

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Government Employees Get Permission to Take Part in RSS Activities



- Union budget and minorities
- Over 50 people killed in Shia-Sunni riots in Pakistan
- Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh killed in Tehran
- Ban on Islamic Centre and subsidiary organisations in Germany

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## Summary

The Union government has decided to lift the restrictions imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. In 1966, a ban was imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of Sangh. The Urdu newspapers strongly opposed this decision of the Union government. Their allegation is that the Central government has given this gift to the Sangh as an effort to resolve the tension that had arisen between the Sangh and Modi government in the Lok Sabha elections held recently. The Urdu newspapers say that the number of Central government employees in the country is approximately 40 lakh now and the number of state government employees is nearly one crore. Therefore, due to this decision of the government, the Sangh would get help in fulfilling the agenda of Hindu Rashtra through government employees.

A few days ago, the Allahabad High Court had expressed serious concern over illegal religious conversions taking place in Uttar Pradesh with the help of foreign aid. The court expressed the hope that the state government would adopt a credible policy to stop illegal conversions so that the majority community does not become the minority. In this connection, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has amended the law to stop illegal conversions and love jihad. In the amended law passed by the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, the punishment for those accused of illegal conversions and love jihad has been increased from 10 years in jail to 20 years or life-term. This apart, the amount of fine has also been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh. Earlier in 2001, the Uttar Pradesh government had passed a bill in the Assembly to stop illegal conversions in the state. In this law, a provision had been made to award a punishment of 1 to 5 years in jail and a fine of Rs 15,000 to those accused of illegal conversions. The previous law also had the provision that if any person is found involved in mass conversions, he may get a jail term of 10 years, apart from a fine of Rs 50,000. In the latest amended law, a provision has also been made to ensure that the accused could not be easily released on bail.

The way Israel has killed Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh and many other important leaders of the outfit has made the situation explosive in Middle-East. Analysts have expressed apprehension that the war could expand in Middle-East due to this incident. Iran has threatened to attack Israel in retaliation for the killings. Israel has replied that it is prepared to take on any kind of attack. The US has also given the indication that in case Iran attacks Israel, it would not leave Israel alone.

Germany's interior ministry has imposed a ban on Islamic Centre, Hamburg and its subsidiary organisations. This centre has been accused of promoting Islamic extremism and conspiring for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Germany. German police and the intelligence wing had launched a house arrest operation of fundamentalist Islamic jihadis across the country. The German interior ministry has claimed that the links of this Islamic jihadi organisation extends up to Iran and it is being run by the top leadership of Iran.

## Nod for government employees to take part in Sangh activities



**Urdu Times** (July 23) states that the Union home ministry has issued an order lifting the ban on government employees from taking part in the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The Sangh and the BJP have welcomed this decision of the government. Whereas the Congress has criticised the decision. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that after the killing of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel had imposed a ban on RSS in February 1948 which was later lifted. “In 1966, a ban was imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of RSS. It was an appropriate decision. After June 4, 2024, the relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS has turned sour. Following this, on July 9, the Modi government had decided to lift this ban. I believe that the bureaucracy can now even come in shorts”. Congress leader Pawan Khera also criticised this decision of the government and also shared several documents related to the ban on government employees from taking part in the activities of Sangh on social media.

It is to be noted that the order issued by the Central government in this

connection is also meant for the employees of state governments apart from that of Central government. The Central government also amended the orders issued by the then governments in 1966, 1970 and 1980 regarding government employees taking part in the activities of Sangh.

**Avadhnama** (July 28) has published an article written by Masoom Muradabadi. The headline of this article was ‘RSS enters government offices.’ It is said in this article that apart from RSS, the then government had also imposed a ban on government employees from taking part in the activities of many other organisations, which included Jamaat-e-Islami. In the circular issued by the home ministry on July 9, the government employees had been given permission to take part only in the activities of RSS. Whereas the ban will continue on other organisations. Everybody knows that the current government is dependent on the RSS, and BJP is the political arm of RSS and hence only it got an exemption. The ban continued to remain in force during the regime of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. From May 2014 till now, the Narendra Modi government was in power at the Centre, but

no decision was taken in the past 10 years to lift this ban. Now the BJP doesn't have a majority of its own in Parliament. Now, when the present government is running with the help of Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu, this ban was lifted and no BJP ally has reacted to this decision.

The interesting thing is that the government circular which was issued on July 9 was kept under wraps till July 21 because the government was expecting a strong reaction from the opposition. The opposition, however, did not oppose it strongly as was expected. The RSS, while welcoming the decision, said the decision of the government would help strengthen democracy in the country. The door was opened for a discussion on the decision to lift this ban after 58 years because government employees are bound to protect the secular constitution of the country. However, the belief of RSS is neither on secularism nor is it worried about the democratic setup in the country. The basic aim of RSS is resurrection of Hindutva in the country. It wants to establish the dominance of one religion, one language and one culture. RSS describes itself as a cultural organisation, but it is basically a political organisation whose aim is to capture power in the country through backdoor and change the country into a Hindu Rashtra.

Everybody knows that in the past one decade under BJP regime, the RSS has captured the higher education institutions and cultural centres of the country. Now only RSS people become the Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of universities. It is even to the extent that people belonging to Muslim Rashtriya Manch, a wing of RSS, are only appointed as the vice-chancellors of institutions like Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia. Last year, the then Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Professor Tariq Mansoor, resigned from his post and



formally took membership of BJP. Later he was also made an MLC which exposed the entire secret. The limit is that even in institutions like Jamia Hamdard and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, the loyalists of Muslim Rashtriya Manch are appointed. Everybody knows that the people associated with RSS have taken control of the entire education system in the country. Even in the textbooks being prepared by institutions like NCERT, the history of the country is being presented in a distorted manner. In them, apart from presenting the contributions of Muslim rulers in a negative manner, such changes are also being brought which are harmful for the secular culture of the country.

It is being said in the article that RSS was established in 1925 and its basic goal is to establish Hindu Rashtra in the country. Since then, it has been actively working to fulfil this goal. In 1948, when the RSS was banned after the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, it was perceived that RSS was also among those who created the atmosphere for the murder of Gandhi. Everybody knows that RSS has not accepted the secular democratic Constitution of the country and instead it has advocated Manusmriti. For a long time, the RSS did not hoist the Tricolour at its headquarters and instead they used to hoist saffron flag on it. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that by lifting the ban imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of RSS, Prime Minister Modi wanted to divide them on the basis of

ideology. The chief of Bahujan Samaj Party also described this decision as against the interests of the country.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (July 28) in its editorial, while criticising the decision, demanded the government to withdraw the same. The newspaper said that earlier the government employees did not have the permission to take part in the activities of Sangh. If a person was found to be associated with RSS, then he would not have been appointed to a government job. There is this rule in the country that before any person accepts government job, he has to discard his political affiliations because the government of the country does not have any religion and it should be secular. The opposition parties opposed this government decision, but Prime Minister Modi is not ready to make any kind of changes on his stand. Now Naidu and Nitish have this responsibility to clarify their stand on this issue. They have to tell the people whether they will also allow their employees to take part in the activities of RSS or not? Do they support this decision of the Narendra Modi government? If it is so, then it would not be easy for them to keep the people in their respective states happy. People with RSS thinking are supporters of BJP. If the agenda and policies of BJP are given the opportunity to flourish in states like Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, it would create problems for the ruling parties in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 23) writes that if any government employee is involved in the work of RSS, then he is not loyal to the country. The newspaper has written that apart from Congress, the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has also expressed anger over the decision of the government and said that this decision is against the unity and integrity of the country. In the earlier order, there was a provision that if the government employees take part in the activities of Sangh, action would be taken against them and they would be deprived of things like pension. Now RSS-supported

employees have got the opportunity to openly play the game.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 25) has given the headline of its editorial as 'Modi government's gift to Sangh.' In its editorial, the newspaper said that the ban imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of Sangh has been lifted. Now the RSS, which has been running a campaign to make Hindustan as Hindu Rashtra, will get the full and open support of bureaucracy. The unconstitutional plan of Hindu Rashtra will come to fruition with the cooperation of the administration of democratic India. Now there is no need for any judge to wait for retirement to hold the hand of the Sangh. One can only imagine how much effect this decision of Prime Minister Modi in his third term will have on the democratic and secular image of Hindustan. The RSS has the identity of a paramilitary organisation. This organisation believes in finishing off the minorities in the country on the basis of its strength. While clarifying this viewpoint in his book 'We or our nationhood defined', the second Sarsanghchhalak of the organisation, M S Golwalkar, had said that Hindustan is the nation of Hindus and the minorities here shall be dealt with the same manner the Nazis had dealt with Jews.

The newspaper said that one could see how much successful the RSS is in spreading its ideology from the campaign to scare Muslims during the Kanwar yatra in states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The activities of this organisation also include the conspiracy to murder father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, on the basis of which the then home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had imposed a ban on the Sangh and those associated with it were arrested. In order to balance it, a ban was also imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami, but it was lifted later. In 1966, during the regime of Indira Gandhi, the country was set on fire in the name of cow slaughter. Lot of unrest spread. The danger was that had it not been controlled, the entire nation would have been caught in its vortex. During



investigation, it was found that the fuel to this fire was provided by the RSS. Following this, a ban was imposed on government employees from joining the Sangh. Patel, whom Modi describes as his role model, had described the government employees as the 'Steel Frame of India.' Means, it was expected from the civil services that they would work as a structure made of steel, which maintains the rule of the Constitution and the law. For this, it was necessary that the civil services should remain free narrow views of casteism and religion.

The newspaper claimed that the ban imposed on government employees from taking part in the activities of RSS continued even in the period when the political wing of RSS namely Jan Sangh was part of the Janata Party government in 1977. This ban remained in force when the NDA government was formed in 1998 under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Even during the two dictatorial periods of Narendra Modi, no discussion was heard about lifting this ban. By handing over this gift to the Sangh, the Modi government which has come to power with the help of secular parties like JDU and TDP, has now shown that his talk of 'big decisions' during the election campaign was not empty. This decision of Prime Minister Modi is like killing two birds with one stone. One is to fulfil the dream of finishing off the democracy in the country and the other is to strengthen the fundamentalist Hindutva government. Nearly 40 lakh Central government employees and more than 1 crore

employees of state governments will join the Sangh and will actively work to implement its agenda and propagate the ideology of Sangh.

Secondly, it is such a gift to the Sangh which it could not even think of even a few months ago, because during the election campaign, BJP President J P Nadda and Prime

Minister Modi had been convincing us that the BJP did not need RSS. Due to such statements, bitterness has developed in the relationship between RSS and Modi government. Now by lifting this ban, the Modi government has ended its bitterness with RSS and a wave of happiness has spread in the Sangh camps.

In his article published in **Roznama Sahara** (July 29), Dr Syed Ahmed Qadri said that due to this undemocratic decision of the Central government, one gets goosebumps just imagining how dangerous the consequences will be in future. There are 40 lakh Central government employees and more than one crore state government employees in the country. However, it is not necessary for them that they become members of RSS or go to its shakhas. Even then, in whatever number they take part in it, that would be against the oath that they had taken while joining the government service to maintain loyalty and impartiality towards Constitution. RSS is a well organised and active Hinduvadi organisation. Its foundation was laid by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur on September 27, 1925. This organisation has been in controversy from the beginning. However, the RSS describes itself as a nationalist organisation, but in reality it is a fascist organisation. The British government had banned it once and after independence, the Central government had banned it three times. Its hands were found to be behind the communal riots that took place in Nagpur within two years of its establishment. It is alleged that the hands of



that is why they ignore the Opposition parties. However, in Congress also there are people having Hindutva mentality right from the beginning and many a times the stand of Congress with regard to Muslims and other minorities was not objective.

In the article, Nomani said that the Sampurna Kranti of Jai Prakash Narayan in 1975 has

RSS were behind the several communal riots that took place in the country.

In an article published in **Inquilab** (July 29), Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani said that the present government has opened the doors of Sangh for the government employees and paved the way to take the country forward in a particular direction. Will the Congress and other so-called secular parties be able to oppose this? If this is not opposed, then the country has to face unexpected situations during the elections. It is said in this article that as soon as a person comes into contact with RSS and gets influenced by its ideology, a special kind of feeling of communalism is created in him. The Sangh ideology will influence justice, honesty and other human values. It is not possible for him to remain impartial under any circumstances. The claim of RSS that it is a cultural organisation is not at all based on truth. Today, the entire administration is in the hands of RSS. From 2014 till today, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha also belonged to the RSS, and

opened the doors of power in the states and at the Centre for the people belonging to RSS. Lal Krishna Advani had appointed people belonging to Sanghi ideology in different organisations related to publicity. They have been working with a particular mindset. The government's effort before Independence and after was to keep the bureaucracy away from the influence of Sangh, but now the doors have been opened for government employees to actively participate in Sangh. One could see its long term results. Even in the verdicts of judiciary, the Hindutvavadi bend could be clearly seen. Many judges have openly joined the Sangh after their retirement. Even very senior level employees get into the lap of RSS and BJP immediately after their retirement. From this it is clear that whether it is judiciary or the administration, they are not objective and their stands are not fair towards minorities. Due to this decision of the Modi government, the influence of RSS in the administration will increase, which is dangerous for the democracy.

## Union budget and minorities

**Siasat** (July 25) in its editorial said that the motto of Central government is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas' but this is only a jumla. It has nothing to do with reality. As far as minorities are concerned, an allocation of Rs 3,183.24 crore has been made in the budget for the financial year 2024-25. If one looks at the population of the minorities in the country, it is more than Rs 30 crore. The money that has been allocated in the budget for such a

huge population is too small. From this it is clear that all the claims of the government are fake and it has no interest in providing equal opportunities for the well-being, welfare and development of minorities. In the past one decade, the policies of the government are anti-minority. A huge reduction has been made in the money for their scholarships. Many programmes meant for minorities have been stopped and no new programme has been started for





their welfare. The pre-Metric scholarship programme for minorities was an important one and there was a need to increase its amount every year, but the government did not care about it. Instead, a huge reduction was made in the allocation amount. As far as post-Metric scholarship is concerned, an increase of only Rs 145 crore has been made. Earlier this amount was Rs 1,000 crore. The increase that has been made was just a token one. The minorities are unlikely to benefit from this. Similarly, the money that has been allocated for Maulana National Fellowship has been reduced to half. Earlier this amount was just Rs 95 crore, which has now been reduced to Rs 46 crore. This apart, neither any project has been started for the skill development of minorities nor any programme has been made to provide employment for them. This is just a matter of convenience and no development of minorities at all will take place.

**Inquilab** (July 25) has described this budget as a disappointment for minorities. The newspaper has complained that while in this year's budget, an allocation of only Rs 3,183 crore has been made for the welfare of minorities, in the financial year 2022-23, there was an allocation of Rs 5,020 crore. In this way, a huge reduction has been made in the budget for minorities. Due to this, many schemes have been closed. The projects which have been

closed include the modernisation of madrasas, Maulana Azad Fellowship, Nayi Udan and Maulana Azad Foundation. For many important schemes of minorities ministry including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas programme, Post-Metric scholarship scheme and free coaching scheme, the allocated amount had not been utilised. This reveals the bad intentions of the government. No increase has been made in the budget of National Minorities Development and Financial Corporation. There was expectation from the current budget that the Central government would increase the budget for minorities welfare, but instead it has been reduced. This proves that the government has no interest in including minorities in the Viksit Bharat campaign.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (July 24) in its editorial has described the Union budget as disappointing for the minorities and warned that the minorities have to face more difficulties this year. The newspaper has complained that there is an increase in the population of minorities, but the government is consistently reducing the budget of minorities ministry. In the financial year 2013-14, the budget of minorities ministry was of Rs 3,511 crore, but despite passing of 11 years, it has been reduced to Rs 3,183 crore this year. However, the budget of many other ministries has been increased to at least

double. Is this not an indication of the bad intentions of the minority-sympathetic government and its supporting secular parties? The Central government is gradually shutting down different departments related to minorities. This year, without citing any reason, Maulana Azad Education Foundation was shut down. However, this organisation has been playing an important role in providing higher education to minorities.



**Hindustan** (July 31) in its editorial, while criticising the Modi government, said that for it the over 20 crore Muslims in the country do not exist. For the first time in the past 77 years, there is not a single Muslim minister in the Central cabinet. In the 2022-23 budget, the Modi government had made an allocation of Rs 5,020 crore for minorities. In 2023-24, it was brought down to Rs 3,097 crore by reducing it by 38 percent. In the present budget, a hike of just Rs 86 crore has been made. Though a hike has been made in the allocation for Prime Minister's Jan Vikas programme, a huge reduction has been made in the development programmes in the 1,300 minority-dominated regions. The scholarship amount for Muslim students has been reduced. The skill development and employment schemes for Muslims have been sharply reduced and just Rs 3 crore has been allocated. It would not be wrong to say that the Muslims in the country have become the most backward in education sector. Last year, their allocation for scholarship was Rs 1,689 crore, which has now been reduced to Rs 1,575 crore.

Similarly, the allocation for pre-Metric scholarship programme, which was Rs 433 crore last year, has been reduced to just Rs 2 crore. The money for Maulana Azad National Fellowship programme has been reduced to half. The Rs 30 crore allocated last year for free coaching scheme for IAS competitive examination has been reduced to Rs 10 crore. The budget of National Minorities Commission has been

cut down to Rs 1 crore from Rs 3 crore. The subsidy given to pay interest for the loans of minority students studying in foreign countries has been reduced to Rs 3.15 crore from Rs 21 crore. A 15 percent reduction has been made in the annual budget of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia. On the other hand, the budget of Banaras Hindu University has been hiked from Rs 669 crore to Rs 1,303 crore. It is clear from this what is the stand of the BJP government at the Centre towards minorities. In the same way, the grant given to madrasas in Uttar Pradesh by the Central government has also been totally stopped. Earlier, the honorarium that were being given to the teachers of madrasas under the modernisation programme of madrasas has also been completely stopped.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 25) had given the headline of its editorial as 'Anti-Muslim Budget.' The newspaper alleged that the stand of Modi government is anti-Muslim, and that it why it has made huge reduction in the allocation of all development programmes for Muslims. This decision has been taken so that the Muslims who were already lagging behind in all sectors go further down the lane. Due to the shutting down of scholarships meant for Muslims, there is a possibility of the number of Muslim students seeking admission in schools and colleges going down. A feeling of insecurity and deprivation may rise among the Muslim community due to economic crisis, which

is not in the interest of the nation. The government needs to rethink about the decrease made in the schemes meant for Muslims. The Muslim representatives in Parliament are expected to put pressure on the government and try to remove this injustice so that the country moves forward on the path of development. If a

community remains backward, it is meaningless to think about development. The newspaper also alleged that the in view of the anti-Muslim stand of the Modi government, it looks like the Modi government is taking revenge on Muslims for voting in favour of INDIA alliance during the elections.

## Convict in illegal conversions and love jihad to get life-term in jail in Uttar Pradesh



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 31) states that the Uttar Pradesh Assembly has passed a law regarding illegal religious conversions and Love Jihad. This law has created a provision to award a 20-year jail term or life-term in jail to those convicted of illegal conversions and Love Jihad. This apart, a fine of Rs 10 lakh will also be imposed on the convict. This apart, the provisions for the bail of the accused have also been made very stringent. As per the new law, any individual can file an FIR on the issue of illegal conversion. Earlier, the presence of mother-father or the brother-sister of the victim was mandatory to lodge a complaint. As per the new law, any court, not lower than that of a sessions court, can hear any case related to Love Jihad. In the issue of Love Jihad, the hearing cannot be conducted on a plea by the accused seeking

bail without giving an opportunity for the government lawyer to oppose the same. This apart, all the cases related to illegal conversions and Love Jihad have been declared as non-bailable offences.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (July 31) states that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh had made the first law against Love Jihad in 2020. Later in 2021, the same government had passed a law in the Assembly banning illegal conversions. In this law, there was a provision to award jail term ranging from one year to 10 years to the accused. In the earlier law, there was this provision that if conversion was done for marriage, then the marriage becomes illegal. This apart, if any individual wants to change his religion as per his wish, then he or she has to inform the district magistrate regarding the same two months

in advance. In the previous law, for conversion through force or allurement, apart from a jail term of 1 to 5 years, there was also a provision to impose a fine of Rs 15,000. If the issue is related to a Dalit woman, then there is the provision to award a jail term ranging from 3 to 10 years to the accused apart from a fine of Rs 25,000.

As per the new law, if any person converts any woman, minor or any person by intimidation or luring or promising marriage, there is a provision to award him 20 years in jail or life-term imprisonment. In the new law, the amount for fine will be based on the treatment of the victim and the expenses of her rehabilitation. The court may also accept compensation for the victim, which can go up to Rs 5 lakh. This amount will be over and above the fine and the money has to be paid by the accused person. If any person accepts money from foreign sources or from illegal institutions and convert people, then he will be given rigorous imprisonment up to 14 years apart from a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.

It is to be noted that last month, the Allahabad High Court had expressed concern over illegal conversions taking place in the country. Earlier in 2023 also the same court, while expressing serious concern over incidents of conversion using foreign money, had directed the government that it formulates stringent laws to stop such incidents. Under Section 7 of the new law, no person can be released on bail without fulfilling the conditions. The first condition among them is that the government lawyer should be given the opportunity to oppose the bail plea of the accused. The second condition is that the court shall be satisfied that it has credible reasons to grant the accused bail and he has not committed the offence he was charged with. This apart, if the accused is released



on bail, then he should not make efforts to do a similar offence.

**Roznama Sahara** (August 5) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had announced that his government would be soon presenting a bill in the Assembly to award life-term in jail to those accused of Love Jihad. He said that we also want to ensure that all the government jobs in the state shall be given to the original residents of the state only. A law is being brought in this connection as well.

**Comment:** Apart from Uttar Pradesh, laws against forced religious conversions have been brought in many other states as well. In this connection, Haryana passed a law in 2022. Whereas Himachal Pradesh had also imposed a ban on forced conversions. The Uttarakhand government made a law in 2018 itself in order to stop forced conversions. The then Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had passed a law against conversions in 2020. Whereas the Gujarat and Karnataka government had passed a law against forced conversions and Love Jihad in 2021. In Jharkhand also a similar law was brought in 2017. In 2006, the Chhattisgarh government had formed a law to stop forced conversions. Odisha had formed a law in 1967 to curb such incidents. In the law passed in Madhya Pradesh, there is a provision to award a jail term of 10 years for forced conversions and marriage

through allurement or threats. It would be a non-bailable offence for the accused persons. In this law, there is also a provision that a written application should be submitted to the district magistrate regarding the conversion and subsequent marriage two months before the same. Under this law, those Qazi, Maulavi or Padri who converts without submitting an application for the same will also get a jail term up to five years.

In Haryana also many kinds of restrictions have been imposed on Love

Jihad. In the law passed by the Haryana government, marriage after conversion through misrepresentation, use of force, threats, coercion, allurement or fraud comes under the ambit of forceful religious conversion. In such situations, there is a provision to award a jail term ranging from 1 to 5 years and a fine of Rs one lakh to the accused. If any person hides his religion with the intention of marriage, then he will get a jail term of at least 3 years, which can go up to 10 years and he has to pay a fine of at least Rs 3 lakh.

## Order to shut down 150 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh



**Mumbai Urdu News** (August 1) reports that the Madhya Pradesh Madrasa Board has cancelled the recognition of 56 Islamic madrasas in Sheopur district. This action has been taken on the basis of the investigation report of district education officer Ravindra Singh Tomar. It has been said in this report that there are a total of 80 madrasas in Sheopur. Out of them 56 has been shut down. Despite that, they are accepting grants from the government. According to the district education officer, only 24 madrasas are being run regularly. All other madrasas have been shut down. The managers of these madrasas which are lying closed did not inform about the shifting of students to the district education department. According to Tomar, these madrasas also did not inform the administration where the students who were studying there had gone. It is to be

noted that Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav had announced that if any irregularities are found in those madrasas which were getting government grants, then action would be taken against them.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 7) states that the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has given the indication of starting a jihad against Islamic madrasas. Chief Minister of the state Dr Mohan

Yadav had said that in the coming days all those madrasas which were being run in an illegal manner would be shut down. Earlier, BJP MLA Usha Thakur had raised an issue about the kind of education being provided in the madrasas in the Assembly. She had claimed that these madrasas were providing training in terrorism and hence they should be shut down immediately. She demanded from the state government that an investigation shall be conducted into these madrasas. Later minister for higher education Inder Singh Parmar had also given indication about conducting an investigation into these madrasas, which was opposed by Congress MLA Atif Aqeel. He said that the government is deliberately interfering in the issues of Muslims. Though the Constitution has given the freedom to them to establish own



educational institutions, the state government is deliberately violating the Constitution.

**Siasat** (July 8) states that the Muslim religious leaders of Madhya Pradesh have condemned the anti-madrasa campaign of the state government and said that the state government is conspiring to shut down madrasas due to communal hatred. Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Madrasa Board Nitin Saxena said that we are conducting an inquiry into the madrasas in Madhya Pradesh. If any irregularities are found in them, then action would be taken against them.

**Etemaad** (July 12) states that preparations are being made to impose a ban on hijab in the colleges of Madhya Pradesh. State's higher education minister Inder Singh Parmar has directed the education department that a common uniform shall be prescribed for boy and girl students in all colleges in Madhya Pradesh. This will initially be implemented in 55 government colleges. The Congress in Madhya Pradesh criticised this decision and said that the government has unleashed this campaign in order to distract the attention of people from largescale corruption in colleges. Spokesperson of Madhya Pradesh Congress Abbas Hafiz said the BJP government wants to impose a ban on hijab in colleges on the pretext of common uniform and it wants to deprive the students from right for education.

As per another news, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to shut down 94 unrecognised madrasas in Aligarh district. Nearly 2,000 boy and girl students studying in these madrasas will be admitted to government schools. Aligarh district minorities welfare officer Nidhi Goswami said that the state's chief secretary had sent a letter to the district magistrate of Aligarh on June 26, 2024. In this letter he had directed that the boy and girl students studying in unrecognised madrasas shall be admitted to Zilla Parishad schools.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 31) states that in the past few days, the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh issued a circular directing all the district magistrates in the state that the alternative arrangements for the education of boy and girl students studying in unrecognised madrasas shall be made in government schools or recognised schools. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has opposed the government order. In this connection, a delegation of the board held a meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The delegation was led by the general secretary of the board, Maulana Mohammed Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi. The delegation has registered their objection to the notice issued by the state chief secretary to 8,449 madrasas in the state. The delegation told the chief minister that in districts like Siddharth Nagar, Kushinagar and Sant Kabir Nagar the district administration has started taking

action against Islamic madrasas. These madrasas are described as unrecognised on the basis that they are not affiliated to Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. However, these madrasas are being run for decades under some trusts or registered societies. In these madrasas, apart from religious education, modern education is also being provided.



The delegation has made it clear that the circular issued by the state chief secretary is against Article 14, 21, 26, 28 and 30 of the Constitution. In these sections, the minorities have been given the right not only to establish an educational institution of their choice, but to manage it on their own. In the Right to Education law passed by the government in 2009 also the Islamic madrasas and Sanskrit Pathshalas have been kept outside its ambit. The board told the chief minister that the madrasas which are described as illegal by the government include world renowned Islamic educational institutions like Darul Uloom Deoband, Darul Uloom Nadwa, Jamia Salafia etc. The delegation demanded the chief minister that they immediately withdraw this order so that the uneasiness that has been spread among the Muslims in the country could be removed.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (August 1) states that the vice-president of Jamiat Ulema Uttar Pradesh Maulana Aminul Haq Abdullah Qasmi said that the government is illegally putting pressure on madrasas to shut down them. He said that as per Constitution, government recognition is not

mandatory for the madrasas. If a government order is issued to the managers of madrasas to transfer their students, then it is illegal and unconstitutional. He said that we are preparing to approach the Supreme Court in this connection so that the minority rights are protected.

**Urdu Times** (July 15) said that the action being taken against madrasas at the behest of Hindutva powers is a conspiracy to keep Muslims away from Islam and their faith. The religious madrasas are the forts of Islam. It should not be allowed to be destroyed under any circumstance and the Muslims have to take every possible step to protect it. If these madrasas are closed, then without them neither the Muslims will survive nor their faith. It should be understood that currently Muslims have many friends for holding talks, but there is no one in this world to give them any concrete help. Hence they have to protect themselves. It is not a crime to run madrasas and impart religious education in them. This is our constitutional right and those who stop it would be called an enemy of the country and the Constitution. ■

## Supreme Court stays decision on vendors' name plate by Yogi government

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 23) states that the Supreme Court has issued an interim stay order on the direction of the Uttar Pradesh government to display the names of the owners of shops and restaurants on

the path of the Kanwariyas in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It is to be noted that the Uttar Pradesh government had directed that it is mandatory to write the names of the owners on the name plates of the shops and

restaurants located on the path of Kanwariyas across the state. Some people questioned this decision of the Yogi government in the Supreme Court. In its interim order, the Supreme Court said that the state government or police cannot force the shop owners to reveal their names. They could be asked only to provide information regarding the items meant as food.

It is to be noted that this decision of the Uttar Pradesh government was questioned in the Supreme Court by a sister organisation of Jamaat-e-Islami, Association for Protection of Civil Rights. During the hearing, the Supreme Court asked whether it is a press note or a government order? On this, the petitioners said the Uttar Pradesh administration has been putting pressure on shopkeepers that they write their name and mobile number on the name plates of their shop. The petitioners said that no law gives police the right to do so. The police have the right to know what kind of food is being served there. The petitioners also argued that this government order is equivalent to an economic boycott of a community.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (July 20) has alleged that it has become difficult for Muslims and Dalits to live under saffron governments. Instructions have been given to display the names of owners and employees of shops and restaurants located on the path of Kanwar Yatra in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Earlier, this direction was issued in areas like Muzaffarnagar etc, but later the Uttar Pradesh government has ordered to implement the same on all the routes of the yatra. Now all the shops and restaurants across the state have to display name plates and reveal who are their owners and who are the employees in them. According to the state government, this step has been taken in view of the faith of Hindu devotees during the Kanwar yatra in the month of Sawan. Stringent action will also be taken against those who sell items certified as halal on the way of yatra. The



opposition protested this decision of the government and alleged that the state government is targeting a particular community with a political aim and they are being economically

boycotted. Later the Uttar Pradesh government implemented its order across the state. An ally of BJP, Janata Dal (United) also criticised it. Party spokesperson K C Tyagi demanded from the Uttar Pradesh government that it immediately withdraw its order.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (July 24) in its editorial, while opposing the order, said that this is government's discrimination towards Muslims. The people of Uttar Pradesh have rejected the communal politics of BJP in the Lok Sabha elections but the state government is not ready to change its stand. It is working as per its agenda. The newspaper asked under which law the order has been issued?

**Etemaad** (July 20) in its editorial has accused the state government that it is trying to give communal colour to religious matters like Kanwar Yatra. It is against Constitution and it is an open discrimination against Muslims. The aim of this decision is that the devotees taking part in the yatra should not purchase anything from the shops of Muslims. Let the state government gives whatever name it wants, but the truth is that such decisions remembers us of the Hitler period.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 23) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court. The newspaper said that the Supreme Court has given an opportunity to heave a sigh of relief to Muslims, hence we are grateful towards it.

**Urdu Times** (July 21) in its editorial has accused Yogi Adityanath that he is playing with fire and his eyes are closed due to Muslim enmity. If any Muslim is given punishment, then his fault should also be pointed out. Yogi also knows the consequences of punishing innocent people, hence he should not try to play with fire.



## Hundreds killed in anti-quota violence in Bangladesh



**Inquilab** (July 29) reports that so far more than 250 people have been killed in the ongoing anti-reservation agitation in Bangladesh. Whereas non-government sources claim that the number of those killed is much higher than this.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 29) states that this movement started in the beginning of this month and it gradually took a terrible form. In view of the seriousness of the situation, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had to return to the country by cutting short her visit to China mid-way. The police had failed to control the situation. Hence the entire country was handed over to the Army and curfew was imposed. This apart, the Army was also directed that anyone seen protesting on the road should be shot at sight.

**Inquilab** (July 22) states that considering the seriousness of the agitation, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh intervened in the matter. The Supreme Court cancelled the direction of the high court to maintain status quo on the issue of reservation. In its verdict, the Supreme Court said that from now on, 93 percent of appointments in government jobs will be on the basis of merit. Out of the rest 7 percent, 5% will be the quota for freedom

fighters of liberation struggle, one percent will be for minorities and one percent will be the quota for the handicapped. The Supreme Court said that if the government wants, it can either increase or decrease this quota. The Supreme Court directed the government to immediately issue a notification in this connection. The court also allowed five lawyers to place their arguments on behalf of students. Out of the nine judges of the Supreme Court, eight were in favour of cancelling the verdict of the high court.

It is to be noted that earlier in 2018, due to anti-reservation protests, the government had issued a circular cancelling the reservation system in Class 1 and 2 categories. When a writ petition was filed in the court against this decision, a division bench of the high court, while declaring this circular as illegal, restored the previous reservation system. On the second day itself the students launched a nationwide agitation against this decision of the high court, which slowly took a massive turn.

**Hindustan** (July 23) states that despite this verdict of the Supreme Court, the students announced that they would continue with their agitation. They said



their protest would continue until those detained during their agitation were not released.

**Avadhnama** (July 31) states that the protesters have announced to suspend their agitation for three days. During this time, the Bangladesh government issued a notification with regard to the verdict of the Supreme Court on the quota issue.

**Urdu Times** (July 30) states that arrested student leader Nahid Islam demanded the government that the educational institutions which are lying closed across the country should be reopened. As per a notification issued by the home ministry of Bangladesh, broadband and other internet services have been restored. The government has assured all international organisations that the situation is returning to normal. The student leaders announced that they have accomplished their goal and hence they have decided to temporarily suspend their movement.

**Urdu Times** (July 27) states that when Bangladesh became independent in 1971, the then President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had implemented an 80 percent quota system in government jobs. This includes the provision for a 30 percent quota for those who took part in the liberation struggle, 40 percent for backward districts, 10 percent for women and 20 percent for the general public. In 1976, the reservation quota was amended and the quota for backward districts was reduced to 20 percent. Due to this, the quota for general public rose to 40 percent. In 1985,

the reservation for backward districts was reduced to 10 percent and the quota for minorities was announced as 5%. In this way, the quota for general public became 45%. Initially, only the children of freedom fighters used to get reservation, but in 2009, it was announced that even the grandsons and granddaughters of freedom

fighters would get reservation. In 2012, it was declared that the handicapped would get one percent reservation.

In the initial stages, nobody had opposed this quota system but due to the increasing unemployment in the country, the students were not happy about it. In 2018, the government had made an announcement to stop this quota system, but the high court cancelled the notification and directed that the previous system should continue.

**Hindustan** (July 21) states that due to the situation arising out of violent protests in Bangladesh, nearly 1,000 students out of the over 5,000 Indian students studying there had to return to the native country. According to India's external affairs ministry, in view of the explosive situation in Bangladesh, the staff of five Indian missions located in the country are helping the Indian students trapped there to return to India. This apart, the Indian government is also helping Nepal and Bhutan students trapped in Bangladesh to return to their native countries and they were being given the facility to enter India. They are also being provided security on the way.

**Siasat** (July 23) in its editorial stated that the way the government had handed over the entire country to the Army is not a good sign for democracy. The history of Pakistan and Bangladesh is witness to the fact that once the blood of power gets in the mouth of the Army, it seizes power by dissolving democratic governments. The



newspaper said that the Opposition is quite weak in Bangladesh and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been running the administration like a dictator.

**Hindustan** (July 23) in its editorial has advised the government of Bangladesh to give up its stubbornness and hold talks with the protesters in view of the explosive situation and find a way to establish peace in the country. The more there is a delay in this, the more it will be fatal for the economy and administration of Bangladesh.

**Etemaad** (July 26) in its editorial expressed concern over the explosive situation in Bangladesh and said that due to the manner in which ruling class is adopting dictatorial methods, public anger is rising day by day in the country. Now the dam of public patience has broken and

people have come down on the streets. Though the government claims that the economy of Bangladesh is rapidly improving, it cannot be denied that currently 1.8 crore Bangladeshi youths are unemployed. There are no jobs available for them in the country. It is worth mentioning that there is a huge progress in exporting readymade clothes to foreign countries and every year clothes worth 60 billion dollars are being

sent abroad. Nearly 40 lakh people get employment from this. Majority of them are women. The government's claim is that in the past one decade there is a three-fold increase in the per capita income in Bangladesh, but it looks like that whatever development is taking place in the country are limited to the ruling party and its supporters. There is a massive spike in corruption in the country. There is no doubt that in the past 15 years Sheikh Hasina had imposed stringent restrictions on democratic activities. When general elections took place in the country in January 2024, the Opposition in Bangladesh boycotted it. The biggest question is how will Sheikh Hasina deal with this situation? The eyes of the entire world are on it.

## Over 50 killed in Shia-Sunni riots in Pakistan



**Roznama Sahara** (July 30) states that more than 50 people were killed and over 200 people were injured in the clashes that

took place between Shia-Sunni tribes in Kurram district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. According to local



police official Murtaza Hussain, this bloody clash took place between Sunni Madgi and Shia Maleekhel tribes. It is being said that a war has been on for a long time between Shias and Sunnis over a dispute for agricultural land. A meeting of the tribes has been called to deliberate on this issue. During the meeting, one group opened indiscriminate firing on the other group, which the other group also retaliated. This resulted in communal tension. The police chief of the area said that the Madgi tribe is Sunni, while the people of Maleekhel tribe are Shia. The government had made a peace agreement between the two tribes nearly a week ago, but due to the instigation by some mullahs, violence erupted between the two sides again. He said all those who have been killed are men. But among those injured, there are a few women and children.

Pakistan's human rights commission expressed concern over the Shia-Sunni riots and demanded the government that it make preparations on war-footing to establish peace. Pakistan is a Sunni majority country. Shia-Sunni riots keep taking place there. Hundreds of people have been killed in these riots. The Kurram region was earlier a tribal area. The administration of the region was in the hands of local tribes and the government used to make little interferences in them. This system has been in place for the past 200 years or so. In 2018, this entire region was merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Several tribes are settled in this region. The

old enmity among them still continues. According to media, foreign hands could also be there behind these clashes.

**Taasir** (July 31) states that considering the increasing terrorism in the country, the Pakistan government has imposed a ban on two terrorist organisations namely Majeed Brigade and Hafiz Gul Bahadur group. So far, the Pakistan government has

imposed a ban on 81 organisations. The Pakistan government has claimed that banned Islamic terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been spreading the flames of terrorism in the country. A spokesperson of national anti-terrorism authority said that the two organisations on which a ban was imposed recently were being under the watch for the past two years. The chief of Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, (HGBG) Hafiz Gul Bahadur was earlier a government contractor. Now his organisation HGBG is the biggest terrorist organisation in Waziristan. Recently, the Afghan government had alleged that the hands of this terrorist organisation were behind the suicide attack that took place in a masjid in Kabul. More than 200 people were killed in this attack.

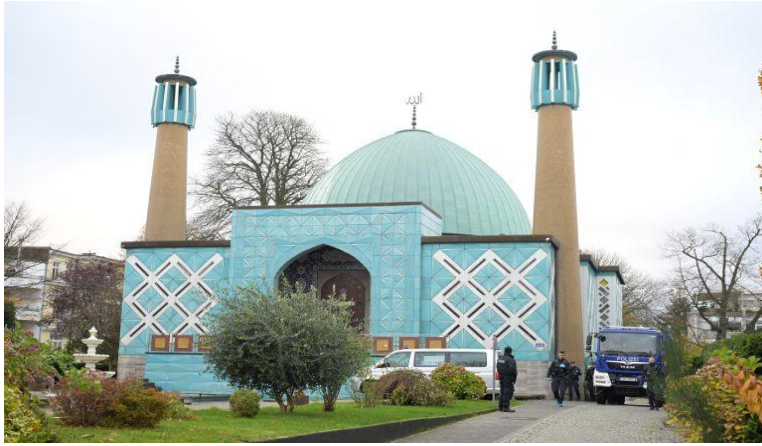
Meanwhile, the Majeed Brigade was constituted in 2011. It is related to Balochistan Liberation Army. It is its dedicated suicide contingent. Those belonging to this group generally target Chinese authorities, citizens and Pakistani Army. In a notification issued by Pakistan's interior ministry, it is stated that those associated with this terrorist group should not use the words Maulana and Mufti because they are enemies of Islam and are damaging the image of Islam.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (July 27) states that the Jamaat-e-Islami has unleashed a nationwide campaign against Pakistani Army. The chief of Jamaat-e-Islami has

also threatened to lay siege to Islamabad. The activists of Jamaat-e-Islami are marching towards Islamabad from Faizabad region in Rawalpindi. In order to stop them, the Pakistani Army has parked containers on the way and sealed the road. So far, more than 200 people have been arrested. Islamabad police has announced that no individual will be given permission to enter Islamabad region. The administration has totally stopped the Metro and bus services in the entire region

and the responsibility of the security system of the secretariat has been handed over to Army. Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeem Ur Rahman said that due to the rate in which inflation increases in the country, it has become difficult for the ordinary people to survive, and hence Jamaat-e-Islami has announced to hold dharna in every district across the country. He demanded that the government should immediately reduce the prices of electricity, gas and petrol.

## Ban on Islamic Centre and subsidiary organisations in Germany



**Hindustan** (July 25) states that the German government has imposed a ban on Hamburg-situated Islamic Centre and all the organisations associated with it for an indefinite period. A spokesperson of Germany's interior ministry said that Islamic terrorism is being spread through this centre, due to which a threat has arisen for the security of the country. The spokesperson said that this centre was established by some people who arrived from Iran in 1953. This organisation has been promoting anti-government activities among Shia Muslims. Terrorist organisation Hezbollah is not only extended help through this institution, even money is also collected from across the country for the organisation. This centre is located at Imam Ali Masjid in Hamburg,

which is counted among the oldest masjids in Germany. It is also called Blue Masjid. The government has sealed many other masjids apart from this one.

The government had conducted raids in search of people belonging to Islamic terrorist organisations in Frankfurt, Munich and Berlin. On the directions

of court and with the cooperation of intelligence wing, the German police raided 53 locations across eight states in search of terrorists and took several people into custody. The spokesperson said that this organisation wants to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Germany so that an administration based on Shariah could be established in the country. This organisation is working at the behest of Iran's supreme leader. They want to end democracy in Germany and convert it into an Islamic state. The government has been getting information about the anti-national activities of this organisation for a long time. The spokesperson said that Germany has a different culture, where there is no space for a Caliphate based on Islamic Shariah.

## Ban on Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh



**Sahafat** (August 1) states that after the violent agitation in Bangladesh against the quota system in government jobs, the government has decided to impose a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and its student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir. Law minister of Bangladesh, Anisul Huq, claimed that the hands of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student organisation were behind the nationwide riots that took place recently. Their links extend to foreign countries. He said that an official notification has been issued in this connection. On the other hand, the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh described this government decision as an unconstitutional, illegal and dictatorial step.

The Jamaat-e-Islami in Bharat has also condemned this step of Bangladesh government and said that the government is adopting dictatorial methods to crush public sentiments.

It is to be noted that as soon as Bangladesh became independent, Jamaat-e-Islami became a headache for the government there. During the liberation struggle for Bangladesh, the cadre of Jamaat-e-Islami not only opposed the Mukti Bahini and Mukti Andolan, but also openly supported Pakistani Army and the government. Since then till now, the cadre of Jamaat-e-Islami has become a headache for the government. During the elections held in Bangladesh in January 2024, Jamaat-e-Islami had alleged that the government of Sheikh Hasina had hanged to death more than 64 leaders the organisation and hundreds of their activists were lodged in jail without any case. Jamaat-e-Islami also has the support of main opposition party namely Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

## Terrorist attack in Paris



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 27) states that terrorist attacks took place in several places

before the start of Olympic Games in France. The entire train system came to a halt due to this. The railway lines were damaged and the communication system was stopped. According to the national railway company of France, due to this terrorist attack, nearly three dozen trains to and from Paris were cancelled due to which more than eight lakh people got affected. French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said the terrorists

carried out this attack in order to stop Olympic Games. In this mahakumbh of sports, more than 10,000 players from 206 countries are taking part. The French transport minister said that the French security agencies are investigating to find out which organisation's hands were behind this attack.

**Urdu Times** (July 30) states that the French authorities have accepted that the Fibre Optical Network in different parts of the country was damaged due to which the entire train services, banking and flight services were stopped. According to French police, the Fibre Optical Network of many

telecommunication companies have been targeted. The entire internet system came to a halt due to this. Due to this terrorist activity, the life in entire north-east, south-east and in south and western France has come to a halt. According to the correspondents of Al Arabia, the hands of left terrorists were suspected to be behind this action.

**Avadhnama** (July 28) states that due to information about bombs being planted in several airports in France, the entire flight services of France have been shut down and a search has been launched for explosives.

## US President Biden's Muslim appeasement



**Roznama Sahara** (July 30) reports that US President Joe Biden feels that his party would face defeat in the forthcoming presidential elections. The newspaper has written that the way the US has openly supported Israel in the Gaza war, it is likely that its negative influence would be seen in the presidential elections. The Muslims in US and Palestine supporters have openly come out on the streets against Biden. This is the reason why Biden has refused to contest the presidential election. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who is a possible candidate for the Presidential elections, has changed her policy. After a meeting with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, she told correspondents that what happened in Gaza in the past nine months is very

said. One cannot ignore thousands of people moving around looking for the bodies of their relatives and in search of peace.

She said that she will never remain silent. Kamala Harris, while boycotting the address of Netanyahu in the Congress, said that it is very much necessary to immediately establish peace in Gaza,

**Avadhnama** (July 28) states that US President Joe Biden directed the US administration to cancel the decision to expel 11,500 Lebanese Muslims from the US. Following this decision, now the Lebanese Muslims can stay in the country. Democratic Party MP from Michigan area Debbie Dingell has appreciated this decision of President Biden. She said that a large number of Lebanese origin Muslims are staying in her area. They are very much worried about their country's financial, social and political crisis. On the other hand, former president Donald Trump, who belongs to Republican Party, has announced that if he wins the elections he will not allow refugees to enter the country.

## Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh killed in Tehran



**Urdu Times** (August 1) reports that Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an Israeli attack in Iranian capital Tehran. According to Iran TV, Haniyeh had arrived in Tehran to take part in the oath-taking ceremony of the new president of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian. In a statement issued on behalf of Hamas, it had been stated that those accused of the murder of the Hamas chief will be given harsh punishment. Hamas leader Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook said the murder of Haniyeh is a cowardly act and Israel will never succeed in its goal. Yet another Hamas leader Sami Abu Zuhri said we are fighting an open war to liberate Jerusalem. Spokesperson of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said Israel has pushed the entire world towards war. We are fully prepared for the war. Haniyeh could not have been murdered without the help of the US.

It is to be noted that Haniyeh have been staying in Qatar and Turkiye recently. His three sons and grandchildren were killed during the war in Gaza recently. He was appointed as the political head of Hamas in place of Khaled Mashal in 2017. He was staying in Qatar for the past two years. He had joined Hamas in 1988 and he became the private secretary of Hamas

chief Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in 1997. Israel had arrested him twice. In the elections held in Palestine in 2006, Ismail Haniyeh was appointed as the Prime Minister of Palestine Authority after Hamas secured a majority. However, this government did not survive for long due to the mutual conflict between Hamas and Fatah. Ever since war broke out in Gaza, Israel had been searching for Ismail Haniyeh. Haniyeh's killing in Tehran is a major challenge for Iran, hence Iran has also now directly come out on the ground against Israel.

**Avadhnama** (August 2) states that a namaz-e-janaza for Ismail Haniyeh was held at Iran capital Tehran. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei read his namaz-e-janaza, in which lakhs of people took part.

**Roznama Sahara** (August 3) states that Haniyeh was buried at the royal kabristan in Qatar capital Doha. His namaz-e-janaza was held at Qatar's biggest mosque, Imam Muhammad Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab. According to the newspaper, Haniyeh's namaz-e-janaza was held at different places in the world.

**Avadhnama** (August 2) states that Iran has hoisted the red flag to avenge the





murder of Haniyeh. Israel had used spy software to reach Haniyeh. It is being said that Israel used most modern techniques to collect information regarding the stay of Haniyeh. It is being said that when he was chatting with his son on WhatsApp, Israel got to know about his location. The software which was used in the killing of Haniyeh was made by the cyber intelligence group of Israel.

According to **Aurangabad Times** (August 2), the US had provided technical cooperation to Israel for the killing of Haniyeh. This attack would not be possible without the help of American agents. However, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US had no role in the murder of Haniyeh. According to US newspapers, the bomb was placed in the guest house in Tehran much in advance in order to kill Haniyeh. According to New York Times, at least seven senior leaders of Hamas were killed in this attack. The name of this guest house located in the northern region of Tehran is Neshat and the responsibility of its management lies with Iran's intelligence wing Pasdaran-e-Inqilab. The newspaper said that the conspiracy for the murder was hatched by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad with the help of the US.

**Hindustan** (August 1) reports that many Indian Muslim organisations including Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema have expressed condolences over the death of Haniyeh. They said that the

murder of Haniyeh is the biggest setback to Alam-e-Islam in this century.

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (August 2), Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the Iranian government to take revenge on Israel for this murder. This decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Iran's Supreme Council. According to New York Times, the militant Islamic

organisations active in Syria, Yemen and Iran have been directed to take immediate revenge against Israel for this murder.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (August 1) states that China, Qatar and the president of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed condolences over the death of Haniyeh.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (August 2) states that Israel has also murdered the head of the military wing of Hamas, Mohammad Deif. He was a number two leader in Hamas. The plan for the attack that took place on Israel on October 7, 2023 was devised by Mohammad Deif. Israel's defence minister said that the braves of Israel have wiped out the entire leadership of Hamas which carried out the attack on Israel.

As per another news published in this newspaper, both his sons also took part in the funeral of Haniyeh. It is possible that Khaled Mashal will be made the new head of Hamas.

**Inqilab** (August 3) states that airline companies across the world have cancelled their flight services to Israel due to a possible Iranian attack. After Iran threatening to take revenge on Israel, the US has sent its aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt to the Gulf of Persia. This apart, six missile destroyers were also sent. Also, five US warships have been deployed in eastern *Mediterranean Sea*. A few US reconnaissance aircraft are taking regular rounds of the border regions of

Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Iran's Army chief Major General Mohammad Bagheri said that Israel will be revenged for the murder of Haniyeh under any circumstance. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that we are fully prepared to deal with any possible attack. We will give a befitting reply to any damages



we suffer. US President Joe Biden assured Israeli Prime Minister that the US would extend all kinds of cooperation in dealing with Iranian attacks. As per latest reports, Israel has killed a senior commander of Hezbollah Fuad Shukur in Lebanese capital Beirut.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (August 2) in its editorial said that after the killing of Haniyeh, the situation in Middle-East has become explosive. This will affect the entire world. Organisations like Hezbollah could attack Israel. Due to the increasing enmity between Israel and Iran, the entire region could become a war field. Due to this, the peace in the world could be in trouble.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (August 2) in its editorial has expressed doubt that after the murder of Haniyeh the war between Hamas and Israel would escalate and it would take the turn of a world war.

**Siasat** (August 2) in its editorial said that Israel has been striving for a long time to kill Haniyeh and it has now given this message to the entire Islamic world that they should get united to wipe out Israel. Meanwhile, Hamas is an organisation of people for whom death doesn't matter and

neither are they afraid of death. They are always prepared to sacrifice their lives to realise their aim. The murder of Haniyeh is a challenge to the entire Islamic world. If they want to remain alive, they have to face this challenge.

**Hindustan Express** (August 2) in its editorial said that now there is no scope for any misconception that Iran intends to attack Israel. Earlier also, in order to take revenge for the murder of its diplomat, Iran had fired thousands of missiles at Tel Aviv, but they could not harm Israel because Israel's defence mechanism neutralised them on their way itself. The newspaper said that different Muslim countries of Arab world are fighting against each other and hence it is futile to expect anything from them.

**Inqilab** (August 3) in its editorial said that there is no need for a despair due to the void that has occurred in the leadership of Palestine struggle because after such incidents the entire community has come down on the street in order to take revenge and it would be revenged at any cost. A day will definitely come when Palestine will be liberated from the clutches of Jews.

## Unity among 14 Palestinian organisations including Hamas and Fatah

Due to the efforts of China, 14 Islamic groups fighting against Israel got united. Due to this, China has once again got success in spreading its network in Arab world. Earlier, due to its efforts, two old

enemies--Iran and Saudi Arabia--have come closer. It looks like that China is infiltrating into Islamic world in a planned manner. However, Russia is also making efforts in this direction but it could not



succeed in it so far. It is worth mentioning that earlier Britain and the US used to hold sway in the Muslim countries of Middle-East.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 24) states that two major Palestinian jihadi organisations which have been fighting against Israel for decades have forgotten their old differences and got united. Along with them, nearly a dozen other Palestinian groups have also agreed to come together on one platform. A high-level meeting of leaders of jihadi organisations fighting against Israel was held at Chinese capital Beijing. Vice-president of Fatah, Mahmoud Aloul and Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh took part in this meeting. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, these Palestinian groups announced that due to Israel's war in Gaza, the Palestine people are passing through a difficult situation. In view of this, all of us have decided to reach an agreement between us so that all hurdles in the path towards freedom of Palestine are removed.

It is to be noted that Fatah and Hamas are the most effective on the Palestinian land. Hamas is in power in Gaza. Whereas Fatah has control over Palestine Authority. A conflict has been going on between the two for a long time. Hamas had arisen as a resistance group against Israel in 1987. It supports liberation of Palestine through a violent struggle.

Nowadays, its links are extended to Iran. Whereas Fatah was established by Palestine leader Yasser Arafat in 1957. In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was established due to the efforts of Yasser Arafat. Its aim is to bring together all the groups which are fighting for the freedom of Palestine. The PLO had represented the Palestine people in many international meetings.

Yasser Arafat was considered to be close to Russia. Meanwhile, Hamas had kept itself away from PLO. In 1993, due to the efforts of US, an agreement was reached between Yasser Arafat and the then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at Norway's capital Oslo. In this agreement, PLO had for the first time recognised Israel and announced that it would renounce violent methods in future. Whereas Israel recognised PLO as the sole representative organisation of Palestinians. Following this agreement, serious differences arose between Hamas and Fatah. Hamas's stand was that if Israel is granted recognition, then its direct meaning is that we are not ready to accept Palestine as an independent nation. In the elections held in Gaza in 2006, Hamas got 44 percent votes and it was declared as winner. Whereas Fatah got 41 percent votes.

It is being said that after the elections held in 2006, the agreement that

was reached between Fatah and Hamas did not survive for long and both the organisations got separated from each other. Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7 last year. The war that has started since has been continuing till today. In this war, 39,000 people have been killed in Gaza so far. China is the first such country which had granted recognition to PLO.



After the attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, spokesperson of Chinese foreign affairs ministry Mao Ning said that China is a friend of both Israel and Palestine. We want both the countries to stay in peace, she said.

**Inqilab** (July 24) states that after holding a high-level meeting with Islamic jihadi groups fighting in Palestine, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said the Palestinian organisations have agreed for an interim national government. After signing an agreement, Chinese foreign minister said that however, the issue is an internal matter between different groups fighting in Palestine, but without international cooperation it won't be possible to avail the benefits. It is worth mentioning that the Ambassadors of Egypt, Algeria and Russia were present in the meeting. The Chinese foreign minister said that China is keen to play a positive role to bring stability and peace in Middle East. He also stressed on a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. In the dispute between Hamas and Israel, Egypt is playing the role of a mediator. Whereas Algeria is a non-permanent member of the United Nations,

where it has moved a resolution seeking ceasefire in Gaza. China has been trying for the past several months to reach an agreement between the representatives of Hamas and Fatah. There have been differences between the two organisations for the past 17 years and many a time even bloody clashes took place between the two. In the 2006 elections, after defeating Fatah in Gaza, the Hamas had even formed a government in Gaza. Whereas Fatah has been ruling over a portion of West Bank. The US had declared Hamas as a terrorist organisation. The effort of China is to establish its dominance in the Muslim world in some way or other. This agreement is an important step in this direction.

As per another news, these organisations have expressed their desire to form a national government in Gaza after ceasefire. Commenting on this, Fatah said that it would be a government which will include both West Bank and Gaza. Fatah spokesperson Osama al-Qawasmi, in an interview to *Al Arabia*, said that Hamas has for the first time adopted a positive stand on the issue of Palestine. We are trying to ensure that all groups remain united. ■

## Israel attacks Houthis' port

**Roznama Sahara** (July 22) reports that Yemen's terrorist organisation Ansarallah has claimed that it had attacked Israel's city Eilat. After this, several US ships in Red Sea were also targeted. The enemy suffered huge damages in this attack.

**Inqilab** (July 22) states that in retaliation to the attack on its city, Israel

attacked the *Hodeidah* port located in the fort of Houthis in Yemen. Israel's defence minister said that Israel has given the message to Houthis that if they target our region, they will not be spared. He claimed that several war bases of Houthis were destroyed in this attack by Israel. At least seven high officials of Houthis were killed



and nearly 100 were injured. Spokesperson of Houthis Mohammad Abdul Salam confirmed these attacks and said that this attack was carried out to put pressure on Houthis so that they stop supporting Palestinians in Gaza. He said we are not the kind who get scared.

According to British news agency 'Reuters,' due to this attack, the flames of fire were seen in many places in *Hodeidah* port. Israel targeted the oil reserves, power plants and military bases of Houthis. The Israeli military said the Houthis attacked our city and hence we carried out a retaliatory strike. We will retaliate with attacks for their attacks in every place. Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu, while addressing the nation on television, said that whichever country attacks our nation, we will give them a proper reply. US White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said that we do not

have any role in this attack that took place on Yemen. He also confirmed that Israeli planes had targeted the fort of Houthis *Hodeidah* port. The Houthis have been attacking Israel for the past several months, hence the Israeli military had to give a befitting reply to them.

Spokesperson of Saudi Arabia's defence ministry Brigadier General Turki Al-Maliki has clarified that Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with the attack carried out on Yemen, nor its air space had been utilised for carrying out the attack. A spokesperson of Hamas has described the Israeli attack on Yemen as a brutal act. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry Nasser Kanaani alleged that the Israeli military is targeting women and children. Israel is pushing the world towards a world war through such actions. The chief of Houthis in Yemen Abdul Malik al-Houthi said that our direct fight with Israel, US and Britain has started. This is the reason why we are targeting the ships of Israel and its supporting nations. We targeted Tel Aviv recently in which the enemy had to suffer huge damages. We will not leave the Muslims of Yemen alone. We will be with them under any circumstance.

## Smart system project in Saudi Arabia to stop illegal infiltration

**Inquilab** (July 24) states that Saudi Arabia's Ministry for Haj and Umrah said that those foreign citizens who have arrived in Saudi Arabia to do Haj and Umrah should return to their own countries before the expiry of their visa period. If they continue to stay in Saudi Arabia after the expiry of the visa period, they will be arrested and stringent punishment will be given. As per a notification issued by the ministry, the Haj visa is issued for a fixed period. If anyone is found in Saudi Arabia

after expiry of this period, then he is considered an illegal infiltrator and he will be given stringent punishment including fine. The citizenship of any Saudi citizen who gives refuge to them will be cancelled and expelled from the country. Saudi Arabia's tourism minister Ahmed al-Khateeb announced in a press conference that tourist visa will no longer be issued. In the first six months of this year, six crore people visited Saudi Arabia, who spent 150 Arab Riyals. He said that on the directions



who entered Saudi Arabia through illegal means belong to Ethiopia and Yemen. So far, 18 Saudi citizens have been arrested on charges of providing refuge to these infiltrators, who were awarded jail terms of 15 years and also had to pay a fine of 10 lakh Riyals. He said that our intelligence agencies are keeping an eye on every activity of these

of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, we are making full efforts to develop tourism. But we will not allow infiltrators to enter our country.

**Etemaad** (August 2) reports that in order to stop the illegal infiltration taking place on the pretext of visit to the holy places in Saudi Arabia, a smart system based on most modern technology is being implemented. Whoever arrives in Saudi Arabia, his every activity will be closely watched and he will be closely monitored round-the-clock through smart cameras. Special cameras are being set up in Mecca, Medina, Ka'aba and Masjid-e-Nabawi. In the past one week, 54.28 lakh namazis visited Masjid-e-Nabawi and the mazaar of the Prophet.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (July 30) states that the Saudi administration has arrested 21,103 people within a week in connection with illegal infiltration in the country. This apart, nearly 13,000 people have been arrested on charges of violating residential norms. Whereas 6,000 people have been arrested on charges of trying to enter the country in an illegal manner. The Saudi spokesperson said that majority of those

infiltrators.

**Urdu Times** (July 20) states that this year 106 people have been awarded death sentence in Saudi Arabia. All the accused were beheaded in public, who included seven Pakistanis as well. Those people who were punished by cutting off their heads include 78 Saudi citizens, eight Yemeni citizens and 15 Ethiopian citizens. This apart, those who have been given punishment include one citizen each from Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Jordan, Bharat and Sudan. In Saudi Arabia, the system of awarding punishment by beheading in public started in 2022. In March 2022, 81 people were killed in a single day by slitting their throats. Whereas in 2023, 170 people were awarded death sentence. The Saudi spokesperson said those people who have been awarded punishment included those who smuggled drugs, terrorists and murderers.

According to **Urdu Times** (July 22), 10 drug smugglers including four Pakistanis were arrested in Saudi Arabia. Nearly 33 kg charas were seized from their custody. As per Saudi law, all of them will be given death sentence.

## Revival of ISIS likely in Iraq and Syria

**Inqilab** (July 24) states that 10 terrorists belonging to ISIS were hanged to death on charges of terrorism in Iraq. Government sources said they were given the death

sentence in a jail in Nasiriyah city in southern Iraq. All those who were given death sentence were residents of this city. They have been accused of joining terrorist




organisation ISIS and taking part in terrorist activities. Earlier in April also 11 other terrorists belonging to ISIS were hanged to death. Later in July an Iraqi court awarded death sentence to Asma Mohammed, the wife of ISIS founder Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Amnesty International claimed that several people were secretly hanged to death in Syria and Iraq, which also included several women.

**Siasat** (July 21) states that the US Central Command based in Middle East has indicated that the ISIS cadre in Syria and Iraq are becoming active once again and the organisation is getting revived. Its plan is to capture power through violence. In Syria and Iraq, in the first six months of this year, the ISIS carried out 153 attacks.

The US body has said this number of attacks is two-times compared to 2023. This indicates that the cadre of ISIS is raising their head once again. These people have established secret camps on the borders of Syria and Iraq where they are imparting training in guerilla warfare. Commander of Central Command General Michael Erik Kurilla said that we are starting a campaign against ISIS on a massive scale. Intelligence sources indicated that this violent Islamic terrorist organisation is also trying to establish itself afresh in five other countries apart from these two countries. Now this terrorist organisation has more than 2,500 trained terrorists with it, which, when compared to last year, is said to be double. ■

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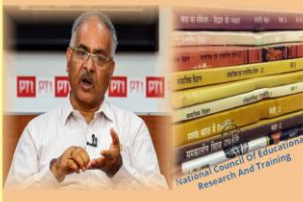
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