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Urdu Media Disappointed Over BJP's Victory in Maharashtra



- Controversy surrounds Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal
- Explosive situation in Syria: Will a world war break out?
- ISKCON religious guru arrested in Bangladesh
- Over 300 people killed in Shia-Sunni clashes in Pakistan

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Summary

The Muslim media and Muslim leaders have failed in their attempt to create an atmosphere against BJP in the recently held Assembly elections in Maharashtra. A fierce campaign was being carried out for the past several months that Muslims should unite to remove BJP from power. Member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Sajjad Nomani, had openly appealed to Muslims to get united and come out on the field to defeat BJP. He had also said that if any Muslim votes in favour of BJP, then Muslims should socially boycott him and expel him from Islam. Despite such communal campaign, the success that the BJP and its allies got in the Maharashtra Assembly elections was unprecedented. The plan to send 60 Muslim MLAs to the Legislative Assembly has been dashed and only 10 Muslim candidates won in the elections.

The way violence had taken place in Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh recently was worrying. Mughal Emperor Babur had confirmed in his autobiography 'Baburnama' that one of his commanders, Mir Hindu Beg, had constructed a mosque after destroying the Harihar mandir in Sambhal. The police claim that some mischievous elements have been making plans for a long time to spread violence. When the survey team reached the masjid for the second time to conduct the survey on the directions of the court, the leaders of Samajwadi Party incited the local Muslims. The police claimed that the mischievous elements had already collected a large quantity of bricks and stones in the houses around the Jama Masjid. The police were attacked using these stones. The Uttar Pradesh government had formed a three-member committee to conduct a judicial inquiry into the incident. The government has decided to take stringent action against the mischievous elements. The posters of more than 100 rioters who pelted stones at police have been put up at public places. The police announced that the damage caused to property in these riots will have to be compensated by the rioters themselves.

Sharp differences have arisen in All India Muslim Personal Law Board, the most powerful organisation of Indian Muslims. Secretary of the board, Maulana Faisal Rahmani, and few other senior members had to resign from their post due to the rift. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board was established in 1973. Since then, this organisation had remained in some controversy or the other. The Muslims in the country have this complaint that the Shias and women do not have proper representation in the board. In view of this, some people have established a parallel Shia Personal Law Board and Women Personal Law Board.

The Shia-Sunni riots are taking a fierce turn day-by-day in Pakistan. For the past two weeks, Shia-Sunni riots are taking place in Parachinar area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Pakistan government has failed to bring an agreement between the two communities till now. Official sources confirmed that more than 150 people have been killed in these riots. Whereas, non-government sources claimed that more than 500 people were killed in the riots.

The situation in Syria is becoming explosive with every passing day. Rebel organisation Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) has intensified its attack against the ruling President Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria. The rebels have seized two regions in Syria till now. It is known that civil war is taking place in Syria since 2011. Till now, more than seven lakh people have been killed in the civil war and 30 lakh people have been rendered homeless. In this war, Iran and Russia have been supporting President Bashar Al-Assad. Similarly, the rebels have the support of the US, Israel and Turkiye.

Urdu media disappointed over the victory of BJP in Maharashtra



The plans devised by the Urdu press and the Muslim leaders to remove BJP from power in Maharashtra have gone down the drain. In the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the BJP emerged victorious in 132 seats out of 288 seats. Whereas in the 2019 Assembly elections, the party had got 105 seats. In this Assembly elections, the Mahayuti alliance led by BJP won in 236 seats out of 288 seats. Also, the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde got 57 seats and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of Ajit Pawar got 41 seats. Whereas the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance led by Congress had to face a shameful defeat. This alliance registered victory only in 48 seats. Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena got 20 seats, Congress got 16 while Sharad Pawar's NCP got only 10 seats. Similarly, Samajwadi Party also managed to win two seats.

It is to be noted that for the past several months, the Urdu press and Muslim leaders have been running a campaign to unite Muslims against the BJP. They had urged Muslims that they unitedly support candidates capable of defeating BJP. The Muslim leaders have also been running this campaign that this time, 60 Muslim MLAs have to reach the Vidhan Sabha at any cost.

Leader of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalil-Ur-Rahman Sajjad Nomani had urged Muslims that they support Opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi and socially boycott those Muslims who give their vote to BJP, but this appeal by him was proved futile. Now, a search is on to find someone to blame for the failure of the Muslim strategy in the elections. This time in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, there were 420 Muslim candidates in the fray, out of which only 10 Muslim candidates tasted victory. In the last election also only 10 Muslim candidates could win.

Hindustan (November 24) states that in the elections held this time, more than 300 Muslim candidates lost their deposit. The newspaper alleged that the strategy made by the BJP to divide the Muslim votes has become a success.

Aurangabad Times (November 25) in its editorial has described the results of Maharashtra Assembly elections as unexpected. The newspaper said that the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra has come through 'chor darwaza.' The people of Maharashtra had very much disliked this government and they had fully expressed their anger in the Lok Sabha elections held



a few months ago. In the Lok Sabha elections, only nine candidates of BJP emerged victorious from Maharashtra. In this elections, one can't imagine the kind of success that the other parties of Mahayuti namely Shiv Sena (Shinde group) and Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar group) also got.

Avadhnama (November 24) states that the common perception in this elections was that the voters of Maharashtra would teach a lesson to the traitors but the election results have proved this notion wrong. Eknath Shinde, who rebelled against Shiv Sena, has won three times more seats compared to Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena. This is the situation with Ajit Pawar as well. In this elections, Sharad Pawar had to suffer huge setback.

Urdu Times (November 25) in its editorial has alleged that the gamble by Maulana Sajjad Nomani has backfired. The BJP has described his appeal as 'vote jihad.' This is the reason why the majority community voters got united against Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (November 24) said in its editorial that the election results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand indicates that the regional parties will play an important role in deciding the direction of Indian politics. Sharad Pawar would never have imagined the shameful defeat that his

party has received. The 84-year-old Sharad Pawar was badly defeated by his own nephew.

Etemaad (November 25) said in its editorial that everybody was surprised over the election results in Maharashtra. The newspaper said this was a victory of Prime Minister Modi. Due to the poison of communalism spread by the BJP before the elections in Maharashtra, they succeeded in garnering the votes. The attitude of Muslim leaders over the insult by a Shiv Sena leader about the Prophet during the elections was natural, but the BJP used the statement of the Muslim leader to polarise the votes of Hindus.

Siasat (November 25) said in its editorial that 10 Muslim candidates have won the elections in Maharashtra this time. Among them, the highest number of three Muslim candidates won on Congress ticket, which include Amin Patel (Mumbadevi) Aslam Sheikh (Malad West) and Sajid Khan Pathan (Akola West). Whereas from Ajit Pawar's NCP, Sana Malik (Anushakti Nagar) and Hasan Mushrif (Kagal) won the elections. From Samajwadi Party, Abu Asim Azmi (Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar) and Rais Shaikh (Bhiwandi East) managed to win the elections. Similarly, from Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, Abdul Sattar (Sillod) and from All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Mufti Mohammed Ismail Abdul Khalique (Malegaon Central) won



the elections. Whereas from Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena Haroon Khan (Versova) won the elections.

This apart, two old Muslim MLAs lost the elections. Among them, NCP's Nawab Malik was defeated by Abu Asim Azmi. However, Nawab Malik's daughter Sana Malik won the elections. She defeated Sharad Pawar's NCP's candidate Fahad Ahmad. Similarly, Baba Siddique's son Zishan Siddique also lost the elections. It is to be noted that nine Muslim MLAs got elected in the Assembly elections in 2014. Whereas in 2019, their number was 10.

Hindustan (November 24) said in its editorial that the Opposition parties should seriously introspect about their defeat. There was huge public anger against the BJP and its allied parties in Maharashtra and it was being hoped that the Maha Vikas Aghadi would get huge success in the elections, but the BJP had fielded 'vote cutting' Muslim candidates in Muslim majority seats. Due to this, the entire strategy of Muslim leaders failed. The newspaper said that the BJP won the elections by dishonesty and misuse of money power.

Urdu Times (November 24) has given RSS the credit for the unprecedented victory of BJP in Maharashtra. The newspaper said that RSS has wholeheartedly worked for Mahayuti candidates in the elections. Muslim leaders and organisations had urged Muslims that they get united and vote against the BJP,

but the results have backfired. This had given strength to the 'vote jihad' slogan of BJP. In every election rally, Devendra Fadnavis quoted the statements of Muslim leaders and provoked Hindu voters. This helped BJP to garner the votes of Hindus.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 25) in its editorial said the saffron gang's strategy of hate politics has been successful in Maharashtra. The BJP has slowly captured the traditional vote banks of Shiv Sena and the NCP. The BJP had sown the seeds of division in Shiv Sena and NCP to grab power and because of this it has got unexpected success in reaping the harvest of votes.

Urdu Times (November 24) in its editorial said that there is disappointment and regret among Muslims over the Assembly election results in Maharashtra. Mahayuti candidates have won in Muslim areas like Kurla, Andheri, Jogeshwari and Kandivali. It is very much necessary to find reasons for it. Were the Muslim votes divided or did the BJP strategists lure Muslims to split their votes and field them as independent candidates? Another reason is that there was low polling in Muslim areas, as in spite of many efforts by Muslim leaders and the media, majority of Muslim voters did not go for voting and they sat at their homes. When the election results arrive, they get disappointed and starts regretting. They do not think how many Muslim candidates were fielded to divide the Muslim votes and who were

those who were fielding them? Had there been unity among Muslim voters, such a result would never have come. This time, the biggest damage to Muslims was inflicted by their religious leaders. They have been urging Muslims to get united and defeat BJP.

Muslims did not unite, but in response to this, Hindus united and achieved great success. The defeat of Muslims in these elections is visible to everyone. Some people take money to become candidates, while others take money to vote. If Muslims continue with this habit, they will continue to be finished off in this manner. No one will help them and they will have to face humiliation in every field.

Hindustan (November 25) had given the headline for its editorial as ‘Elections came and went and fake Muslims identified.’ The editorial said that this time there was not just an election in Maharashtra, but also an opportunity to unmask the fake Muslims. Nobody becomes a Muslim just by keeping names like Gaffar, Sattar, Mohammad or even Ibrahim. To be a Muslim, first of all you need to have faith in Islam and its belief system. In this elections, the RSS played a trick. They 100 percent succeeded in this trick. They knew that fake Muslims would easily fall into the trap of their currency notes and this would create a hindrance for real Muslims in reaching the Vidhan Sabha. Such pits will bury Muslims for five years. Dishonest ignorant Muslims who have neither conscience nor determination.

Even true Muslims like Imtiaz Jaleel and Alim Patel were unable to reach the Assembly due to the kindness of Muslims. In Malegaon Central, described as the Saudi Arabia in Maharashtra, the candidate of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Mufti Mohammad Ismail Abdul Khaliq won by a margin of just 162 votes. Whereas the population of Muslims in Malegaon is 90 percent. Now time has come for Muslims to take the work seriously and forget internal differences and stand united at least in political field.



Munsif (November 30) in its editorial said that it is difficult to believe the election results in Maharashtra. Nobody had imagined such a massive victory for BJP and its allies in Maharashtra where they had to face a shameful defeat in the Lok Sabha elections held only five months ago. There are three reasons cited for what has happened. One is the tampering of EVM machine. Second, the foolishness of Maulanas and third, the active participation of RSS in this elections. The newspaper has written that currently the situation in the country has become so worrying that if we Muslims do not get united, neither our life will be secure, nor our wealth or madrasas or masjids will remain. What is required is that the Muslim who believe in one Allah and one Prophet should at least unite to keep their identity intact at least in the name of the faith. Otherwise Islam and Muslims will be wiped out from this country.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (November 27) in its editorial, while analysing the humiliating defeat of Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra, said that nobody had expected such a result. The three Opposition parties did not succeed in ensuring the victory of their own candidates. What has seen till now is that though the Opposition parties have been able to create public anger against the ruling BJP, they were unable to convert it into votes. The BJP has a huge machinery to win the elections, which has the support of the RSS. Due to it, despite being opposed by the people, the BJP is consistently winning the elections.

Avadhnama (November 25) said that though the BJP has won in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Modi has

failed. This win of the BJP is giving the message that it will be able to win the elections even without Modi and the Prime Minister may have become a burden for the party. Or in other words, the Modi brand has been finished. The Mahayuti has won this election on the strength of ‘three Cs’ namely cash, caste and communalism.

Hindustan Express (November 24) said in its editorial that the BJP has strongly raised the slogan of ‘batenge toh

katenge’, but the real effect was that of Prime Minister’s slogan ‘Ek rahege toh safe rahenge.’ This is the reason why the Maha Vikas Aghadi had failed to present any alternative system before the people. They had to pay the price for this in the elections. The BJP had used every tactic in order to win this election. Money was liberally used in the elections and the seeds of hatred that were sown against Muslims widely benefited the BJP and its allies.

Controversy surrounds Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal



Siasat (November 25) states that massive violence took place during a survey ordered by a court at the Shahi Jama Masjid located in Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh. Five persons were killed in this violence. The relatives of the deceased alleged that they were killed in police firing. Whereas the police said they were not killed in police firing but in the firing by the rioters. Superintendent of Police of Sambhal Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said that when the survey team reached the masjid premises to conduct the survey for a second time in the presence of police and the SDM, a mob of rioters attacked them. Dozens of policemen were injured in this attack.

Following this incident, the internet services were suspended and efforts were made to identify the rioters. In this connection, four FIRs were filed and 32

people were arrested. They include women as well. The local administration claimed that the women and teens pelted stones at police from roof-tops, hence the police had to take retaliatory action. A few videos of these incidents also went viral which showed the police opening fire at the rioters. Moradabad divisional commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh said the post-mortem report of the deceased has confirmed that no bullet has been found in their body. In Lucknow, a police spokesperson has claimed that the police are trying to identify those who pelted stones and stringent legal action would be taken against them.

Roznama Sahara (December 1) states that when Samajwadi Party MP Ziaur Rahman Barq, Mohibullah Nadvi, Iqra Hasan and Harendra Malik were on their



way to Sambhal, the police stopped them on Delhi-Ghaziabad border.

As per another news, Samajwadi Party has announced a financial help of Rs 5 lakh each to the family members of those who were killed in the violence in Sambhal. Jamiat Ulema has also announced a help of Rs 5 lakh each to the family members of the deceased.

Inquilab (November 30) states that Uttar Pradesh police have announced that the damage caused to property in these riots will be compensated by the rioters themselves.

According to **Inquilab** (November 25), a huge number of PAC and Rapid Action Force personnel have been deployed in riot-affected areas in order to control the situation. Muslim leaders allege that police are taking away people from houses after breaking open the doors at midnight and innocent people are being arrested on fake cases. Former MP of Samajwadi Party S T Hasan met dozens of people lodged in Moradabad jail on charges of violence at Sambhal. He alleged that the police are arresting innocent people and beating them up. Those who have been arrested include women, children and youths.

The Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a three-member judicial commission headed by retired judge of Allahabad High Court Justice D K Arora to investigate the violence in Sambhal. The two other members of the commission are former IAS officer Amit Mohan Prasad and former IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain. The commission will submit its report to the

government within two months. The commission went to Sambhal and visited the spot of the incident. The officials of Sambhal police and the Divisional Commissioner of Moradabad have stated before the commission that the rioters brought people in huge numbers from nearby places and the mob attacked the police in a well-planned manner. The rioters resorted to stone-pelting during

this time and opened fire using illegal weapons. The police seized many illegal weapons from the accused.

Roznama Sahara (November 20) states that this controversy started when five other petitioners including the Mahant of the Kaila Devi mandir located in Sambhal, Rishi Raj Giri, filed a petition in the court of the Civil Judge Senior Division in Chandausi describing the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal as ancient Harihar mandir. In this petition, it has been demanded that a survey, photography and videography of the controversial building should be carried out. The petitioners, Vishnu Shankar Jain and the Mahant of Kaila Devi Mandir have claimed that the ancient Harihar Mandir was demolished on the orders of Mughal Emperor Babur and a Jama Masjid was constructed in its place. The petitioners said that it was a protected monument under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Despite this, Hindus are not given permission to do puja and the namaz is deliberately been offered there.

It is said that there is historical evidence to prove that the Harihar mandir located in Sambhal was converted as a masjid on the orders of Babur in 1529. It is mentioned in 'Baburnama' as well. According to Baburnama, on the orders of Babur, one of his commanders, Mir Hindu Beg destroyed the Harihar Mandir located in Sambhal and constructed a masjid in its place. This is also mentioned in 'Ain-i-Akbari' written by Abul Fazl. The hearing went on for two-and-a-half hours on the petition. Following this, the court formed

an Advocate Commission under lawyer Ramesh Singh Raghav to conduct a survey and videography of the building. They also include senior lawyer Harishankar Jain and his son Vishnu Shankar Jain.

Inquilab (November 23) states that the Juma namaz was offered in a peaceful manner at the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. A large number of Muslims from nearby localities came to the masjid to offer namaz. The masjid got filled with namazis and hence the district magistrate and superintendent of police directed namazis arriving there that they go to other masjids and offer namaz there. During this time, the shops on all the four sides of the masjid remained closed. To ensure security to the masjid, the personnel of PAC and Rapid Action Force were deployed in huge numbers. Earlier the survey of this masjid was done for two hours on November 19. Following the survey, court commissioner Ramesh Singh Raghav and other commissioners said they will do a survey and photography of the building once again. After that they will present their report in the court. It is being said that when the survey team reached the masjid to conduct the survey once again on November 24, a huge mob gathered nearby. Women and other mischievous elements pelted stones on the survey team from nearby rooftops. The police claimed that they seized stones in four trucks from there. During this time, riots broke out there. Massive clashes took place between the mob and the police. At least five persons were killed in this clash. The police imposed a curfew in the entire area and shut down internet services.

Roznama Sahara (November 26) states that the police have filed an FIR against 2,500 people in connection with the violence that took place in Sambhal. Among those against whom the FIR have been registered include Sambhal MP Ziaur Rahman Barq and Samajwadi Party MLA Iqbal Mahmood's son Suhail Iqbal. Sambhal Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said that our SHO Deepak



Rathi has filed an FIR against 800 people. He accused Ziaur Rahman Barq and Suhail Iqbal of provoking the mob for violence. Sambhal MP Ziaur Rahman Barq, while talking to media said that these riots were done in a well-planned manner and the sad thing is that Muslims are targeted in the country as well as in Uttar Pradesh. He said that the Places of Worship Act 1991, passed by the Parliament has been thrown to the winds. Barq said that when a survey has been done once, what is the need to do the survey again? He alleged that a mob was present along the team conducting the survey which was raising the Jai Sriram slogan.

In Lok Sabha, Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi expressed serious concern over the situation in Sambhal. He said the decision of the state government was malicious and painful. He said the BJP government is responsible for the Sambhal violence. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also held the state government responsible for this incident. In this connection, he sought the intervention of the Supreme Court. Whereas Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that when Ziaur Rahman Barq was not present in Sambhal at the day of the incident, why the police filed an FIR against him? He alleged that this riots were deliberately done by the government. Joint General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Dr Surendra Jain, while describing the Sambhal incident as condemnable, said that Congress, Samajwadi Party and the Muslim leaders are deliberately supporting the rioters. He alleged that this violence took place due to the provocation of Opposition



leaders and the maulanas. He demanded that the rioters and their supporters should be arrested immediately under the NSA.

Inquilab (November 26) states that the chief of the management committee of Jama Masjid in Sambhal Zafar Ali alleged in a press conference that the police and the administration are responsible for this riots. He said that when the SDM forcefully drained the water from the masjid, a misconception spread among the people that the government is inflicting damages in the masjid under the supervision of police. In this connection, when the police asked the officials, they ordered the police to open fire at the mob. Zafar Ali claimed he himself saw the police opening fire.

Inquilab (November 27) states that the Jamiat Ulema approached the Supreme Court on the issue of Sambhal. Jamiat Ulema demanded that the Supreme Court give a direction to strictly implement the law passed by the Parliament seeking to maintain status quo at places of worship in order to stop incidents like that of Sambhal.

Inquilab (November 30) states that the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition of the managing committee of the masjid, directed that peace should be maintained in Sambhal. The court directed the judge of the court in Chandausi that he should not take any further step in this issue. The Supreme Court directed the managing committee of the masjid that they question the order for survey before the Allahabad High Court. This apart, the Allahabad High

Court was also given the direction that if the managing committee of the masjid file any appeal on the issue, then it should be heard within three days. The Supreme Court said that if the survey commissioner appointed by the court in Chandausi files any report in the court, it should be kept sealed.

Earlier, the managing committee of the masjid said in the Supreme Court that the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal is 500 years old and namaz is being regularly offered there. Despite that the court in Chandausi displayed a hurry in the case and issued a unilateral order. The court also appointed a court commissioner and directed him to immediately conduct the survey and file its report in the court. On behalf of an organisation in Mumbai, Dr Anand Prakash Tiwari filed a Public Interest Litigation in Allahabad High Court demanding that murder case shall be filed against the district magistrate, superintendent of police, commandant of the PAC and the SHO of the police station.

According to **Inquilab** (November 30), the ASI has submitted its report regarding the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. The ASI has informed the court that the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal was declared a protected monument in 1920. In the past 500 years, so much changes had taken place in the building that it would not be possible to take any decision on the basis of archaeological evidence. The ASI has complained that the managing

committee of the masjid has never given them the permission to enter the masjid and conduct the survey. The managing committee of the masjid made some changes in the building five years ago. The

ASI had opposed it and a complaint was also filed with the police in this connection. The ASI has demanded that the building shall be handed over to it so that it could take necessary step for its protection. ■

Tenure of JPC constituted for Waqf Amendment Bill extended



Roznama Sahara (November 29) states that the tenure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to look into the Waqf Amendment Bill has been extended till the last day of the Budget session 2025. The Lok Sabha passed a resolution moved in this connection. It is to be noted that the committee was supposed to present its report by the last day of the Winter session of the Parliament or by November 29. The Opposition MPs in the committee had been demanding an extension in the tenure of the committee. Recently, JPC chairman and BJP MP Jagadambika Pal had claimed that the report was ready, but the Opposition members in the committee did not agree with his opinion. Finally, the committee chairperson had to accept the demand of the Opposition members that he listens to the opinion of other persons concerned as well. Commenting on it, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said that it was a right decision. It was a controversial issue. In such a situation, it is important to take advice from all sections in this connection.

Inquilab (December 2) states that the JPC has sought details from six state governments about the Waqf properties

they have been occupying. In its report, the Sachar Committee had presented details of the Waqf properties which are in possession of the respective state governments. Now the JPC wants to review the report of the Sachar Committee. The Committee has, under the Waqf Act, sought details of all Waqf properties from the Waqf

Boards of the concerned states about which they claim that these properties belong to them. It is to be noted that the Sachar Committee in its report had said that the state governments have illegally occupied 316 Waqf properties in national capital Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan, 42 in Karnataka, 53 in Madhya Pradesh, 60 in Uttar Pradesh and 53 Waqf properties in Odisha. In this connection, the JPC has also sought a report from the minorities ministry. The Opposition members have been alleging that the BJP has been keeping control of JPC and its chairman is not ready to hear the opinion of Opposition members. In this connection, the Opposition members met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and gave a written complaint to him.

Urdu Times (November 29) states that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has opposed the Waqf Amendment Bill in the Assembly and described the bill as against secularism. He alleged that the Central government is trying to snatch the rights of Muslims.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (November 30) in its editorial said the Waqf properties is a part of the Shariah law of Muslims and as

per Islamic principles and it cannot be subjected to any kind of tampering. Despite this, the Modi government is hell bent on interfering in the religious issues of Muslims. In the proposed Bill, there are 43 amendments in the Waqf Act. As a result of it, the Waqf law will become meaningless and there will be collector raj in the country. This



is the reason why Muslims across the country are opposing the bill. Recently, Jamiat Ulema organised a massive rally in Kolkata, where the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill was opposed. State president of Jamiat Ulema and minister Siddiquillah Chowdhury has claimed that four lakh people had taken part in the protest march. He said that the Waqf property does not belong to any particular person, instead it is the property of Allah. As per Shariah, nobody has any right to interfere in Shariah.

The newspaper has written that the right to decide who will be the imam of the masjid and who will be the manager of the Waqf has been given to Hindu officials instead of Muslims. The newspaper has also alleged that a fake propaganda is being unleashed over the Waqf properties of Muslims. Whereas in just two states—Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu—alone the Hindu temples have 9.4 lakh acres of land. Whereas the Waqf has just six lakh acres of land in the entire country. The newspaper said the Muslims in the country will continuously fight against this dictatorship of Modi government.

Hindustan (November 25) in its editorial said the riots that took place after the Partition of the country broke the back of the Muslims. Big landlords left their properties worth crores and left for the new country. After the Partition of the country, thousands of masjids, dargahs, kabristans, khanqahs and madrasas of Muslims have been forcefully occupied. Look at the irony of time, as the Muslim rulers donated the land to Waqf for the welfare and uplift of Muslims but most of these properties are

under illegal occupation of the government. After Independence, due to the efforts of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Waqf Act was passed in 1954. There were many errors in them. The Muslim leaders raised their voice against them and it was amended in 1959. Even after this, the process of amendments continued. Finally, the government formed the Waqf Act in 1995. The Muslims did not accept this and raised their voice against it. Later in 2010, a new law was created in this connection. The government formed several committees for the transparency in Waqf properties. These committees had handed over their recommendations to the government, but the government never implemented these recommendations. Muslims have been demanding that a National Waqf Development Corporation should be formed to run the Waqf properties smoothly. The Waqf properties should be freed from Rent Control Act and those properties which have been occupied by the government should be freed within six months. It is important that all decisions related to the Waqf Board should be in favour of Muslims. These decisions should be taken as per Muslim Personal Law and Islamic law Shariah because this is purely a Muslim issue.

Hindustan Express (November 25) states that in a Waqf meeting organised in Patna, the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani alleged that the BJP government at the Centre wants to usurp the Waqf of Muslims. He said we have to keep alive Waqf at any cost and should keep the government away from interfering in it. It is our religious duty. ■

Differences in All India Muslim Personal Law Board



Sharp differences have arisen in the most important organisation of Muslims namely All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Faisal Rahmani has submitted his resignation from his post. This apart, two other prominent members have also been expelled from their membership. They include the senior member of the executive and Supreme Court Lawyer M R Shamsad and Kamal Farooqui. Both of them have resigned from their posts.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (November 27) reports that the Amir of Emarat-e-Shariah Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani has resigned from being a member and secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board. He said he had fought for Shariah and for the rights of Muslims in the country for the past two years as secretary of the board. The newspaper said that due to the internal differences in the board, he had decided to resign from his post. After the resignation of Faisal Rahmani from the secretary post of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, the issue of his dual citizenship has come to the fore. According to knowledgeable sources, he is currently a US citizen, and hence he had to resign from the board.

It is being said that a few members of the board objected to the US citizenship of Faisal Rahmani. The spokesperson of Jamia Rahmani Khanquah, Munger has issued a clarification on this controversy. It

has been mentioned in that the Muslim Personal Law Board had included Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani in the board three years ago and some members had raised questions regarding his citizenship that time as well. On this, the Muslims Personal Law Board had constituted a committee. After discussing the issue, the committee decided that the Maulana's OCI registration will not affect his responsibilities in the board. This committee included six senior lawyers of the Supreme Court. On the basis of this report, the Muslim Personal Law Board had offered him the membership and the secretary post of the board. The Maulana had accepted this offer. Now, due to certain controversies, he had to submit his resignation from his post. It has been alleged in the statement that some people are trying to create divisions in the community due to their personal interests. However, Muslims need to maintain their unity in this critical period so that they would be able to foil the conspiracies of the enemies.

According to **Siasat** (November 25), at the conference of All India Muslim Personal Law Board held in Bengaluru, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani had been unanimously elected as the new president of the board. He was among the founding members of the board and had served the board as its general secretary for a long time. Similarly, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi and Maulana Mohammad Mohsin Naqvi have been appointed as the vice-presidents of the board. Elections were also held to the 40-member executive committee of the board. It is to be noted that after the death of Maulana Mohammad Rabe Hasani Nadvi, a crisis erupted over the chairmanship of the board. Maulana



becoming the secretary because he is not an Indian, instead he is a US citizen. This apart, some members said that the post of the secretary of the board is not a hereditary one. The father and grandfather of Faisal Rahmani were general secretaries of the board. Former chairman of the board Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Hasani Nadvi's son Salman Nadvi was also not included in the

board. Similarly, the daughter of Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi, Azma Nahid, was also expelled from the board. However, she belonged to the family of the first chairman of the board Maulana Qari Tayyib Qasmi. It has been said at the meeting that for the board, the interests of the Muslims are above all. No individual can sacrifice the interests of Muslims for his own selfish interests. The decision taken by the board will further strengthen the position of the board and it will easily solve the problems of Indian Muslims. In its meeting, the board has also decided to oppose the Waqf Amendment Bill presented in the Parliament and create awareness about it among all sections of Muslims. It is to be noted that the board is also being targeted because there is negligible representation of Shia sect and women in it.

Nadvi passed away on April 13, 2023. Maulana Rabe Hasani Nadvi is the 14th president of the board. He remained on the post for 21 years starting from 2002. It is said that All India Muslim Personal Law Board was constituted in 1973. Its aim was to protect the personal law of Muslims in the country and make the government aware about the problems being faced by Muslims. It is the biggest and most powerful organisation of Indian Muslims. There are 251 members in its board. Among them, 102 members are founding members. Whereas the rest 149 members are elected in every three years.

Qaumi Tanzeem (November 25) reports that the board has appointed Maulana Mohammad Abu Talib Rahmani and Mahmoud Dariyabadi as members of the executive. It is being said that some members had objected to Faisal Rahmani

board. Similarly, the daughter of Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi, Azma Nahid, was also expelled from the board. However, she belonged to the family of the first chairman of the board Maulana Qari Tayyib Qasmi. It has been said at the meeting that for the board, the interests of the Muslims are above all. No individual can sacrifice the interests of Muslims for his own selfish interests. The decision taken by the board will further strengthen the position of the board and it will easily solve the problems of Indian Muslims. In its meeting, the board has also decided to oppose the Waqf Amendment Bill presented in the Parliament and create awareness about it among all sections of Muslims. It is to be noted that the board is also being targeted because there is negligible representation of Shia sect and women in it.

Ban on student protests in Jamia Millia Islamia



Inqilab (December 2) states that the New Delhi-located Jamia Millia Islamia has

imposed a ban on protests by students on its premises without permission. Issuing an order, the University administration said that if any student takes part in any protest without permission, then stringent action will be taken against him. It is to be noted that some students took out a protest march on the premises of the university on November 28 against the incident in Sambhal. This order is being viewed in that

connection. As per another news, massive protest marches were held in Aligarh Muslim University as well against the incident in Sambhal. During this protest, the government was warned not to play with fire, otherwise the country will have to pay a heavy price for the same.

The newspaper claimed that earlier also a similar order was issued in 2022. Meanwhile, the student organisations have opposed this order of the university administration. In its order, the university administration claimed that a matter has come to light that a few students without the permission of the university administration and without informing it, have been carrying out mass protests against the prime minister and law enforcement agencies. In this order of the university administration, all the students have been notified not to take part in protest marches, dharna or sloganeering against any individual occupying any constitutional post on the premises of the university, otherwise disciplinary action will be taken against them.



All India Students Association has condemned this order and said that Jamia Millia Islamia has a history of always raising its voice against oppression and injustice. Even during the British rule, the students used to this duty. We will not allow any official to curtail the fundamental right of any student and will strongly oppose it. The student leaders opposed this decision of the university administration and said that the university administration wants to suppress the voice of collective protest, and hence the students will not come under the pressure of the university administration.

ISKCON religious guru arrested in Bangladesh



Etemaad (November 27) states that a court in Bangladesh has refused to release on bail Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu, a Sant of ISKCON (Bangladesh). He was arrested on charges of spreading hatred among different communities and sedition. He was arrested from Dhaka airport when he was about to leave for Chatgaon. It is to be noted that Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu has been raising his voice against the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh. In the past few days, a huge protest was organised in Chatgaon at the behest of Sanatan Jagran Manch to draw the attention of caretaker Prime Minister Mohammed Yunus to the persecution, murder and looting of Hindus and about the attacks taking place on the temples. The protesters had made an eight-point demand from the Bangladesh government. It has been demanded that a special ministry shall be created for the protection of minorities. Also, a special tribunal should be created to try cases against those involved in crimes against minorities.

It is to be noted that Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu has been on the target of Bangladesh government for raising his voice for minorities. He was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in

Dhaka. Later he was taken to Chatgaon. After his arrest, Hindus held massive protests in several places in Bangladesh during which a lawyer was killed and nearly three dozen people were injured. An official of Bangladesh police said that Chinmoy Krishna Das was produced in court under tight security because his supporters were shouting slogans against his arrest. According to the protesters, Krishna Das folded his hands and said Namaste to his supporters and told them not to raise religious slogans in the court. During the hearing, his supporters urged the Metropolitan Magistrate in Chatgaon, Qazi Shariful Islam, that he send them to jail along with Krishna Das.

The Indian government has protested against the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu. India's external affairs ministry, while expressing concern over his arrest, said we are worried about the arrest of Chinmoy Prabhu. It is unfortunate that the accused are roaming around freely, while religious leaders who make reasonable demands through peaceful public gatherings are arrested. The Indian government is concerned over the way Chinmoy Prabhu was arrested and he was refused to be released on bail. The

Bangladesh government has expressed surprise over this statement of Indian government.

Inquilab (November 28) states that a lawyer in Bangladesh filed a petition before the high court in Dhaka demanding that ISKCON (Bangladesh) is involved in anti-national activities and it is promoting unrest and violence and hence a ban should be imposed on it. The division bench of the high court, while rejecting his argument, refused to impose a ban on ISKCON. Following this, fundamentalist Muslim organisations stepped up nationwide protests. They are demanding the Bangladesh government that a ban should be imposed on ISKCON, because it is taking part in anti-national activities and is spreading violence.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Feroz Khan has filed a case for treason against Chinmoy Prabhu at Chatgaon police station. He alleged that during the protest march organised by Chinmoy Prabhu in Chatgaon recently, the saffron flag was hoisted above the National Flag of Bangladesh. In this way, he insulted the national flag of Bangladesh. Following this complaint, Bangladesh police have registered a case against Chinmoy Prabhu and his 19 supporters. They have been accused of spreading violence, killing government lawyer Saiful Islam and also accused of treason. As per latest information, two other colleagues of Chinmoy Prabhu have also been arrested. They had gone to Chatgaon jail to deliver him food.

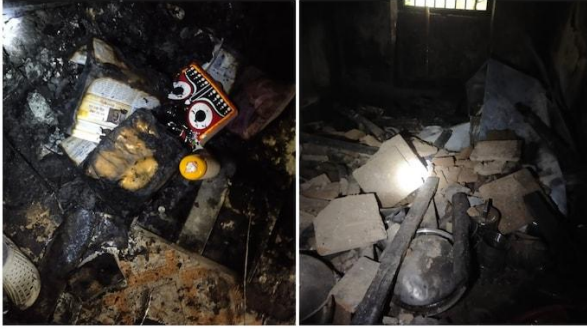
President of ISKCON Bangladesh Satya Ranjan Barai announced that Chinmoy Prabhu and his colleagues have been removed from all the positions of the institution on charges of taking part in political activities and for damaging the image of the institution. He claimed that ISKCON has nothing to do with politics



and we keep faith in social harmony. As per latest news, the Bangladesh government has arrested 12 sants belonging to ISKCON. These people have been trying to enter Bharat through Bangladesh border.

Inquilab (November 26) states that after the collapse of Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, Chinmoy Prabhu has been raising his voice against the attacks on Hindus and the temples. A day before his arrest, he had addressed a protest march at Rangpur. There he had demanded that the Bangladesh government take stringent steps to stop the increasing incidents of attacks on Hindu temples. He claimed that the Bangladeshi Hindus have been demanding time and again that the government and the police ensure security to Hindu temples, but they were never heard. When the fundamentalists attack Hindus and their temples, the police and paramilitary forces of Bangladesh remain silent watchers. In many places, they even provoked those who have been attacking temples. Due to this, Hindus and people of other minority communities feel themselves insecure and get frightened and flee towards India.

Roznama Sahara (November 28) states that the Bangladesh government reacted sharply to the statement of the spokesperson of India's external affairs ministry. The Bangladesh government said that it is an unfortunate that some people



are presenting the arrest of Chinmoy Prabhu in a wrong manner. He was arrested on allegations of treason and creating enmity between different communities in Bangladesh. Such statements are not in consonance with the friendly relations between the two countries. Bangladesh government has made it clear that the judicial system of the country is totally independent and the government does not interfere in their functioning. India's main opposition party Congress also expressed concern over the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded from the government that it exert pressure on Bangladesh government so that the minorities could stay secure in Bangladesh.

According to **Chattan** (November 28), Indian Muslims have also expressed displeasure over the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh and described it as against the spirit of Islam. National president of All India Muslim Jamaat, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilvi has condemned the arrest of Chinmoy Prabhu. He urged the Bangladesh government that it immediately release the religious leader and take credible steps for the protection of minorities in Bangladesh. President of Interfaith Harmony Foundation Dr Khawaja Iftikhar Ahmad said that the atrocities being committed on minorities in Bangladesh is against the charter of the United Nations.

Inquilab (November 27) reports that senior journalist Shahid Siddiqui has condemned the persecution of Hindus and the attack on their temples in Bangladesh. He demanded the Bangladesh government that it immediately release Chinmoy Prabhu. Along with this, he accused the

Indian government of adopting a double stand. Shahid Siddiqui said that at one level the Indian government is expressing concern over the harassment of minorities in Bangladesh, and on the other, it is curbing the rights of minorities in Bharat.

Hindustan Express (November 28) in its editorial said that the manner in which the Indian government launched a protest against the arrest of a religious leader in Bangladesh recently would lead to bitterness in India-Bangladesh relationship. The newspaper said that when Chinmoy Prabhu was produced in a court in Chatgaon, a mob dragged out his lawyer from his chamber and killed him. Due to the murder of 32-year-old government lawyer Saiful Islam, the situation in Bangladesh has become tense. The newspaper expressed surprise that the Indian government is expressing concern over the harassment of minorities in Bangladesh but in own country several Muslims are lodged in jails for several years on so-called treason charges. In this connection, the names of Umar Khalid and Sharjil Imam are worth mentioning. In Bangladesh, if Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu is arrested on charges of treason, what right the Indian government has got to raise any objection?

Chattan (November 26) states that the goodwill music festival being organised in Dhaka has been cancelled due to threat from the extremists. The festival was organised by the followers of 17th century Bengali Sufi Lalon Shah. It is being said that the student leaders of Bangladesh had threatened that music is against Islam and hence it cannot be tolerated. Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Mohammad Mahmuddul Haq told correspondents that some extremist student organisations had threatened that if the Sufi Music Festival is organised, it will be strongly opposed. Recently, leader of extremist Islamic organisation Hifazat-e-Islam, Abdul Awal organised a protest march to stop this music festival and said that music is against the spirit of Islam.

Over 300 killed in Shia-Sunni clashes in Pakistan



For the past one week, bloody clashes are taking place between Shia and Sunni sects in Parachinar region in Kurram district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. It has officially confirmed that 150 people have been killed in these clashes so far. Whereas according to Pakistani media, the number of the dead in these clashes is more than 300. This apart, more than 500 people have been injured, who are being treated in hospitals.

According to Pakistani Newspaper **Dawn** (November 28), a spokesperson of Pakistan government has claimed that due to the efforts of the government, a temporary ceasefire for seven days has been agreed upon between the Shia-Sunni tribes. The spokesperson also claimed that the government is making efforts to extend the period of ceasefire.

Etemaad (November 22) states that in Parachinar region in Pakistan, the Sunnis had attacked a convoy of Shias. This convoy was on its way to Peshawar from Parachinar. There were more than 200 vehicles in this convoy. According to official sources, at least 50 people were killed in this attack and more than 100 people were injured. They include eight women and five children as well. It is said that those who were killed belong to Shia sect. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has condemned the attack. He directed the

chief secretary and top officials of the police to visit the spot. Earlier the government had indicated that the hands of banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were behind this attack, but later the government said that this attack was carried out by people belonging to the Sunni sect.

Avadhnama (November 24) states that a police officer in Parachinar told news agency 'AFP' that the Shia-Sunni clashes are still on. At least 37 people have been killed in the retaliatory action by Shias and 50 people were injured. The government's security agencies have so far failed to stop these bloody clashes. They said that Khurrm is a Shia-majority district, which is located near the Afghanistan border. For the past one year, bloody clashes are taking place between Shias and Sunnis in which many people were killed. According to local newspapers, at least 1,500 people have been killed and hundreds were injured in the clashes which have been taking place for the past one year.

According to the newspaper, nearly 20 percent of the total 24 crore population in Pakistan are Shias. The Shias complain that Pakistan's administration is in the hands of Sunnis. Soon after the formation of Pakistan, Sunnis started persecuting the Shias. A top police officer on condition of anonymity said that a few days ago, following an attack on a convoy of Shias



by the Sunnis, armed Shias attacked the villages of Sunnis. They targeted at least 50 villages. The attackers kidnapped several women as well. When the news about this incident reached the people belonging to Sunni-majority areas, they also started retaliatory action. The police officer said that clashes erupted between the two tribes nearly a year ago over seizure of land. The administration tried to bring an agreement between the two tribes several times, but the ceasefire did not last for many days and the series of bloody clashes started once again.

Aurangabad Times (November 22) states that Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has condemned this incident. He said that killing of innocent yatrīs is against Islamic principles. He directed the Pakistan government to take immediate efforts to establish peace between Shia-Sunni tribes.

As per another news, a suicide attacker of banned terrorist organisation TTP rammed a vehicle containing explosives into an outpost of Pakistan Army. At least 14 security personnel of Pakistan Army were killed in this attack, including three senior officers.

According to **Munsif** (November 21), a meeting of the Pakistani cabinet discussed the Shia-Sunni clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the increasing activities of terrorists. It has been decided at this meeting that the Pakistani Army shall be directed to take action against those supporting terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and who fuel the bloody clashes between Shia-Sunnis so that peace is maintained in the country. The cabinet also expressed concern that earlier the

activities of terrorists were limited to Balochistan, but now it has spread to Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In this meeting, the chief of Pakistan army General Asim Munir was also invited. He had directed the army to take stringent action against the terrorists and those who incite the Shia-Sunni riots.

Avadhnama (November 24) states that the killing of Shias in Pakistan has evoked strong reaction across the world. Iraq's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has condemned the massacre of Shias in Pakistan. He urged the Pakistan government to take immediate action to stop the killing of Shias. He described those who were killed as 'shaheed' and said that in order to offer tributes to these martyrs, special prayer meetings will be organised in Najaf and Karbala.

Avadhnama (November 25) states that in a public meeting organised at Iran's Shia holy place Qom, concern has been expressed over the killing of Shias in Pakistan. In this public meeting, it has been demanded from the Pakistani government that it provide security to Shias. In this connection, Shia scholar Hafiz Bashir Hussain Najafi had issued a statement in Arabic language. It has been alleged in this statement that the Pakistan government has failed to provide security to Shias. Shia leader Ayatollah Hossein Noori Hamedani also sent a message to Pakistan government. It has been said in this message that those people who are committing the genocide of innocent Shias are enemies of Islam and stringent action should be taken against them. In Tehran, a protest rally was organised outside the Pakistani Embassy, during which Pakistan government was accused of total failure in providing security to Shias.

According to Pakistani newspaper **Jung** (November 29), the clashes between Shias and Sunnis are still on in Parachinar. At least 12 people were killed on the 12th day of the bloody clashes between the two communities. As per an official statement,

135 people have been killed in this clashes so far. Whereas, according to non-government sources, it is said that the number of those who have been killed is more than 500.

Chattan (November 25) states that in Bajaur district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a gang of Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS killed the general secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami, Mohammad Hamid Sufi. When Sufi

came out of the masjid after offering namaz, two masked men on motorcycle opened indiscriminate firing on them. Following this, the attackers fled from the spot. The Khorasan wing of ISIS owned responsibility for this attack. The ISIS alleged that Jamaat Islami is participating in anti-Islam activities in collaboration with the government. This attack was carried out in this connection.

Movement for release of Imran Khan ends due to strictness of the army



Inquilab (November 28) states that Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced ending its protest marches being held in Islamabad. It is to be noted that these protests were being organised demanding the release of Imran Khan. A spokesperson of PTI claimed that we have stopped our movement for the time being, but would be relaunched after consulting with Imran Khan. The Islamabad police have registered three new cases against Imran Khan. Imran Khan has been accused of inciting his supporters to attack military outposts on May 9, 2023. It was an anti-national activity.

Roznama Sahara (November 27) states that a chargesheet has been filed against Imran Khan in three other cases in the federal court in Pakistan. Along with this, three new cases have been registered

against Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi as well. These cases were registered on the basis of the statement given by Bushra Bibi in Gujranwala recently. Bushra Bibi had alleged that the Saudi Arabian government is violating the Shariah law. Her statement has caused tremendous damage to the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Aurangabad Times (November 28) states that PTI has alleged that it has decided to end the protest marches after seeing the plan hatched by the Shehbaz Sharif government in Pakistan to shed the blood of innocent civilians. It is said that the PTI had started the protest three days ago seeking the release of former prime minister Imran Khan. In view of this, the Pakistani Army stopped the transport facilities in the entire country and blocked

all the roads. According to government media, Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had incited their workers to reach Islamabad but they themselves had disappeared from the spot. In a press statement, the PTI has claimed that the Pakistani Army had shot dead dozens of their innocent workers. As per a report in Geo News, there were serious differences within the PTI over the protests in Islamabad. Ali Amin Gandapur was against protesting at the T-Chowk in Islamabad. Whereas Bushra Bibi and her supporters wanted to hold a protest march there.



Inquilab (November 28) states that the police have claimed that it had arrested approximately 2,000 protesters. On the other hand, spokesperson of PTI claimed that the army had shot dead more than a dozen of its workers. The army has claimed that the leader of PTI has been making fake allegations against the army to hide his own failures. The police and the Rangers did not use any kind of weapons during their operations.

Chattan (November 27) states that the protesters ran a car over the Rangers and the police on a highway in Islamabad. Four Rangers and two police personnel were killed in this incident. In view of the worsening situation, the Pakistan government handed over the entire country into the hands of the army. This decision was taken under Article 245 of Pakistan

Constitution. The protesters clashed with the Army in several places in Pakistan. The Pakistan government has directed the army that the protesters should be shot at sight. A group of armed attackers in Rawalpindi pelted stones on the army and fired bullets, during which some soldiers were injured. The army has announced that those who violate the curfew and indulge in violence will be shot at immediately. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that it is condemnable to carry out attack on police and the Rangers on the pretext of the so-called peaceful protest. The government has deployed them in order to maintain peace. He said the supporters of Imran Khan are spreading unrest and violence in Pakistan at the behest of foreigners. This will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

Urdu Times (November 28) states that the former director of US's National Intelligence Richard Grenell and several US MPs have sought the release of Imran Khan. They said that the Pakistan government wants to crush the freedom of expression and want to implement military dictatorship in the country.

Firing on namazis in Afghanistan

Urdu Times (November 23) states that a few armed attackers opened indiscriminate firing on a Sufi dargah in Baghlan province in Afghanistan. In this firing, at least 10 people who were offering namaz at the dargah were killed and many were injured. The interior ministry of Taliban has confirmed this attack. The interior ministry said that the attack took place on Sayed

Pacha Agha dargah when namaz was being offered there. It is to be noted that the Sunni Muslims are strongly opposed to dargahs and they consider them as against Islamic principles. It is being suspected that this attack was carried out by the Khorasan wing of Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. Ever since Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, ISIS have been carrying out

attacks on Imambaras and dargahs. Hundreds of people have been killed in these attacks so far. Last month an attack was carried out on Shia Muslims in

Kandahar who had returned after a yatra from Iraq to Karbala in which at least 14 people were killed. Later the ISIS took responsibility for this attack. ■

Spain announces citizenship to three lakh infiltrators



Hindustan (November 22) reports that the Spanish government has announced that nearly three lakh infiltrators will be given citizenship of the country every year for the next three years. They include nearly one lakh Muslims. These infiltrators originally belong to Pakistan, Bangladesh and African countries. Dr Huma Jamshed, who has been working for the uplift of Pakistani women in Barcelona, said that currently one-and-a-half lakh Pakistani origin people are staying in Spain currently, who will benefit from the new announcement. She said that the Muslims staying in Spain have made important contributions for the development and reconstruction of the country. She said that the Spanish government has assured to provide citizenship to 20 lakh Pakistani infiltrators. These Pakistanis are illegally staying in Spain.

Spain's minister for migration Elma Saiz has announced that the process to provide citizenship to infiltrators will begin

from May next year and it will continue till 2027. She said that there is a continuous increase in the population of elderly people in Spain. To infuse new blood into Spanish society, it is necessary to provide citizenship to nearly three lakh infiltrators who are staying illegally in the country so that they get work permit and get housing and make active

contribution for the reconstruction of the country.

It is to be noted that compared to other European nations, the law against infiltrators in Spain is very liberal. Due to this, several Muslims who were staying illegally in many European countries have infiltrated into Spain. According to the Spanish government, Spain is a welfare state for people and in order to run the country, there is a need for 2.5 lakh foreign youths. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said that the birth rate is sharply declining in the country. In view of it, it is necessary that these infiltrators are given due citizenship of the country. The Leftist government in Spain has approved this liberal policy for citizenship during a cabinet meeting. As per the new policy, the system to provide visa to foreign youths will be made easy and those foreign labourers who work in Spain will also be given legal protection. ■

Explosive situation in Syria: Will a world war break out?



The ceasefire that had been reached between Israel and Hezbollah due to the efforts of the US had created the hope that the situation in the Middle-East would improve now, but the latest developments in Syria have thrown cold water over it. There is a rift between Russia and the US in Syria. Iran and Russia are openly supporting the Shia government of Bashar Al-Assad in Syria. Whereas the US and Israel have started supporting the rebel organisation Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS). It is a Sunni organisation. This organisation has the support of Turkiye as well.

Roznama Sahara (November 30) states that the Turkiye-supported rebels have stepped up their attacks against the Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria. At least 200 people have been killed in these attacks. Syria's defence ministry has announced that the armed rebels have launched a massive attack on government forces in Aleppo (Halab) and Idlib cities. The rebels have claimed they had seized the government cantonment in Jabal Zawiya located south of Idlib and had taken control of all rural areas of Aleppo. The rebels claimed that they had killed 132 government soldiers within 24 hours of the war.

On the other hand, the Syrian government claimed that 70 people

belonging to rebel organisation HTS were killed. Currently, the war has reached the outskirts of Aleppo city and the government army has failed to stop these attacks. It is to be noted that rebels have been active in this region for the past several years. The rebels have broken the ceasefire that was agreed between the rebels and the government in 2020. It is to be noted that the Bashar Al-Assad government has the support of Iran and Russia. In Syria, the civil war has been taking place since 2011 in which seven lakh people have been killed so far and 30 lakh have been rendered homeless.

Roznama Sahara (November 29) states that rebel group HTS and its allies carried out a major attack on the military cantonment of Syria located in the western region of Aleppo. At least 100 soldiers were killed in this attack. According to Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the rebels seized 51 villages or towns during this attack and took 50 government soldiers as hostages. The rebels seized the weapons of government soldiers. In retaliation for this attack, Russian fighter planes attacked the bases of rebels located in Aleppo using missiles. The Russian fighter planes are providing protection to government troops facing rebels. Due to the attack, thousands



of villagers had to flee from their houses. It is to be noted that this attack was carried out by the Nusra brigade of HTS. Many countries have declared this rebel outfit as a terrorist organisation.

Roznama Sahara (December 2) states that Iran's foreign affairs minister Abbas Araghchi has announced a visit to Syria. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry Ismail Baghei said there is a major threat to the Syrian government due to the attack by rebels. In view of this, Iran's foreign affairs minister will first visit Damascus and then Turkiye so that the Syrian government could be brought out of this crisis. Earlier, Iran had announced that the rebels had attacked Iran's Consulate situated in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo and took several of its employees as hostages. The spokesperson of foreign affairs ministry told correspondents in Tehran that Iran's Consulate General and top officials are safe.

He said that Iran will take stringent action against those who attacked the Iranian Consulate located in Aleppo. Secondly, the rebels have announced that they had seized the Aleppo airport. It is Syria's second biggest airport. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry said this attack was a violation of the ceasefire agreement signed between the two sides a few years ago. He said that the hands of the US and Israel were behind this attack. It is to be noted that in the past days, Iran-supported Hezbollah had openly supported Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. In retaliation, Israel carried out an airstrike on the Iranian embassy located in

Damascus and destroyed it. A senior military commander of Iran and 16 other top officials were killed in this attack.

As per another news, Iraq Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani has assured the President of Syria that it would extend all kinds of help to Syria to take on the rebels.

Roznama Sahara (December 1) states that Iran has alleged that the hands of the US and Israel were behind the attacks in Syria.

Spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry said that after the setbacks in Lebanon and Gaza, Israel and the US have now opened a new front in Syria. We will extend all help to our friend Syria. The official spokesperson of Russia said that the rebels supported by the US and Israel who have launched a series of attacks against the government in Aleppo is a violation of the autonomy of Syria. He said that Russia will extend full support to Syria to establish peace in the region.

As per another news, Russia has started airstrike against the rebels in Aleppo in Syria. The rebels are moving southwards. The Russian air force is attacking them in an effort to stop their further advance. Russia has targeted the rebels advancing into the rural areas of Idlib and Hama cities and stopped them from advancing further. The rebels have seized Syria's second biggest city of Aleppo and they have entered Hama. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has vowed to fight the entire rebels and their supporters. He said they were committed to safeguarding the stability of Syria. The government sources have admitted that the rebels have seized Idlib and its surrounding regions. Idlib is 55 kilometres away from Aleppo. In Syria, the attacks are led by rebel organisation Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and its Turkiye-supported ally. This rebel organisation is considered as the most influential organisation fighting against the Assad government.

The US has alleged that the dependence of Syria on Russia and Iran

and the refusal to implement the 2015 United Nations Security Council peace plan has led to such a situation in the country.

It is said that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is the main rebel group in Syria. It was established in 2011 with the name 'Jabhat al-Nusra.' This fundamentalist Islamic organisation had been an ally of

Al-Qaida. ISIS chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi had an important role in the establishment of this organisation. In 2016, the chief of this group, Abu Mohammad Al-Julani had publicly broke ties with Al-Qaida and he dissolved the Jabhat Al-Nusra. Later, he founded Hayat Tahrir al-Sham by bringing together ideologically similar groups.

Ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah



Roznama Sahara (November 28) reports that US President Joe Biden has announced that an agreement for ceasefire has been reached between Hezbollah and Israel. The US President said this ceasefire is currently for 60 days and its purpose is to ensure a permanent ceasefire. This ceasefire has been announced following the war between Israel and Hezbollah which has been going on for the past one year. For the past two months, an open war has been taking place between the two. According to the correspondent of Al Arabia, Israel has stopped its airstrike on south Lebanon. Under this agreement, Hezbollah will not be allowed to create basic terror infrastructure in south Lebanon again. Whereas Israel will slowly withdraw its Army from Lebanon over the next 60 days.

Earlier, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had stressed that this agreement gives its government the

freedom to act in Lebanon. This would result in isolating Hamas in Gaza so that Israel can focus on deterring a potential Iranian attack. Netanyahu's office has confirmed that the cabinet has approved this agreement. The 10 ministers of the cabinet voted in favour of it while one opposed it. Biden had announced that an international alliance under the leadership of US and France will help in implementing this agreement for ceasefire. This apart, the Lebanese who became homeless due to the Israeli attack and the Jews settled in the northern part of Israel will be given help to return to their homes. According to Israeli sources, after Israeli army leaves Lebanon, 5,000 to 10,000 Lebanese soldiers will be deployed on Lebanese border. No foreign power will be allowed to sell weapons to Lebanon.

The US has clarified that if Hezbollah violates this ceasefire, Israel will

have the right to carry out attacks again. The Prime Minister of Lebanon has welcomed this decision and expressed the hope that Israel will vacate the regions of Lebanon which it had occupied. India has welcomed this ceasefire and expressed the hope that a permanent peace could be established there through mutual talks and diplomatic efforts. Secretary General of United Nations said that due to this agreement, the ongoing violence, destruction and troubles between the two countries will end. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry said that due to this, there will be a new beginning of peace and stability in Middle-East.

It is to be noted that this agreement for ceasefire is part of a resolution adopted by the United Nations in 2006. In this resolution, a provision had been made that Hezbollah will withdraw its militia based on the northern part of Litani river and Israel will withdraw its army from the south of Blue Line. It has been hoped that in the next 20 days, the soldiers of both the countries will withdraw to their previous borders. The interesting thing is that there has been no mention of full disarmament of Hezbollah in this agreement. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed the possibility that Israel will now be able to concentrate more on Iran and could take action against Hamas. It is to be noted that earlier Israel's sacked defence minister Yoav Gallant had been stressing that a ceasefire shall be declared in Gaza and Lebanon. Israel has had its worst experience with military action in Lebanon. Israel hopes that now it will be able to cripple Hamas by taking effective action against it.

It has also been indicated that Hamas also wants a ceasefire with Israel because

Israel has wiped out its top commanders. However, it is not so weak that it cannot take any retaliatory action against Israel. Recently, Hamas fired nearly 250 rockets on Israel. Informed sources believe that even Iran is not ready for an open war with Israel, hence it had directed Hezbollah that it may accept the ceasefire. Recently, in view of the rebels becoming active against Iran-supported Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria, Iran had to direct Hezbollah to opt for ceasefire so that it could give help to the Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria.

According to **Inqilab** (November 30), the head of Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami has described the ceasefire in Lebanon as a defeat of Jewish government. He congratulated Hezbollah chief Sheikh Naim Qasim for forcing Israel to bow down. Hossein Salami said they stand with their Palestine brothers. Hezbollah had announced that they would stand with Palestine till their last breath and it has conquered Israel. Israeli newspaper 'Jerusalem Post' has claimed that more than 3,000 fighters of Lebanon were killed during the war in Lebanon. Whereas Israel's 75 soldiers got martyred. This apart, nearly 1,500 Lebanese citizens were also killed in Israeli attacks.

Roznama Sahara (November 30) states that despite the ceasefire agreement, Israeli Army carried out attacks on Lebanon. In this attack, 78 citizens were killed. Lebanon has accused Israel of violating the ceasefire.

Siasat (November 28) states that a major section of Israeli citizens is unhappy with this decision of ceasefire. Protest marches also took place in several cities in Israel against this ceasefire. ■

Hamas ready for ceasefire in Gaza

Urdu Times (November 29) reports that Hamas has announced that after the ceasefire in Lebanon, we are ready for a ceasefire in Gaza as well. It is being said

that the senior leaders of Hamas have given an indication in this connection to Qatar. Following this, the three countries namely Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye, who play the

role of mediators between Israel and Hamas, have become active. The top leaders of Hamas said that their organisation is ready for ceasefire and for the exchange of hostages, but Israel's stance is not positive in this regard. Secondly, Israel has once again stepped up its series of attacks in Gaza. In the past days in Gaza, 13 people who took refuge in a school were killed in an Israeli bombing. Hamas sources claimed that so far 45,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli attacks since October 7, 2023 and 1.25 lakh people have been injured which included women and children in huge numbers.



As per another news published in Urdu Times, Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jasim Al Thani has expressed hope that ceasefire will take place in Gaza also very soon. He said that in this connection, Qatar is holding talks with Egypt so that the genocide being taking place in Gaza could be stopped. Recently, US President has announced that the US is trying for a

ceasefire in Gaza with the help of Turkiye, Egypt and Qatar so that a permanent ceasefire could take place there and the hostages could be released. Sources close to Hamas have given the indication that Hamas has been thinking about reaching an agreement with Israel for a ceasefire in Gaza. Before moving ahead on this issue, Hamas is trying to find out how serious Israel is for a ceasefire and exchange of hostages. They claimed that from the indication that Hamas got, it has been found that Israel is currently not serious about a ceasefire.

Israel announces fencing on Jordan border



Roznama Sahara (November 27) states that Israel's defence minister Israel Katz has announced that work is being started for fencing the eastern Israel-Jordan border. This project is very important for the security of Israel. He claimed that Iran wants to step up its offensive actions

against Israel in West Bank. In this connection, the Israel government is thinking of taking necessary steps to foil their intentions. He said that Israel is thinking of stepping up its attack on Iran. Israel's defence minister claimed that on September 8, some agents attempted to infiltrate Israel via Jordan for espionage and sabotage. The head of this gang was Maher al-Jazi. He and his four colleagues were killed in the retaliatory action by Israel army. In October also, attempts were made to infiltrate Israel from Dead Sea.

When the Israeli army tried to stop this infiltration, the infiltrators attacked Israeli soldiers in which two Israeli soldiers were injured. In the retaliatory action by the army, two Jordanian citizens, Hussam Abu Gazaleh and Amer Qawas were killed.

These infiltrators were Iranian agents. It has been confirmed from the documents seized from them that they were working for Iran's spy agency and wanted to infiltrate Israel for destructive activities. In order to stop such actions, it is necessary that a fence shall be erected on the Jordan-Israel border so that incidents of infiltration will be stopped in future.

Israel newspaper 'Israel Today' has published a news that Israeli soldiers have been deployed in huge number on the

Israel-Jordan border so that intrusions could be strictly prevented. There is a 335-kilometre border between Israel and Jordan, out of which 97 kilometre is along West Bank and the rest is on Israeli border. As of now, transport facility is available in three places on the Jordan-Israel border. They include Sheikh Hussain bridge, King Hussain bridge and Wadi Arba bridge. Israel has decided to tighten the security arrangements in these places so that illegal intrusions could be stopped.

20,000 people arrested in Saudi Arabia

Aurangabad Times (November 25) reports that 19,696 people were arrested in Saudi Arabia on charges of taking part in illegal activities in the past one week. As per an official report, 11,336 people who were illegally staying in Saudi Arabia were arrested. Meanwhile, 5,176 people were caught on charges of infiltrating the Saudi border. Whereas 3,184 people were arrested on charges of working without permit. Among those who had illegally entered Saudi Arabia include 65 percent Ethiopians, 32 percent Yemeni and 3 percent people from other countries. This apart, nearly 100 people were arrested while trying to enter other countries through Saudi Arabian border. The Saudi security agencies are trying to find out who are giving shelter to those who are illegally staying in the country.

Avadhnama (November 10) reports that more than 100 foreigners have been given public death sentence in Saudi Arabia so far this year. The government sources claimed that majority of those who have been given the punishment for beheading are drug smugglers. On the other hand, international human rights organisation alleged that among those who have been given death sentence, there are many who have taken part in the protests against the government. Their number, compared to 2023, is three times more. This year, those who have been awarded



death sentence include 21 Pakistani citizens, 20 Yemeni citizens, 14 from Syria, 10 from Nigeria, nine Egypt citizens, eight from Jordan and seven Ethiopian citizens. The Berlin-situated Saudi human rights organisation has claimed that the number of those who have been given death sentence in Saudi Arabia is much more than the government data. In the first 10 months of this year, 274 people were hanged to death in different jails in Saudi Arabia. According to Amnesty International, after China and Iran, the highest number of people are hanged to death in Saudi Arabia. It is to be noted that Saudi Arabia had announced in 2022 that in future no smuggler would be given death sentence but after seeing the increasing incidents of drug trafficking, the Saudi government has once again started the system of giving death sentence.

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