was published abroad. In 1989, Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had issued a special fatwa. In this fatwa, it was said that any person who brings the severed head of the writer of this book, Salman Rushdie, will be given gold weighing equal to the weight of his head. On pressure from Muslim leaders, first the government of Rajiv Gandhi imposed a ban on this book. Later, several Islamic nations also imposed a ban on the book. Violent demonstrations were held in Mumbai against this book, where largescale violence took place. In order to disperse the huge mob, the police had to open fire, in which more than a dozen people were killed.

**Chattan** (November 9) states that in September 1988, a portion of this controversial book and an interview of Rushdie was published in an Indian journal. Following this, riots broke out in several parts of the country. Several Muslim intellectuals and leaders in the country, prominent among them being Syed Shahabuddin and Khurshid Alam Khan, demanded the Indian government to impose a ban the book. Due to pressure from Muslim organisations and leaders, the then Rajiv Gandhi government on October 5, 1988 imposed a ban on publishing this book in the country or buying it from



abroad. Following this, murderous assault took place several times on the writer of this book Salman Rushdie and he had to hide in several cities abroad in order to save his life. In August 2022, a fundamentalist Muslim of Iranian origin Haadi Matar launched a murderous assault on Salman Rushdie in the US. Rushdie's one eye was completely damaged and he became disabled in one hand and one leg due to this attack. The police arrested the attacker from the spot. Later a court handed him life-term in jail as punishment.

As far as Salman Rushdie is concerned, his ancestors used to stay in Delhi. His father Anis Ahmed Rushdie used to be a judge during the British period. His ancestral bungalow used to be on the Under Hill Road in Civil Lines in New Delhi and it was well-known as Anis Villa. In 1970, Anis Rushdie sold this bungalow to Congress leader Bhiku Ram Jain. He also had one bungalow in Solan in Himachal Pradesh. In an interview, Salman Rushdie had expressed the wish that he wanted to see for once the houses of his ancestors. He had said that his life was in danger, hence it would be difficult to fulfill his wish. Salman Rushdie was born in Mumbai in 1947. He has so far written more than 30 books. In 2007, the British government had honoured Rushdie with the title of 'Sir' for his contributions to the literary world. The interesting thing is that a fundamentalist Muslim had knifed to death a person who had translated the Satanic Verses into Japanese language. The US government has provided security to Salman Rushdie.



## 30 people killed in suicide attack in Balochistan



**Akbar-e-Mashriq** (November 10) reports that more than 30 people were killed and over 100 injured in a suicide attack that took place at the railway station in Balochistan province's capital Quetta in Pakistan. The dead include the suicide attacker as well. According to the police chief in Quetta, the condition of several injured were critical and hence the death toll may increase further. A red alert has been sounded in entire Pakistan following the terrorist attack and people were urged to donate blood to those injured in the bomb blast in Quetta. As per latest news, the Pakistan government has suspended all rail services originating and terminating from the south-western province.

The Balochistan government has announced a three-day national mourning. Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, while condemning the incident, said we will not rest until we have eliminated the terrorists. As per news, the dead included several security personnel and officers of Pakistani Army. The spokesperson of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), while taking responsibility for the attack, said this was a retaliatory attack against Pakistan Army's torture of Balochis. According to the newspaper, the bomb explosion took place when the

Pakistani soldiers and other passengers were waiting for train on the platform of the railway station.

**Chattan** (November 10) states that after the explosion, Junaid Baloch, the spokesperson of banned organisation BLA, said in a press release that the suicide attack was carried out by a *fidayeen* of the group. The purpose of this attack was to target a column of Pakistani Army, who were returning to Peshawar after completing their course from the Quetta-located Pakistan Infantry School.

According to Pakistan newspaper **Jung** (November 11), the Pakistani security agencies arrested two persons including a woman in connection with the attack on Chinese citizens at Karachi airport which took place a few days ago. Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told correspondents that the arrested people belong to BLA. This was ascertained from the severed hand of one of the attackers killed at the spot. The investigation by intelligence agencies has revealed that the vehicle used in this attack was bought for Rs 71 lakh in cash from a showroom in Karachi. Naqvi said that some foreign powers are scared of the growing relationship between Pakistan and China, hence at their behest, such terrorist



activities are being carried out. He expressed hope that all those involved in this incident will be arrested soon.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the Interior Minister of Sindh, Ziaul Hasan Lanjar and Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon claimed at a press conference that Shah Fahad, who carried out the suicide attack at Karachi airport, has been identified through his fingerprint because his face and most of his body were burnt during the explosion. Shah Fahad was a resident of Nushki district in Balochistan and he was a member of Majeed Brigade of BLA. In a press release issued by anti-terrorism wing, it has been claimed that the mastermind of the attack on Chinese citizens, Javed alias Sameer, and his woman aide Gul Nisa were arrested from Karachi. These people came to Karachi from Balochistan with the aim of carrying out another blast.

Memon said the vehicle filled with explosives, which was used in the blast, was brought to Karachi two days before the incident. The arrested person has admitted that a person belonging to their gang had entered the Karachi airport on foot on October 6 night at 9.30 and provided information about the exit of Chinese engineers from the airport to the terrorists waiting in the vehicle. Following this, the attackers rammed a vehicle loaded with ammunition into a Chinese vehicle. Interior Minister Lanjar had also claimed that this was the fourth biggest attack by BLA in Karachi. Earlier they had targeted Karachi

Stock Exchange, Chinese Consul General's Office and Karachi University. He said the BLA has been spreading violence in Pakistan at the behest of anti-Pakistan countries.

It is said that Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is a rebel organisation which is active in Balochistan province in Pakistan. Balochistan is the biggest province of Pakistan. This province is rich in mineral resources. The people there complain that these mineral resources are not being used for the

development of the residents of Balochistan, instead the Punjabis and Chinese are exploiting these mineral resources. This organisation demands that Balochistan shall be declared as a separate nation so that the local people could benefit from its resources.

The BLA was founded in the decade of 1970. The Pakistani Army launched a massive military campaign to crush the anger of dissatisfied Balochis during that period. Thousands of Balochis were killed in this military campaign. In order to take revenge against this military action, many Baloch organisations chose the path of armed rebellion against the Pakistan government. It is being said that the BLA was founded by prominent Baloch leader Mir Habaat Khan Marri and his son Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri. Prominent Baloch leaders Balach Marri and Brahamdagh Bugti have also led the BLA. The main opposition of this organisation is regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Under this project, China has developed the Gwadar Port so that it could connect to the Middle-East through both the sea and land route.

**Hindustan** (November 2) reports that nine persons including five children were killed and 29 people were injured in a bomb blast that took place in Mastung district in Balochistan. Spokesperson of provincial government Shahid Rind said the terrorists carried out this attack on a police van. A bus carrying school children

was also travelling with this van and hence five children, one policeman and three others were killed in this blast. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti have condemned this attack. He said that a campaign has been launched in the entire state in search of the accused. It is hoped that the police will soon arrest the accused in this attack.



**Urdu Times** (November 11) states that Russian President Vladimir Putin has condemned the terrorist attack that took place in Quetta Railway Station. In this

connection, he also sent a condolence message to the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari. Putin said that Russia would extend all possible help to Pakistan to eliminate terrorism.

## Decision to issue Red Corner Notice against Sheikh Hasina



**Urdu Times** (November 11) states that Advisor to Bangladesh government on legal matters, Asif Nazrul told journalists that the government has decided to request Interpol to issue a Red Corner Notice to deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other absconding accused on charges of the murder of political opponents and causing their disappearance. He said the fascist fugitives will be brought back from whichever corner of the world they are hiding and will be held accountable in the court. Earlier, caretaker Prime Minister

Mohammad Yunus had announced that his government would urge Indian government that it hand over Sheikh Hasina to the Bangladesh government, but now the Bangladesh government has now changed its decision. It is to be noted that an extradition treaty took place between Bangladesh and India in 2013. Under this treaty, the accused would be handed over to the nation concerned. Despite this, the Bangladesh government has decided to seek the help of Interpol in this connection.

**Inquilab** (November 10) reports that the supporters of Bangladesh's biggest political party held a massive protest in Dhaka and demanded the government to file cases in court against Sheikh Hasina and her other colleagues on charges of the killing of thousands of protesters. Along with this, it has also been demanded in this rally that elections should be held in Bangladesh immediately because the elections held by Sheikh Hasina were not fair. The election was rigged and Awami League was given victory. The protesters demanded that if the government

does not take any credible step to fulfil this demand by them, they would hold massive protests in the entire country and would force the government to accept these demands.

**Avadhnama** (November 5) states that the caretaker prime minister of Bangladesh Mohammad Yunus has formed a committee headed by Ali Riyaz to revise the Constitution of the country and draft a new Constitution. The commission has a

senior lawyer, law professor, representative of human rights organisations and student leader. The head of constitution reform commission Ali Riyaz told journalists that in the current constitution, the prime minister has unlimited powers. We will not tolerate dictatorship in our country. He said the new constitution will be democratic. The constitution reforms commission would hand over its report to the government before December 31. ■

## Dutch police action on Palestine supporters



**Inqilab** (November 12) states that a few days ago, Palestinian supporters carried out an attack on Israelis during a football match between Netherlands and Israel at Netherlands' capital Amsterdam. The police have started stringent action against this attack. Five Israelis were injured in the attack. Nearly 50 protesters who took part in rallies supporting Palestine were arrested. These people were protesting against the war unleashed in Gaza by Israel and were supporting the demand for a separate Palestinian nation. The protesters were demanding that the 50 Palestinian supporters who were arrested on charges of attacking Israelis during the football match should be released immediately.

It is to be noted that the Dutch government and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have condemned this attack. Israel has directed its citizens that they do not take part in any function organised in foreign countries because their life could be in danger. In a statement

issued from the office of Netanyahu, it has been stated that the Israel government has got this information that the Palestinian supporters may attack Israeli citizens abroad and kill them. Such attacks may take place in Netherlands, Britain, France, Belgium etc. In such a situation, it is necessary for Israeli citizens to remain alert. As per another news, France has imposed a ban on Palestinian flag in the country. According to French government, this ban has been imposed in view of the match taking place between France and Israel in Paris next week. The French government has made it clear that only French and Israeli flags could be displayed in stadium. The head of police in Paris said that the government has decided to take stringent steps for the protection of Israeli citizens and players. In this connection, 14,000 police personnel have been put on special duty so that anti-Israel organisations do not create any kind of disturbances. ■

## Man accused of burning Quran gets punishment in Sweden

**Avadhnama** (November 7) states that a court in Sweden has awarded a four-month jail to the man accused of burning Quran during the anti-Muslim protests that took place in the country in 2022. In its verdict, the court said that an activist of anti-Islam organisations, Rasmus Paludan, had delivered provocative slogans against Muslims, Arabs and Africans during these protests. Protests had taken place across



the world against him. The court said that any person can be criticised. For example, there can be criticism against Islam and Muslims on the basis of their extremist ideology, but no religion shall be insulted in this process. Whereas, during these protests, Islam, Quran and Prophet were insulted, which is against the social structure and morality of Sweden.

It is to be noted that far right-wing activists in Sweden, Norway and Denmark had criticised the fundamentalist activities of Muslim sects and in this context the Quran was burned in several places. Following this, the Swedish government has passed a law. In this law, a provision for punishment has been made for insulting the founder or the religious text of any religion. Earlier, due to the policies of

liberal social order and freedom of expression, there was no ban on any kind of protests in Sweden. The extreme right-wing Christian Rasmus Paludan, who has been awarded punishment on charges of burning Quran, is a citizen of both Sweden and Denmark. He is a lawyer by profession.

It is said that due to the incident of burning the Quran, tension has arisen in the relationship between Sweden and Turkiye and Turkiye has ended the diplomatic relationship with Sweden. Earlier, Turkiye has been consistently creating hurdles on the issue of granting membership to Sweden in NATO alliance. Later, due to pressure from the US, Turkiye had withdrawn its veto and Sweden was given membership in NATO.

## Tension in the relationship between Germany and Iran

**Urdu Times** (November 2) reports that Iran had hanged to death a 69-year-old German citizen of Iranian origin, Jamshid Sharmahd, on charges of terrorism in Tehran. The German foreign ministry lodged a protest over it. The German Ambassador also lodged a protest with Iran's foreign affairs minister Abbas Araghchi. Whereas the Iran government said that no terrorist can be spared for

being a German citizen. Now the German government has directed all the three Iranian Consulate General offices in Iran to be shut down. Germany's foreign affairs minister Annalena Baerbock has ordered that the Iranian Consulate General offices located in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich should be shut down immediately. According to the newspaper, the Iranian spies had abducted Sharmahd from Dubai.

Later cases were registered against him. Despite protests from the US and Germany, the Iran government hanged to death Sharmahd in a jail in Tehran.

It is to be noted that Jamshid Sharmahd was born in Iran, but he took German citizenship and stayed there for a long time. In 2008, he was accused of conspiring for an attack on an Iranian masjid. In this attack, 14 people including five women and one child were killed and more than 200 namazis were injured. In 2017, Iran had alleged that Sharmahd had collected secret information regarding Iranian missiles. It is said that Sharmahd used to stay in California in the US and he was a software engineer by profession. In 2020, when he left Dubai on his way to India, he was kidnapped on the way itself. The German government had urged the United Arab Emirates to trace its citizen. Following this, it had been found from the mobile location of Sharmahd that while he was on the way to board the plane from Dubai to India, he was kidnapped by some unidentified persons on the way itself. Following this, he was taken to Jordan.

Later, Iran's intelligence wing had announced that a foreign spy was arrested, who was collecting secret information regarding Iranian missile factories which he was passing on to the intelligence agencies of a country. The Iranian intelligence agency had broadcast the pictures of Jamshid Sharmahd on government television, in which he was shown blindfolded. In 2023, the Iranian television had also made viral a video of the hearing of the case of this so-called spy and had announced that the court had awarded death sentence to this foreign spy.

Some time ago, the German government had alleged that Iran had been spreading Islamic terrorism in Germany through its agents, who have been conspiring to overthrow the democratic government of Germany and establish Islamic rule in the country. In this connection, the German government had also mentioned about a protest by the



Muslim community in Hamburg. It has been demanded during this protest that an Islamic Caliphate shall be established in Germany. A heated debate took place in German Parliament as well on this incident. The Opposition parties expressed concern over increasing incidents of Islamic terrorism in Germany and asked the German government to take stringent action against the Islamic terrorists. Following this, the German government shut down a few masjids and Islamic centres operating in the country. Germany's foreign affairs ministry alleged that the Iran government is extending financial aid to Islamic terrorists active in Germany.

**Hindustan** (November 12) reports that five Iranian soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack near Pakistani border. Iran's official news agency 'IRNA' has claimed that the five killed were officials of Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC). These military officials were attacked in the town of Sarawan in the Iranian province of Sistan and Balochistan. Earlier, Iranian government television had claimed that the Iran Army had killed three terrorists and arrested nine terrorists. Last month, four persons including the chief of IRGC in Sistan and Balochistan province were killed in an attack by terrorists. According to informed sources, this attack was carried out by an Islamic terrorist organisation Jaish Al-Adal (Army of Justice). Jaish Al-Adal is a Sunni terrorist organisation. It was founded in 2012. This Islamic terrorist organisation alleged that the Iran

government has been torturing Sunni minorities in the country. This organisation has been demanding that the Iranian province of Sistan and Balochistan should be declared an independent country.

It is to be noted that in the beginning of this year, Iran had bombed several bases of Jaish Al-Adal located within the Pakistan border. In retaliation, Pakistan

also carried out attacks on some villages situated within the Iranian border. Pakistan had claimed that terrorists from these bases located in Iran infiltrates Pakistan's border and carries out violent activities and they also target Pakistani Army. Earlier, Jaish Al-Adal carried out an attack on a police station in Sistan and Balochistan and killed 11 Iranian security personnel.

## Iranian agent accused of conspiring to murder Trump



**Roznama Sahara** (November 10) states that the US Justice Department has accused an Iranian agent Farhad Shakeri of conspiring to murder the newly elected President of United States, Donald Trump. Shakeri is linked to Iran's militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC). Shakeri has admitted that the IRGC had directed him to kill Trump on October 7, 2024. He had been assured of full cooperation in planning for the murder. Fiftyone-year-old Shakeri had arrived in the US during his childhood. He was expelled from the US in 2008 after completing a jail term of 14 years on charges of committing dacoity. Following this, he returned to Iran and there he got a job with IRGC. The US government had accused two other US citizens apart from Shakeri, Carlisle Rivera and Jonathon Loadholt, of conspiring to kill Trump.

Iran has rejected this allegation of the US government and claimed that neither it nor IRGC has any relation with this conspiracy. Such allegations are baseless. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign

affairs ministry Ismail Baghaei claimed that the hands of the American Jewish lobby were behind this conspiracy. This lobby wants to spoil the relationship between the US and Iran. On the other hand, the US government claimed that the main accused behind this conspiracy, Farhad Shakeri, is a citizen of Afghanistan, whom the IRGC asked to kill Trump. The government also claimed that two other US citizens—Carlisle Rivera and Jonathan Loadholt--were arrested for their involvement in this conspiracy. While Shakeri is absconding even today, it is believed that he is living in Iran. They met Shakeri in a US jail.

It is to be noted that on July 13, 2024, a gunman tried to target Trump but missed the target and Trump was slightly injured. The police shot dead the man who attacked Trump. This apart, an attempt was made to attack Trump during a rally in Florida as well. It is being claimed that the hands of Iran were behind all these incidents.

## Israel defence minister Yoav Gallant sacked



**Urdu Times** (November 7) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sacked the country's defence minister Yoav Gallant. Israel's foreign affairs minister Israel Katz has replaced him as the new defence minister. According to foreign news agencies, Prime Minister Netanyahu has appointed Gideon Sa'ar as the new foreign affairs minister. Netanyahu said he does not trust Gallant anymore. During the time of war, it is necessary that there is complete harmony between the country's prime minister and the defence minister. It is to be noted that Netanyahu and Gallant are leaders of same party. Netanyahu had alleged that Gallant has been issuing statements against the decisions of the government and the cabinet. Meanwhile, Gallant said that for me, Israel's security and survival are paramount. I have dedicated my entire life to fulfil this aim. I will remain committed to this policy till my last breath. Similarly, the newly appointed defence minister Israel Katz also said that I am taking new responsibilities keeping the safety of citizens in mind. For me, the security of Israel and its citizens is paramount.

**Avadhnama** (November 8) states that after sacking Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant, nation-wide protests have

erupted against Prime Minister Netanyahu. Recently, Gallant had issued a statement against the restrictions imposed on judiciary. He had said that Netanyahu had violated the objectivity of the courts to escape from corruption charges. There is strong dissatisfaction among the people and the military against this decision of the Prime Minister. Gallant has stressed that in view of the dissatisfaction of the people, the decision of the Israeli cabinet on the Parliament's interference with the powers of the courts should not be implemented. According to media reports, as soon as news about the sacking of the defence minister spread, thousands of protesters came out on the streets in several cities including Tel Aviv and they held a massive protest against Prime Minister Netanyahu. They were demanding immediate resignation of Netanyahu from his post. Thousands of people protested outside the residence of Prime Minister Netanyahu at Jerusalem also and demanded his resignation. The police used water cannons to disperse the mob.

The furious protesters staged a rally outside the Parliament as well. They demanded that considering the national interest, the decision to sack the defence minister should be withdrawn immediately.





It is said that a series of demonstrations have been taking place in Israel for a long time over the decision to establish supremacy of Parliament over courts in the name of judicial reforms. Prime Minister Netanyahu says that these reforms are very much necessary to bring a balance between the government and the judiciary. His opponents say that there are serious allegations of corruption against Netanyahu and he paralysed the judiciary in order to escape their scrutiny. It is being said that the Israel Parliament has passed a law as per which the government could stop the implementation of the verdict of any judge and dismiss any judge and appoint another judge in his place. The US and other allied countries have also criticised this decision of Israel Prime Minister.

It is to be noted that the Israeli reserve soldiers had threatened that if the government does not withdraw the judicial reforms law, they will not provide their service in future. The Israeli pilots have

also extended their support to them. Whereas Netanyahu said that if any reserve soldier or aircraft pilot refuses to do his duty, then cases will be filed against them in military court.

**Avadhnama** (November 3) reports that several Israeli top officials including the spokesperson and advisor of Prime Minister Netanyahu were arrested on charges of leaking secret documents. The Israeli investigation agencies are conducting

a high-level inquiry into this issue. The government has accepted that due to the leak of documents related to planning of war, Israel's military targets and national security suffered huge damage. The government agencies doubt that some top officials had provided these documents to German media and Israeli journalists. Following this, a detailed news about the future defence plan of Israel were published in several newspapers in the world. The official spokesperson has refused to provide any kind of information regarding the names of the arrested persons or their posts. On the other hand, the prime minister's office has claimed that it has no role in the breach of secrecy of war plans and leaking it to the media. Some newspapers alleged that there are many such people working in the prime minister's office who are not regular employees of government. As per official information, some of the accused who have been arrested were senior level officials.

## Demand to exert more pressure on Israel at meeting of Arab-Islamic nations

**Urdu Times** (November 13) states that at a meeting of Arab-Islamic nations held at Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, it had been demanded that the policy to isolate Israel in the world should be implemented with vigour. In this meeting, a demand had been made for the creation of an independent Palestine state. This apart, an appeal had been made to all the nations in the world that they immediately stop the supply of

weapons to Israel. The Israeli attack on Lebanon was condemned at the meeting and it was said that the United Nations and the nations in the world had completely failed to stop the Israeli attacks. It was said at the meeting that for permanent peace in Middle-East, it is necessary to recognise the existence of two nations and create an environment for an independent Palestine nation for Arabs. This apart, the verdict of



the international court of justice on July 19, 2024 should be implemented.

It is to be noted that the international court said in its verdict that the Palestinian areas should be liberated from Israel's illegal occupation and compensation should be provided to those affected by war. The international court also said that after Israel's illegal occupation of Gaza Strip and other Palestinian regions, the Israeli military are forcibly pushing out the people staying there from their homes. This drive should be stopped immediately. This apart, the security of those people who were made missing by the army should be ensured and credible steps should be taken for their release.

**Urdu Times** (November 12) states that it has been said at the meeting of Arab-Islamic countries that the Muslim world will not tolerate the aggression of Israel under any circumstance. Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammad bin Salman said it is necessary for the peace and stability in Middle-East that an independent Palestine state shall be established on the basis of the 1967 borders, whose capital will be Jerusalem. He said Saudi Arabia is committed to stopping the Israeli genocide. Whereas Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas said the Palestinian people should get complete independence and autonomy in their area. He demanded that the illegal Jewish colonies set up in Palestinian areas

by Israel should be liberated. Jordan's King Abdullah II demanded that credible steps should be taken to end the Israeli aggression in West Bank of Gaza and Jordan. He said that if the offensive actions of Israel are not stopped, the threat of world war will increase.

Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has expressed regret that the world powers have not made any effort to stop the massacre being carried out by Israel in Gaza and Lebanon. Due to this, the future of this region and the whole world is at risk. He demanded that efforts should be taken for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the borders as existed in 1967 and a permanent ceasefire shall be declared in Gaza and Lebanon. Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed that the world powers should exert pressure on Israel. When Israel realises that it has become isolated in the world, it will stop its aggressive actions. He appealed to all Arab nations that they cut-off their diplomatic and trade relationship with Israel. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati has described the Israeli attack on Lebanon as a threat to humanity. He demanded that a ceasefire should be immediately declared in the entire region.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 16) states that the United Nations has extended support for Palestinian autonomy and

passed two resolutions in this connection. In the resolutions, it has been demanded from Israel that it provide compensation to Lebanon and Syria for the damages they suffered in the war and give freedom to Palestinians to use their natural resources. The US, Israel, Argentina, Canada, Micronesia, Nauru and Palau voted against both the resolutions. This resolution was moved by the representative of Uganda. The resolution was adopted with 161 votes. Whereas nine countries did not take part in voting.



**Avadhnama** (November 13) said that if Iran and Saudi Arabia get united after forgetting their old differences, Muslims could emerge as an invincible power in the world. The newspaper said that recently Iran's Vice-President Mohammad Raza Arif met Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in Riyadh. This apart, Saudi Arabia's Army chief Fayyad Al-Ruwaili held talks with Iran's Army Chief General Mohammad Bagheri in Tehran. Due to these developments, the European countries like Israel and the US lost their sleep. The newspaper said that due to efforts by China, the atmosphere of friendship that has been created between the two countries, has to be made more credible.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 18) in its editorial criticised the hollowness of the meeting of Arab-Islamic nations in Riyadh. The newspaper said the people of Muslim world doubt whether their rulers are serious about the Palestinian problem. This is the reason why nobody has taken seriously the findings of this meeting held in Riyadh. No Muslim nation is serious in stopping the massacre in Gaza that has been taking place for 400 days. At one level, tall claims are made at such meetings and fiery speeches are given. On the other hand, the decisions that the leaders of these Muslim nations take behind the closed doors along with the leaders of Western countries are no different from the world view of Western nations. The Muslim public knows

that these leaders do not have the courage to take any concrete step. Last year also a similar meeting took place. Following that, a committee was also constituted. The foreign affairs minister of Saudi Arabia was made the head of the committee. Till today it is not known what happened to the resolutions that were passed in this meeting. Why were those not implemented? In the last meeting, it was also promised that Islamic nations will extend financial aid to the Palestinian people, but till now no Muslim nation has taken any step in this direction. The truth is that these Muslim leaders are looking for an excuse to escape their responsibility.

**Hindustan** (November 14) in its editorial has criticised the Islamic conference organised in Saudi Arabia. The newspaper said that earlier also several countries used to pass resolutions like this, but Israel had never implemented them. It has been a tradition in Muslim countries of the world that they do lot of talking, but are afraid of taking any step against Israel. Israel throws away the resolutions of United Nations and the International Court into the dust bin. What respect it will have for these Muslim rulers? The resolution adopted at the meeting in Saudi Arabia was limited to old demands and condemnation of Israel. If one looks into this background, the Islamic conference and its declarations are not worth even a bit.

The newspaper said that the 'Nazria-e-Jihad' of Hamas is the only treatment for Israel. Unless Israel is answered in its own way, it will not understand anything. The real issue is that the Arab countries are scared of the military power of Israel. The

mere thought of getting into a fight with Israel sends shivers down their spine. Till today, neither Arab countries nor other Muslim countries have displayed the courage to take any credible action against Israel because they are obedient to the US.

It is well known that America is completely behind Israel. No Muslim or Arab nation has the courage not to follow the orders of the US. The real strength of Israel is America and no Muslim country can dare to incur America's displeasure and enmity.

## Preparations on to expel relatives of Palestinian attackers from Israel



Israel's minister for national security Itamar Ben-Gvir said that under this new law, action could be taken against anyone supporting attack on Israeli as well. Action can also be taken against those who praise or encourage any terrorist organization involved in the attack. It has not been clarified in this law where those who were expelled from Israel would be sent to.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (November 9) reports that the Israel Parliament has passed a new law. As per the provision of this law, the family of those who attack Israeli territory will be expelled from Israel. A total of 61 votes were cast in favour of this law while 41 were cast against it. As per this law, if a person attacks the territory of Israel, then his father-mother, wife, children and brother-sisters will be expelled from Israel for a maximum period of 20 years. It is not clear whether this law will be implemented in West Bank or not. Israel is already implementing the policy of running bulldozers over the ancestral property of attackers in West Bank. In this law passed by the Parliament, a provision has also been made that if anyone attacks an Israeli citizen with a knife or shoots him or crushes him under a vehicle, then the incident will be considered as terrorism.

**Etemaad** (November 12) in its editorial said that after passing of this law, the life of Palestinian Muslim will become more difficult, who are the victims of Israel's offensive actions. The purpose of this new law is to crush the defence of Palestinians and to put psychological pressure on them. This law by Israel is also violation of international laws and human rights. On the pretext of this law, Israel wants to suppress the voice of those people who have been trying to free from the slavery of Israel. Human rights organisations across the world have condemned this law and described it as an inhuman step against Palestinian Muslims. Israel has refused to come under the pressure. Israel claimed that it is necessary to take such steps to campaign against terrorism. Israel's security will be strengthened due to it.

## Campaign against corruption in Saudi Arabia

**Siasat** (November 8) states that Anti-Corruption Authority 'Nazaha' has launched a massive campaign against corruption in the country. Nazaha has arrested a Saudi citizen, Khaled Ibrahim Al Jariwi, with the cooperation of Saudi Central Bank and Presidency of State Security. Al Jariwi was accused of embezzlement of Saudi Riyals worth 493 million by committing banking fraud with the help of an employee of a local bank. It is being said that the accused submitted fake documents related to property in the bank with the help of bank employees. The corrupt bank employees approved these fake documents and granted 100 million Saudi Riyals as loan to the accused. The accused purchased land in the name of relatives using this money and sent the rest of the money abroad in an illegal manner. Three bank employees were also arrested on charges of helping them in committing this fraud.

In another instance of corruption, a Saudi citizen, Mohammad Ghazi, and his two other colleagues Abdulmalik Ahmad Qaid and Abdullah Abdu Qasim were also arrested. These two accused are citizens of Yemen. They had given a bribe of 15 lakh to Saudi authorities to avoid paying customs duty of 7.2 million Riyals imposed on a container full of tobacco arriving at Jeddah port. These corrupt officials mentioned tissue paper instead of tobacco in the import-related documents. After investigation, the team of anti-corruption



authority raided a godown and seized huge quantities of tobacco imported from abroad. Similarly, in another case, a Sudanese citizen was arrested. This person had given a car and 20,000 Riyals as bribe to the officials concerned in exchange for illegally passing four tonnes of tobacco through Jeddah Port.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 2) states that the Saudi Arab government has given death sentence to two persons on charges of betraying the country and taking part in terrorist activities. As per government report, both the Saudi accused have accepted that they belong to a terrorist organisation. The two have also admitted that they spied on foreign instructions and tried to do violent activities in the country. This apart, another person has been given death sentence on charges of smuggling narcotics. This Syrian citizen got involved in the drug-trafficking in Saudi Arabia. As per latest reports, the executioner put the accused to death in front of a large crowd.

## Qatar's attempt to mediate between Israel and Hamas suspended

According to **Aurangabad Times** (November 11), Qatar has suspended its efforts to play the role of a mediator between Israel and Hamas for ceasefire and the release of the hostages. Qatar has

clarified that when Hamas and Israel express their intention to hold talks in this connection, then we will once again begin our efforts. The US wants Qatar not to give refuge to Hamas leaders in the country

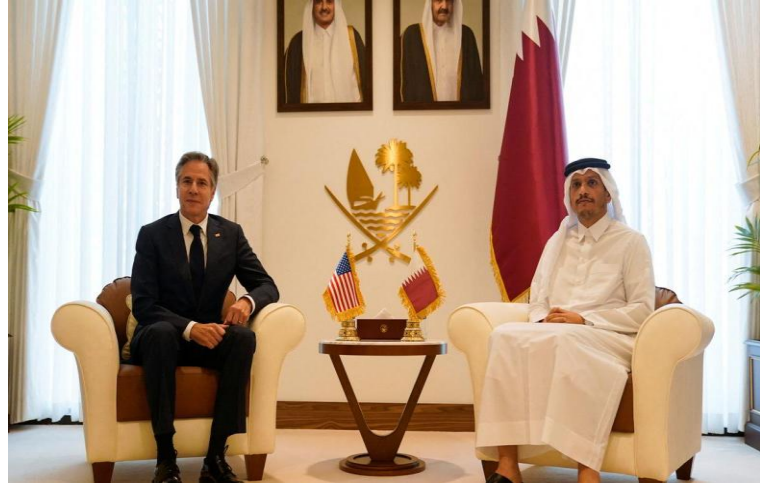
because the Palestinian resistance group is not taking any interest in the ceasefire and they have cancelled the ceasefire proposals.

It is to be noted that earlier Qatar had tried to hold talks between Hamas and Israel in October as well, which the Hamas had rejected. The leaders of Hamas had said that they were not in favour of a temporary ceasefire.

Earlier, the US Secretary of State had clarified that after the attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, no country can be given permission to adopt a soft attitude towards Hamas. The US has directed Qatar that it asks Hamas leaders to leave their country, but Qatar has not done it.

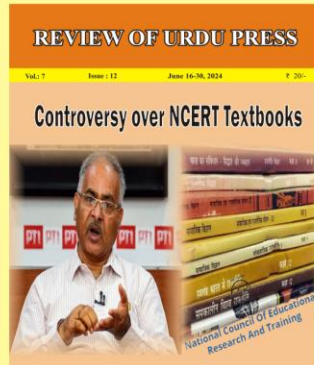
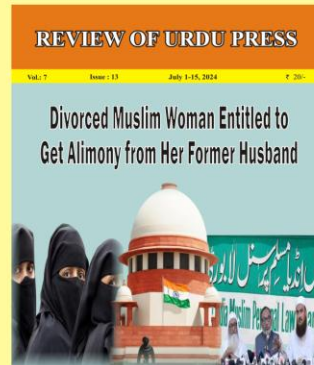
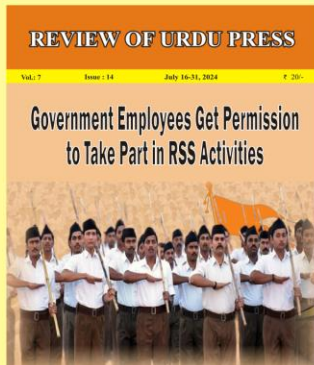
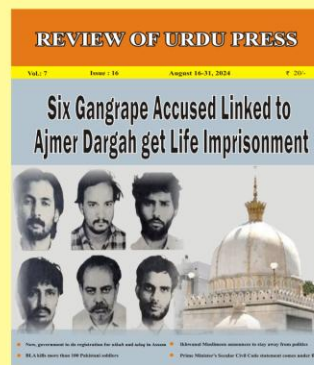
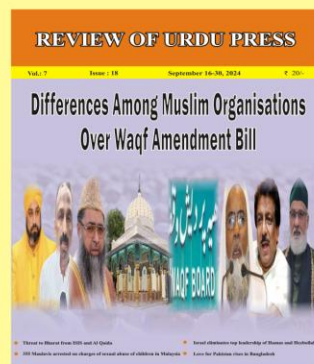
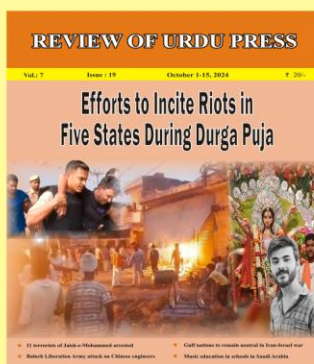
**Avadhnama** (November 10) states that the US has pressured Qatar to order Hamas' political wing to end its activities in Qatar. A US spokesperson said they will not tolerate the existence of Hamas or any other terrorist organisation in Qatar. On the other hand, three senior leaders of Hamas rejected the claim that the Qatar government had directed them to pack up their bags in the country. Political observers believe that after Donald Trump comes to power in the US, pressure will build up on the Qatar government to shut down the office of Hamas in the country.

**Roznama Sahara** (October 31) states that senior leader of Hamas Sami Abu Zuhri announced that until Israel completely withdraws its soldiers from



Gaza, Hamas will not hold any talks with them. It is to be noted that recently the director of US intelligence agency CIA and the chief of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad met the Prime Minister of Qatar in Doha. It is said that both these officials told the Qatar Prime Minister that Hamas has been making such conditions which Israel can never accept. In such a situation, there is no point in continuing with negotiations.

**Inquilab** (November 6) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered to give millions of dollars to Hamas and guarantee safety to kidnappers or their families to travel abroad in return for the release of its citizens who were taken as hostages. This news was published in Israel's prominent English newspaper 'Times of Israel.' The newspaper has written that a top official of Prime Minister's Office has confirmed that Prime Minister Netanyahu had made this offer to Hamas. This decision was taken at a meeting of Israeli cabinet, but Hamas has rejected this proposal.



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