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Waqf Amendment Bill Referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee



- Supreme Court refuses to ban hijab
- Yahya Sinwar appointed new chief of Hamas
- Interim government formed in Bangladesh
- Riots against Muslims across Britain

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Summary

The Waqf board currently has approximately over nine lakh acres of land and lakhs of immovable properties. Muslims have been complaining that the land donated by affluent Muslims are not utilised for the welfare of the Muslim community. The Waqf properties are in the hands of mafia and a major portion of the income from them goes into the pockets of certain people. In 2014, a government committee had estimated the value of these immovable Waqf properties at Rs 12 lakh crore. It cannot be denied that there are no proper records of Waqf properties in almost all the states in the country. Some people have illegally occupied majority of the Waqf properties. The records of these Waqf properties have been made to disappear in connivance with corrupt officials and employees of Waqf boards so that those who have occupied them are not evicted from the properties.

In the national capital Delhi, several government offices and luxurious hotels have been illegally built on Waqf properties. The saddest thing is that the so-called caretakers of Muslim community see Muslim hostility in the steps taken by the Modi government for the welfare of Muslims. Recently, the Union government had brought a bill in Parliament with the aim of bringing transparency in Waqf properties, but due to protests from Opposition parties, it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The Government of India has announced a new Haj policy for next year. Under this policy, an individual can undertake Haj yatra through the Haj committee's quota only once in his life time. This apart, the government has also reduced the quota of Haj Committee of India from 80% to 70%. Whereas, the quota of private tour operators has been increased from 20% to 30%. Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju said the effort of the government is to ensure that more and more facilities are provided to Haj yatris while expenses on the Haj are brought down.

For the past one year, the stance of the newly elected President of Maldives, Mohammed Muizzu, was in favour of China and against Bharat. He fought the elections for the post of President through an 'India Out' campaign. As soon as Muizzu became the President, he had also announced cancellation of some old agreements of Maldives with Bharat. Now it looks like that now President Muizzu is feeling disappointed with China. Mohammad Muizzu had also taken part in the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Modi. Recently, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had been to Maldives on a three-day visit. He had announced the starting of nearly a dozen development projects in Maldives with the cooperation of Bharat. It is said that Muizzu had to reconsider his policy also due to the boycott of Maldives by Indian tourists after seeing their anti-India stand.

The issues in Bangladesh are getting complicated day by day. A 15-member cabinet was formed there under the leadership of Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus. Analysts believe that the hands of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and that of US were behind the overthrow of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina had alleged that she had refused to hand over an island of Bangladesh, St Martin, to the US to establish a military base. Hence a public anger was triggered against her and she was overthrown.

Waqf Amendment Bill referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee



The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was tabled in Lok Sabha on August 8. When the opposition members strongly opposed the bill, it was referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

Sahafat (August 14) states that there was a huge uproar in the House when the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was tabled in the Parliament. Following this, the government referred the bill to the JPC to hold a discussion over it. BJP Member of Parliament Jagadambika Pal will be the chairman of the committee. A total of 31 members have been appointed to the committee, out of which 21 belong to Lok Sabha while 10 are members of Rajya Sabha. This committee will present its report in the next session of Parliament.

Roznama Sahara (August 5) states that the Union government has decided to make largescale amendments in the Waqf law. According to the newspaper, the Union government has already made more than 40 amendments in the Waqf law. As per the proposed Bill, before declaring any land as Waqf property, it is mandatory to conduct an investigation into the same. This apart, amendments have been made in the constitution of Central Waqf Board and Waqf Boards in the states. Now, people

belonging to any community can become a member of the board. Amendments have also been proposed in sections 9 and 14 of Waqf Act as well, as per which the composition of Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards could be changed. According to this bill, the disputed land owned by the State Waqf Board will be confirmed afresh. The district magistrates will also be included in the supervision of Waqf land.

The newspaper said that the Modi government wants to curb the existing powers of the Waqf Board to declare any property as Waqf property. According to government sources, the Waqf Board has 8.9 lakh properties and 9.4 lakh acres of land. In 2013, the Congress-led UPA government had amended the Waqf Act and increased the powers of the Waqf Boards. As per the new bill, an appeal could be filed in court against the decisions of the Waqf Board, but no time limit has been set for taking a decision on such appeals. In connection with the new bill, it is also worth mentioning that in September 2022, the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board had declared a village as Waqf property. However, the entire population of this village are Hindus. The Waqf Board is the



are pending in courts. As of July 2024, disputes on more than 32,000 Waqf properties are being heard in courts. The Muslims complain that the Waqf properties are not properly maintained. As per government data, the management of 2.17 lakh Waqf properties is under the responsibility of Mutawallis (managers). Whereas the

biggest land owner in the country after Railways and the military. Under the new law, all sections including women will be given representation in Waqf board. According to government sources, Muslim thinkers, Muslim women and people belonging to Shia and Bohra sects have been demanding amendment in the current Waqf Act.

responsibility for the management of 1,27,726 properties is in the hands of managing committees. Similarly, the management of 95,000 properties is in the hands of Waqf Board. This apart, the responsibility for the management of 14,000 properties is in the hands of administrators.

It is said that currently there are 2,32,547 Waqf properties in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas there are 80,480 properties in West Bengal, 75,965 in Punjab, 66,092 in Tamil Nadu, 62,830 in Karnataka, 53,282 in Kerala and 45,682 Waqf properties in Telangana. This apart, there are 39,940 Waqf properties in Gujarat, 36,701 properties in Maharashtra, 33,472 in Madhya Pradesh, 32,533 in Jammu Kashmir, 30,895 in Rajasthan, 23,267 in Haryana, 14,685 in Andhra Pradesh and 10,314 in Odisha.

Inquilab (August 5) said that the Modi government wants to violate the rights of the Waqf board by amending the Waqf Act. If this bill is passed, it will destroy the Waqf properties. Muslim Personal Law Board said that it will oppose any changes in the present Waqf Act, which will make it easier for the government to take away Waqf properties. Similarly, any effort to curtail the rights of Waqf Boards will be opposed. Spokesperson of Muslim Personal Law Board, Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, said that the Waqf properties are not given to Muslims by any government. These are the own properties of Muslims which the Muslim elders had donated for religious purposes.

In 2014, a parliamentary committee had claimed in its report that more than 6 lakh acres of land are under the 35 Waqf boards in the country, whose value at that point of time was Rs 12 lakh crore. In 2008, the UPA government had formed a portal named 'Waqf Assets Management System' to locate Waqf properties. As per this portal, there were 8,66,000 Waqf properties in the country at that time. A quarter of these Waqf properties are in Uttar Pradesh. As per government report, more than 60% Waqf properties are in dispute. There are only 39% properties on which there are no disputes. This apart, nearly 9% Waqf properties are illegally occupied by some people or on which cases

Inquilab (August 6) states that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani had said that we would not remain as spectators to the destruction of Waqf properties. He said the intentions of the government are not good and we will not accept any kind of government amendments which will land the security of Waqf properties in trouble. He said the government is deliberately curtailing the rights of Waqf boards. Ever since the Modi government came to power, it has been bringing such laws which are interventions

in the Shariah matters, in order to create divisions and fear among Muslims. However, the government knows it well that the Muslims accept any damage, but will not tolerate any kind of interferences in Shariah.



On the proposed amendment bill, the ministry for minority welfare said the aim of amending the Waqf Act is to stop encroachment, mismanagement and illegal occupation of Waqf properties. The ministry said that the court has no supervision over the decisions of the Waqf tribunal. This may create many types of complications. In this context, the government also cited the public interest litigation filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya in the court. It has been stated in this petition that in Islamic countries like Turkiye, Egypt and Jordan, there are no institutions like the Waqf board. In the new bill, a provision has been made to include non-Muslim experts also in the Waqf board for the smooth handling of Waqf properties. This apart, a provision has also been made to include officials of the rank of Joint Secretary in the Waqf board. If any Mutawalli is not properly managing the Waqf properties, a provision has been made to give him punishment and there is also a provision to take some matters to the high court. The minorities ministry said that a provision has been made to give appropriate representation to the Shia sect in the Central Waqf Board. The government wants the Waqf properties to be used for the welfare of poor and backward class people.

Sahafat (August 10) states that the general secretary of Majlis-e-Ulema-e-Hind, Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, said the government wants to push the country towards partition again. He appealed to Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu to put pressure on the government so that they withdraw this bill that destroys the Waqf.

Hamara Samaj (August 10) states that the former chairperson of Delhi Haj Committee, Mukhtar Ahmad, alleged that by amending the Waqf Act, the government is violating the rights given to

the Muslims in the Constitution. He demanded from the government that it should be immediately withdrawn. Shahi Imam of Fatehpuri masjid Dr Mufti Mohammad Mukarram Ahmad also demanded the government to withdraw this law. On the other hand, the chief of All India Imam Organisation, Maulana Umar Ahmad Ilyasi has supported the Waqf amendment bill tabled in the Parliament by the government and said that in order to stop the ongoing loot of Waqf properties, it is very much necessary to have such a law. Former member of minorities commission Atif Rashid has also supported this bill and described it as in the interests of Indian Muslims.

Hamara Samaj (August 8) reports that Indian Union Muslim League has announced that it would oppose this proposed bill both inside and outside the House. Chief of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Dr Zafarul Islam Khan, said the government did not consult any Muslim leader before presenting the bill seeking amendment in the Waqf Act in the Parliament. He said we will never accept the Islamic Waqf property to be run by a non-Muslim administrator. Once the proposed bill by the government is passed, a Collector raj will come into existence in the country, who will decide which property is that of Waqf and which is not?

According to **Hindustan** (August 7), the Milli Council has alleged that the Hinduvadi Central government wants to grab Waqf properties. This bill has been presented in the House with this goal.

Siasat (August 11) states that the president of Peace Party Dr Mohammad



Ayub said that the most objectionable thing is that once this bill is passed, the state governments have to appoint a non-Muslim Chief Executive Officer and two non-Muslim members in the Waqf board. The bill has given arbitrary powers to the district magistrate. This official works on the directions of the government, hence the Muslims do not have faith on them.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 10) has accused the Janata Dal (United) of betraying the Muslims. The newspaper has expressed surprise that the Janata Dal (U) has supported the bill in Lok Sabha. As per another news published in this newspaper, the Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to submit a memorandum after holding talks with the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, in which this bill has been opposed.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 9) said the Opposition has strongly opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament. Hence the government, in order to avoid the issue, sent the bill to the JPC. While Samajwadi Party MP Mohibbullah Nadvi described it as interference in Islam, the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi said that Muslim enmity of Modi government has now become public knowledge. Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju said the government has brought this bill to protect the interests of the poor Muslims. He said the Sachar Committee had said in its report that every year Rs 12,000 crore is generated from these Waqf properties. Now this entire amount goes into the pockets of some people, from which the ordinary Muslims do not benefit anything. He said that this law has been brought considering

the interests of Shias, Sunnis, Ahmadiyyas, Deobandis, Barelvis and the women. Jamaat-e-Islami said that the goal of the government is to grab Muslim Waqf and hand it over to the corporate world.

Siasat (August 12) has alleged that the Central government wants to snatch the Waqf properties of Muslims so that these properties are not used for the welfare of Muslims.

Urdu Times (August 9) said in its editorial that due to the unity among Opposition, the Modi government did not get the courage to pass this anti-Muslim bill in the Parliament. The bill has been referred to JPC. The newspaper alleged that Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu have stabbed Muslims in the back. Muslims had the hope that they would oppose this anti-Muslim policy of the Modi government, but they did not even think it was appropriate to open their mouth. They will have to bear the consequences of this in the elections that would take place in their states.

Urdu Times (August 10) said that it is the conspiracy of the government that the properties given in charity to Muslims for their welfare are snatched away and handed over to non-Muslims. The newspaper has described it as a conspiracy by the Sangh Parivar against Muslims.

Hindustan (August 6) in its editorial has alleged that the communal Modi government wants to grab Waqf properties worth trillions of rupees. However, Muslims did not get these properties due to the largesse of the government, instead the rich Muslims had given them for the welfare of the community.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 11) said in its editorial that due to protests from the Opposition, the Modi government had to suffer defeat in the Parliament and it failed to pass this anti-Muslim bill in the House.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (August 9) said in its editorial that the government is bringing the new Waqf law in order to grab the properties of Muslims and hand them over to non-Muslims.

Supreme court refuses to ban hijab



Mumbai Urdu News (August 10) states that the Supreme Court has stayed a circular issued by the administration of N G Acharya and D K Marathe College in Mumbai. As per this circular, hijab, niqab, burqa, topi and similar dresses are banned on the college premises. A division bench of the court said that it is unfortunate that even so many years after Independence, these kind of directions are still being issued. May be after some time the college administration itself may realise that there was no need of it. A division bench of Justice Sanjeev Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar told the lawyer representing the college, who was present in the court, that the college administration should not make such a rule which gives an indication about any particular religion.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court was told that there are 441 Muslim girls in the college. If any girl comes to the college wearing niqab, it does not create any kind of problem. The lawyer of the college, Madhavi Diwan, said the college has been providing locker and changing room facility to students right from the beginning. The lawyer said the students are insisting not just on hijab, but also on wearing niqab. On this, the division bench asked shouldn't this decision be left to the girls on what they should wear? On this the lawyer said that in such a situation some

students may come to the college wearing saffron shawls. The college doesn't want its institution to be a playground for politics. Commenting on the direction of the court, the division bench said that it is unfortunate that even after so many years of Independence you are giving these kind of directions. Diwan said how can wearing a niqab be allowed after covering the face? It will interrupt the conversation. She said that 441 Muslim girls are studying in the college and only three girls have this problem. On this, the division bench stayed the implementation of the circular till November 18. In its order, the division bench said that the stay order should not be misused. If anybody misuses the same, then the college administration could file an appeal for changes in the directions.

It is to be noted that the administration of N G Acharya and D K Marathe college in Mumbai has prepared a dress code for its students, as per which a ban has been imposed on hijab, niqab, burqa, stole, topi etc. Nine students opposed this dress code in the Bombay High Court. The Bombay High Court has upheld the ban on hijab, burqa and niqab on college premises. Following this, the students of the college questioned it in the Supreme Court. The students argued that the dress code being implemented by the managers of the college is arbitrary and

unconstitutional. This direction of the college is a violation of Section 19A of the Constitution granting the right to choose dress, the right to privacy and freedom of expression.

Avadhnama (August 10) has claimed that the Supreme Court has given a major relief to the students of Mumbai while delivering an important verdict on the issue of hijab. The Supreme Court has granted an interim stay on the ban imposed by a college in Mumbai on wearing hijab, stole and topi on the college premises. However, a direction has been given to continue the ban imposed on wearing the burqa. The next hearing on this issue will be on November 18. According to the newspaper, the court asked several piercing questions to the lawyer of the college and said that after so many years of Independence why such a decision has been taken to issue a circular all of a sudden? On this, the lawyer said that this college was established in 2008. Following this, the court asked the lawyer why the managers of the court imposed this ban? On this the lawyer said that the ban was imposed on hijab because one should not identify the students on the basis of their religion. The court said that the religion of a boy or girl student could be gauged from his or her name, hence what is the basis for making such a rule? Justice Sanjay Kumar said that how can you decide what the students should wear or not to wear? The students should have the freedom to wear the dress of their choice.

Hindustan (August 13) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and said that for the past few decades, communal elements are interfering in the religious and Shariah matters of Indian Muslims. In the past one decade, anti-Muslim powers have become more active. Sometimes if the Central and state governments take controversial decisions on sensitive issues and create troubles for Muslims, sometimes it's the fundamentalist Hindu organisations who



become active to erase the separate religious identity of Muslims. The shameful thing is that in a democratic country like Bharat, food, dress, beard and even topi are at the target of the communal elements. There are clear instructions in Shariah regarding beard, topi, burqa or hijab, and to follow them is the duty of every Muslim. The secular Constitution of Bharat allows every citizen to practice his or her religious beliefs and lead a life as they wish. This apart, the Constitution has given permission to Muslims to propagate their religion and faith. No organisation or government has got any right to interfere in the religion of any individual. Despite this, life is being made difficult for Muslims. In one such case, the Supreme Court has given a slap on the face of the communal elements. The Supreme Court has issued an interim stay order on the ban imposed on wearing of hijab, stole, topi etc on college premises by the anti-Muslim managers of a college located in Mumbai. It is to be noted that the ruling BJP government in Karnataka had imposed a ban on hijab in the educational institutions in the state which was questioned in the Supreme Court. This issue is still pending in court.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (August 11) has alleged that for the past one decade, some elements are running a well-planned campaign to wipe out Muslims and Islam in the country. Interferences are made in the religious and Shariah affairs of Muslims by such elements and at the behest of the government so that their separate identity is wiped out. The circular issued by the college managers in Mumbai

on hijab, burqa etc is also an indication of this narrow and anti-constitutional ideology. The newspaper said that hijab and burqa are mandatory parts of Islam because Islam wants to preserve the modesty and morality of women at all costs.

Mumbai Urdu News and Urdu Times (August 14) in their editorials have

also welcomed the verdict of the Supreme Court and said that the campaign that has been unleashed against Muslims will be blunted by such a verdict. The newspaper said the influence of communal ideology is visible in the decisions of some lower courts as well, but the pleasant thing is that till now the Supreme Court has remained fair and just in this connection. ■

Registration of Hajis begins for 2025



The Government of India has announced a new Haj policy for the year 2025. Along with this, the process of registration has also been started for those interested in going for Haj.

Sahafat (August 15) states that Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju has announced that those individuals interested in going for Haj can do online registration from August 13 to September 9. In this connection, online registration can be done through 'Haj Suvidha App' and on the website of Haj Committee of India. Kiren Rijiju said that several ministries of the Government of India are working together to extend more facilities to the Haj yatri. This is the reason why as soon as the Haj for the year 2024 ended, we have started preparations for next year's Haj with full enthusiasm. Our effort is to make the Haj yatra economical, secure and easy. He also issued the Haj Yatra Action Plan. On this occasion, Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian, chairman of National Commission for Minorities Iqbal Singh Lalpura and

Chairman of the Delhi State Haj Committee Kausar Jahan were also present. According to official sources, the Saudi Arabian government has fixed the quota for Indian Haj pilgrims for next year at 1.75 lakh. Several amendments have been made in the new Haj policy. Now the age limit of those interested in doing Haj in the reserved category has been reduced from 70 years to 65 years. Along with this, the age

of the companions going with them has been fixed between 18 to 60 years. This apart, women going on Haj pilgrimage without spouse have been given the freedom to take along a woman of 45-60 years of age as their companion.

Urdu Times (August 8) states that any Muslim individual, who is physically, financially and mentally healthy can submit application for the Haj. For that he or she has to upload online international passport, Aadhaar card, Pan card, bank passbook and certificate of both doses of corona vaccine. As per the new policy, any Haj yatri who is more than 65 years of age cannot go alone for Haj. He has to take along a relative of him as his helper. Now any individual will be allowed to go for Haj through the quota of Haj Committee of India only once in his life time. The name of the government employees who are sent to Saudi Arabia along with Haj yatri has been changed from Khadim-ul-Hujjaj to State Haj Inspector. As per the new policy of the government, the 70 percent portion of the



total Haj quota will now be with Haj Committee of India. Whereas the rest 30 percent portion will be given to private tour operators. Earlier, the quota of Haj Committee of India was 80 percent. Next year, flights will be available for Hajis from Lucknow, Srinagar, Gaya, Guwahati, Indore, Bhopal, Aurangabad, Jaipur, Nagpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata,

Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Kannur. The effort of the government is to see that more and more people could go for Haj yatra during their life time. So far, the government has not announced how much money will be charged from the Haj yatris and how much money will be taken from them for accommodation in Saudi Arabia. ■

Supreme Court nod for changing the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad



Urdu Times (August 3) states that the Supreme Court has given the green signal to Maharashtra government to change the names of two cities in the state. Earlier, the Maharashtra government had decided to

change the name of Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. This decision of the government was questioned in the Supreme Court. The court rejected this



petition. Earlier, the petitioners had questioned the decision of the government before the Bombay High Court, which the court had rejected. The Supreme Court said that changing the name of any city is within the jurisdiction of the government and for this it does not have to go to any court. The division bench of the Supreme Court told the petitioners that you have presented your arguments in detail in the high court and now we will not make any intervention in it. Earlier on May 8, the Bombay High Court had upheld the decision of the state government to change the name of Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. Now the Supreme Court has also given its stamp of approval for the same.

It is to be noted that on June 29, 2022, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Uddhav Thackeray, during a meeting of its cabinet, decided to change the names of both the cities. Later on July 16, 2022, the Eknath Shinde government also upheld the decision. A petition was filed before the Bombay High Court against this decision of the government. It was stated in this petition that the government had earlier in 2001 also decided to change the name of Aurangabad which was later withdrawn and now the Uddhav Thackeray's government took decision to reap political benefits. The argument of the petitioners was that this decision was against the secular tenets of the Constitution and due to this decision, tension could arise between two religious groups.

Aurangabad Times (August 3) reports that apart from Aurangabad and Osmanabad, the decision to change the

revenue area was also questioned in the Bombay High Court. It was stated in the petition that the state government took this decision for political benefits and this would create an atmosphere of religious hatred. It was also alleged in the public interest petition that a campaign has been unleashed to change the names of all those cities in Maharashtra which are related to Muslims. Refuting the

same, the Maharashtra government said that Chhatrapati Sambhaji was not any controversial person, instead, every resident of Maharashtra respects him. Following this, the Bombay High Court rejected the petition. Later the petitioners approached the Supreme Court.

In its edition dated May 9, **Aurangabad Times** said that two petitioners Mushtaq Ahmad and Mohammad Hisham Osmani had announced to question the decision of the Bombay High Court before the Supreme Court. They said that when the Shiv Sena was in power, the then chief minister Manohar Joshi had announced to rename Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar, which we had questioned in the high court. However, though the high court had rejected our petition, we got justice from the Supreme Court. Another petitioner, Mohammad Hisham Osmani, described the decision of the high court as surprising and complained that he did not get justice. The newspaper said that former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had decided to change the names of these districts in the last cabinet meeting of Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

It is noteworthy that the transfer of revenue area takes place under Section 4 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, which permits the state government to make changes on its border limit, abolishment or renaming of the revenue limit. On February 24, 2023, the Union home ministry had stamped its approval on changing the names of both these cities but the Maharashtra Revenue Authority could

not complete the process of changing the names. Later the Authority issued a notification and sought objections if any from the general public. The Bombay High Court on August 23, 2023 rejected these petitions on the basis that the new names have not been officially notified. Two weeks after the high court rejected the petitions, the new names were officially notified, after which the two petitioners questioned it in the high court again.

Comment: Since Independence till today, the names of more than 100 cities in the country have been changed. After Independence, the name of United Province of Agra and Awadh was changed to Uttar Pradesh. On November 9, 2000, a separate state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and it was named as Uttaranchal. Later its name was changed as Uttarakhand. In 1996, the name of Madras was changed as Chennai. In 1996, the name Bombay was changed as Mumbai and the capital of West Bengal Calcutta was changed as Kolkata. Similarly, the name Bangalore was changed as Bengaluru. The name Poona was changed as Pune. Similarly, the names of several districts and places in Maharashtra were also changed. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, there the names of more than a dozen cities have been

changed. This include changing the name of Faizabad as Ayodhya and Allahabad as Prayagraj. Similarly, the name Mughalsarai was changed as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

The campaign to change the names was started by Samajwadi leader Ram Manohar Lohia. Due to his agitation, the names of several roads in national capital Delhi named after British rulers were changed. This apart, during the massive protests by the activists of Samyukta Socialist Party, more than four dozen statues of foreign rulers erected in different places of national capital Delhi were damaged. Following this, the administration decided to remove the statues of foreign rulers from public places. The interesting thing is that Lohia did not campaign to change the names of roads named after Mughal rulers or Muslim rulers of foreign origin. Later the leaders of Jan Sangh had conducted a campaign to change the names of all roads named after the rulers of foreign origin. Following this, the Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Council also decided to change the names of several roads named after foreign rulers. Recently, a resolution was passed to change the name of Aligarh as Harigarh.

Salman Khurshid elected president of India Islamic Cultural Centre

Roznama Sahara (August 15) reports that senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Salman Khurshid has been elected as the new president of the most important and much talked about institution of Indian Muslims, the India Islamic Cultural Centre. According to the newspaper, this institution got a new chief after a gap of 20 years. There were five senior persons in the fray for the post of the president. The outgoing president of the institution, Sirajuddin Qureshi, opted out of the contest because he had crossed the age of 75 years. He



had even approached the court seeking to amend the constitution of the institution and demanded that the age limit to contest the elections shall be cancelled, but the Delhi High Court did not grant



permission for the same. After this, on behalf of Sirajuddin Qureshi panel, renowned cancer surgeon and national convenor of Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Dr Majid Ahmed Talikoti was fielded, but he got only very few votes.

It is to be noted that the number of members at this institution is said to be more than 4,000. However, nearly 2,000 members did not pay their annual membership fee and hence the high court did not allow them to take part in the elections. This time, 2,054 members were given permission to take part in the voting, which included approximately 200 non-Muslim members as well. As per the letter issued by the election officer of India Islamic Cultural Centre, Pradeep Kumar, Salman Khurshid got a total of 721 votes for the post of the president. Whereas, for the post of vice president, former Mayor of Aligarh, Mohammad Furqan, registered victory. He got 396 votes. Sirajuddin Qureshi, former director general of Doordarshan S M Khan, former IPS officer Syed Qamar Ahmad, former IAS officer Khwaja Mohammad Shahid, Abuzar Hussain Khan, Smt. Farooq Naz and Sikander Hayat have been elected to the board of trustees of the centre.

Inquilab (August 15) reports that there were five panels of candidates which participated in the elections. Among them, none of the panels got a majority, but Salman Khurshid's panel dominated in the elections. The

foundation for this centre was laid by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. For this, land was purchased from the government.

The building of this centre is a mixed form of Indo-Islamic architecture. The imprint of Iranian architecture is also clearly visible on it. This centre is located in Lodhi Garden area in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi in 2006.

According to critics, it is not possible for any ordinary Muslim to get membership in the institution because its entry fee itself starts from Rs 1 lakh. Sirajuddin Qureshi remained the president of this centre for nearly 20 years. Former MP and a senior member of the centre, Mohammad Adeeb, tried to get the elections postponed and a joint panel is formed through a consensus between four panels, but he did not succeed in his effort. The interesting thing is that in this connection, he did not even contact the panel of Sirajuddin Qureshi. Adeeb said that after 3 years, Salman Khurshid will be 75 years and once again elections need to be conducted for office-bearers. The founding members of this centre include Abdul Hameed of Hamdard, Mufti Atiqur Rahman of Jamiat Ulema, retired Indian Foreign Service officer Badruddin Faiz Tyabji and the wife of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Aabida Ali Ahmed among others.

Interim government formed in Bangladesh



Urdu Times (August 6) reports that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had to resign from her post and take refuge in Bharat due to massive public anger.

Inquilab (August 16) states that the interim government of Bangladesh has decided that the Ambassadors appointed to seven countries during the reign of Sheikh Hasina shall be recalled. The Bangladesh government has directed the Ambassadors appointed to US, Russia, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Maldives to immediately return to the country. On the other hand, the Bangladeshi students stopped the supporters of Awami League from observing the anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Those who went to the old residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to offer tributes were beaten up and driven away by the students and the Mujib library was locked with barbed wires on all four sides.

Inquilab (August 14) states that murder cases have been filed against Sheikh Hasina and many of her officials. Those against whom murder cases have been registered include former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, general

secretary of Awami League Obaidul Quader and five other senior officials. The interim government in Bangladesh has formed a separate cell to conduct an investigation against them.

Urdu Times (August 14) states that the advisor to the home minister of Bangladesh Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain has said that the Bangladesh government will demand from the Indian government that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, an accused in a murder case, shall be handed over to them so that the case could be heard against her in the court. He said that he was hopeful that the Indian government would take our demand seriously and hand over the accused in the murder case to us. He said that an agreement has been in place between the two countries for many decades. As per this agreement, if a criminal case is filed against any individual in any of the two countries, then the accused should be handed over to that country where the case has been registered against him or her. He said that if India tries to interfere in the affairs of Bangladesh, it would not be good for them. In any case, Bharat is facing troubles from all sides and it should resolve these problems first. He said that being a

neighbour, Bangladesh expects help from Bharat, but it does not want any foreigner to interfere in its internal matters.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the case that has been registered against Sheikh Hasina and her colleagues is related to the murder of an individual, Abu Sayed. Abu Sayed was killed in a police firing on July 19. The case was registered by the relatives of the deceased.

Earlier the students had clearly announced that they would not accept a military rule. Following this, a 15-member interim government was formed under the leadership of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. As per the Constitution of Bangladesh, the interim government has to conduct elections in the country within 90 days. The new government has announced to dissolve the Parliament and released prominent Opposition leader Khaleda Zia from the jail.

Urdu Times (August 8) states that 78-year-old Khaleda Zia, who was released from jail after being incarcerated for six-and-a-half years, addressed people through video-conferencing. Khaleda Zia is the president of Bangladesh Nationalist Party. She was looking very weak. After being released from jail, she was admitted to a hospital. In her address, she said that the previous regime was one of oppression and torture. Now it has ended. Now the country has to go forward. She said she would not take revenge upon anyone.

As per another news, the Attorney General of Bangladesh A M Amin Uddin has resigned from his post. Similarly, as per another news, huge changes have been brought in the military of Bangladesh as well. Major General Ziaul Ahsan, who was close to Sheikh Hasina, was removed from his post and Major General Ridwanur Rahman was appointed in his place. Whereas another senior officer Lt General Saiful Alam was appointed in the foreign ministry. Similarly, Lt General Mujibur



Rahman was made GOC in military training and doctrine command. Lt General Ahmed Tabrez Shams Chowdhury was appointed Quarter Master General and Lt General Mizanur Rahman Shamim was appointed Chief of General Staff. Whereas another officer Lt General Mohammad Shahinul was appointed as the Commandant of NDC.

Roznama Sahara (August 17) states that the United Nations had said that more than 600 people were killed during the protests that took place in Bangladesh, while thousands of people were injured.

Urdu Times (August 11) states that the students had gheraoed the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and demanded Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan to resign from the post. Following this, all the judges of the Supreme Court including Obaidul Hassan had announced resignation from their posts.

Inquilab (August 14) states that the interim government has appointed Syed Refaat Ahmed as the Chief of Justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court. This apart, four other judges have also been appointed. The new prime minister has also announced the appointment of his several advisors. Among them, the names of Farooq Azam, Bidhan Ranjan Rai and Supradip Chakma are worth mentioning.

Inquilab (August 11) states that the Governor of Bangladesh Central Bank Abdur Rauf Talukdar has also resigned from his post. Four other Deputy Governors have also resigned from their post along with him. The student leaders have been demanding their resignation.

This apart, the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University has also resigned from his post.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 8) states that violent mobs have attacked more than 500 police stations across the country and killed nearly 100 policemen. As per media report, violent mobs had also looted weapons and ammunition from these police stations. Due to this, the entire police system had collapsed.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 11) reports that a huge mob had set alive at least 29 leaders of Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League. The supporters of Awami League were selectively targeted across Bangladesh.

Siasat (August 12) states that the former prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has alleged for the first time that the hands of US were behind the overthrow of her government. She said that the US has sought from her the St Martin island to establish an air base. When she rejected the demand of the US, they entered into a conspiracy with other fundamentalist powers and overthrew my government. Had she handed over this island to the US, she would not have to abdicate power. She claimed that she decided to sacrifice her post in the interest of the public. Sheikh Hasina appealed to the people of the country not to be misled by the radicals. She also clarified that she had never described any student as Razakar. Now the conspirators are provoking the students and youths against her and pushed the country towards violence and unrest. She said she was very said that several leaders of her party were killed and their houses were looted.

It is worth mentioning that the US and Britain had refused to grant refuge to Sheikh Hasina in their country. The area of St Martin Island, which Sheikh Hasina had mentioned in her statement, is just three kilometres and its distance from the border of Myanmar is just five miles. In June 2023, Sheikh Hasina had alleged during her election campaign that if the opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party comes

to power, it would hand over St Martin island to the US. It is to be noted that earlier in May Sheikh Hasina had alleged that some foreign powers have been conspiring to establish a Christian country by joining some parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar on the lines of East Timor.

Avadhnama (August 13) states that the US has rejected the claim that its hands were behind the overthrow of Sheikh Hasina. The press secretary of White House said this allegation is baseless. It is the decision of the people of Bangladesh whom they want to make as their rulers. We do not want to make any interference in any foreign issues. Talking about the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, the spokesperson said we are monitoring the situation.

Etemaad (August 14) in its editorial said the US has rejected the claim of its hands behind the developments in Bangladesh. The truth is that the situation turned worse because of the dictatorial methods adopted by the Sheikh Hasina government to crush public anger. The crisis that has been created there is an internal matter of Bangladesh and Sheikh Hasina is fully responsible for the same. Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh, Iftekhar Zaman said that the Awami League had destroyed all democratic and constitutional institutions. Due to the dictatorial stand of Sheikh Hasina, protests spread in the country. It was started by the students. The newspaper alleged that the opposition parties had many times accused Hasina of adopting a dictatorial attitude, rigging the elections, suppressing the opposition and the media, but she did not heed to the warnings.

Hindustan (August 7) in its editorial said that Sheikh Hasina alone is responsible for the situation that has arisen in Bangladesh. When the people who were reeling under increasing inflation and unemployment expressed their anger, efforts were made to crush them using the military.

Myanmar military kills more than 200 Rohingyas

Sahafat (August 12) states that the Army attacked those Rohingyas who were fleeing Myanmar using aircraft and drones. At least 200 Rohingyas were killed in these attacks. Four social workers who were witness to the incident alleged that when the Rohingya Muslims tried to enter Bangladesh in order to save their lives, the Myanmar military opened indiscriminate firing on them, in which at least 200 people were killed. According to diplomatic sources, clashes have been taking place between rebels and the military for the past one month in the Rakhine province in Myanmar. The Rakhine militia and the Myanmar Army have been accusing each other of attacks. There is no official data available as to how many people were killed in these attacks, but the claim of those who reached Bangladesh to save their lives is that more than 200 people were killed in these attacks. Among them, one

person claimed that he himself had counted 70 bodies. As per the news published in Bangladesh media, Rohingya Muslims were trying to flee on four boats from the Rakhine region. During this time, they drowned in the sea in which more than 100 people were killed. They included women and children.

It is to be noted that for the past several years, the Army of Buddhist-majority Myanmar has unleashed a campaign of genocide against the minority Rohingya Muslims residing in the Rakhine region. The Myanmar government consider them as foreigners and is not ready to give them citizenship. The army there is carrying out a campaign to wipe them out. It is said that more than 20 lakh Rohingya Muslims have taken refuge in Bangladesh and they are staying in the refugee camps there under the supervision of United Nations.

Nationwide riots against Muslims in Britain



Roznama Sahara (July 31) states that in Southport in Britain, a 17-year-old Muslim youth, Axel Rudakubana, attacked children playing in a park using a knife and killed three girls. Nine other children were also injured in this attack, out of which the condition of six children was stated to be

serious. Since the role of one Muslim teen was found in this attack, riots erupted against Muslims across the country and several masjids were attacked. British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has admitted that such widespread riots have never taken place in the country in the past

few years. According to the newspaper, this incident took place in North-Western England. This Muslim teen attacked a dance and yoga workshop in the Southport town located in Liverpool. The police arrested the attacker on the spot itself and seized a blood-stained knife from him. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed concern over this incident and said that it was a terrible incident. According to the newspaper, in the



recent years, there is a huge increase in incidents of knife attacks in England and Wales in the recent years. According to the Home Ministry of Britain, after December 2023, in the first six months, more than 14,000 incidents of knife attacks were registered in different police stations in Britain. During the election campaign, Labour Party had announced that this dangerous trend would be strongly curbed.

Inquilab (August 5) states that following this incident, public anger erupted across the country. Huge protests were held in Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester and Blackpool against Muslims. Many Muslim shops were looted and masjids were attacked. The newspaper has written that there is so much anger against Muslims that people are now scared of going to church and women are scared of wearing burqa and visiting the market.

Urdu Times (August 10) states that London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that he never thought of such sentiments against Muslims in a country like Britain. He said that being a Muslim he himself does not feel safe in Britain.

Hindustan (August 8) states that many masjids in Britain were attacked and they were set on fire. This anti-Muslim campaign was being run by an extreme-

right organisation, English Defence League. In more than a dozen cities in Britain, huge mobs had targeted masjids and shops and buildings of Muslims.

Hindustan (August 9) states that in view of the nationwide anti-Muslim riots, 6,000 police officials were deployed for the protection of houses and shops of Muslims. The situation was so serious that British Prime Minister Keir Starmer had to convene a meeting of Emergency Response Committee for the second time. The police had arrested more than 400 people from across the country. They were accused of planning for the riots and spreading the same.

As per a news published in **Avadhnama** (August 9), the hands of an organisation named English Defence League were behind the anti-Muslim riots that has spread in Britain. This organisation was established in 2009. The organisation is considered as an opponent of Islam and Muslims. The office-bearers of this organisation claim that they are against Islamic fundamentalism and Shariah law. They said that the Islamic Caliphate will not be allowed any foothold in Europe under any circumstance. The number people belonging to this organisation is said to be nearly 25,000-35,000. ■

India's relationship with Maldives improves



After the newly elected President of Maldives Muhammad Muizzu assumed office, much tension had arisen in India's relationship with Maldives. Now, after the visit of India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Maldives, there is lot of change in his stand.

Roznama Sahara (August 14) states that after a three-day visit of India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Maldives, the relationship between the two countries has improved. However, Muhammad Muizzu had earlier visited New Delhi to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Maldives is a very important maritime neighbour of India. It is a very important nation to India due to the policies of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'SAGAR Vision.' Muizzu's sympathy is with China and this is not even hidden from anyone. He fought his elections based on 'India Out' campaign. There is this tradition in Maldives that soon after a new President of the country takes oath of office, he pays a visit to Bharat. However, violating this tradition, Maldives President Muizzu had directly gone to Beijing instead of visiting Delhi. On this occasion, he signed 20 agreements with China, which included some military agreements as well.

Earlier, Muizzu had not only expelled 80 members of Indian Technology Cooperation group who were staying in

Maldives for decades, but also returned the helicopters and Dornier aircraft back to India which had been given as gift to Maldives. Now all of a sudden Muizzu had to change his policies and he landed in Delhi to take part in the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Indian tourists are an important part of the economy of Maldives. When the Indian tourists, after seeing the anti-India stand of Maldives, started boycotting them, Maldives had suffered huge economic setbacks. Now, in order to make up for that, Mohammad Muizzu had to launch a special campaign to attract Indian tourists to Maldives.

Roznama Sahara (August 11) reports that India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had held detailed talks with Defence Minister Ghassan Maumoon, Commerce Minister Mohamed Saeed and Finance Minister Mohamed Shafeeq apart from President Muhammad Muizzu on various issues. Later, he also inaugurated six high-profile community development programmes (HISDP) being launched with India's cooperation. Earlier, Jaishankar had also planted a sapling at a park along with Maldives Foreign Affairs Minister Moosa Zameer. According to official sources, Maldives President is likely to visit India next year. It is hoped that the trade relationship between Maldives and India would improve. ■

Terrorist attack in Pakistan



Taasir (August 14) states that Pakistani media has claimed that several terrorist attacks took place in many places in the country just before the Independence Day of Pakistan. At least nine persons were killed in these attacks. According to Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn', on August 13, the terrorists targeted citizens and soldiers at three places. One attack took place in Balochistan's capital Quetta. It is said that a few unidentified terrorists arrived riding motorcycles and they attacked the police vehicle with hand grenades. Eight policemen were killed on this spot in this attack. On the same day, the terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on a vehicle carrying students of Quetta University in which three students and the vehicle driver were killed. In another attack on Balochistan's Quetta-Karachi National Highway, the terrorists attacked the vehicle of Panjgur Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Baloch, in which six Pakistani officials including Zakir Hussain Baloch were killed.

Hindustan (August 14) states that clashes erupted between the soldiers of Afghanistan and Pakistan armies on Torkham chowki. The Afghan government alleged that Pakistan had violated the Afghanistan border. Following this, firing took place between

the two sides. Later the Afghanistan government closed the Torkham border. The home ministry of Afghanistan government claimed that four Afghan women and two children were killed in this attack. Spokesperson of Taliban government Zabiullah Mujahid alleged that the Pakistani Air Force planes are continuously violating the airspace. In this connection, a protest had been launched with the Pakistan government. He said that now the limit for tolerance has been expired. Now we are being forced to take action against these aerial violations. As per media reports, Islamic terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan had captured several villages in North Waziristan. They have formed their fronts in Pakistani villages and they are taking on the Pakistani Army.

Taasir (August 13) states that a spokesperson of Balochistan Liberation Front said that their fighters will continue with their attacks on Pakistani Army. He said that this month we have so far killed 20 Pakistani soldiers. Balochistan Liberation Front urged Baloch citizens that they observe the Independence Day of Pakistan as a black day and boycott all the functions being organised by the government. He said that Pakistan has forcefully occupied their locality. ■

US nod to sell weapons worth 20 billion dollars to Israel



Inquilab (August 15) reports that the US has announced the sale of new weapons worth 20 billion dollars to Israel. According to news agency 'AFP,' human rights organisations in US have been putting pressure on President Joe Biden for a long time not to supply weapons to Israel. Now the US administration has ignored this demand of the human rights organisations. As per a notification issued by the US government, a decision has been taken to sell 50 F-15 ultra-modern fighter jets worth 18.32 billion dollars to Israel. This apart, a decision has also been taken to give 33,000 missiles mounted on tanks, large quantity of ammunition and new military vehicles also to Israel. The supply of aircraft will begin in 2029. Israel will upgrade the present fighter planes and will install in them the latest radar and other defence equipment. US President Joe Biden said that it is in the national interest of the US that it strengthens the security system of Israel so that it will be able to face any

kind of attacks. According to official sources, considering the increasing threats to Israel, advanced tank-mounted missiles are being supplied to the country.

As per another news, a spokesperson of US government said that now the time for tolerance has been over and we have entered a difficult time. The situation is explosive and anything could happen in Israel. The US will support its friend Israel under any circumstance and will provide the safety armour to it so that any foreign attack on Israel could be stopped. He said that the US agencies know about the intentions of Iran and it is very much necessary to protect Israel from Iran. As per another news, US President Joe Biden expressed hope that Iran would desist from its efforts to attack Israel in the name of retaliation for the murder of Ismail Haniyeh. If Iran attacks Israel, the talks that have been started for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas would land in trouble.

Yahya Sinwar named new chief of Hamas



Inqilab (August 8) states that after the death of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, now Yahya Sinwar has been named as his successor. Sinwar has been functioning as the chief of Hamas in Gaza. It is to be noted that in February 2017, Yahya Sinwar was named as the head of the political wing of Hamas in Gaza Strip in place of Ismail Haniyeh and Khalil al-Hayya was appointed as his deputy. Nearly 13 groups fighting against Israel in Palestine have welcomed the appointment of Yahya Sinwar and have given the indication that now the centre of military and political activities of Hamas would be Gaza. The fighting groups said that the decision to appoint Yahya Sinwar is an indication that whatever difficult time would it be Hamas would continue with the armed struggle against Israel till the last breath.

Roznama Sahara (August 8) states that Yahya Sinwar was born in Khan Yunus region in Gaza in 1962. Sinwar had joined Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) in Gaza. In 1987, the name of this organisation has been changed to Hamas. Sinwar had obtained a Bachelor's degree in Arabic language from Islamic University in Gaza. During his studies in the university, he functioned as the head of the Islamic bloc of the student's wing of Ikhwanul Muslimeen. Later he laid the foundation for the security wing of Ikhwanul Muslimeen which is known in

the name of Al Mujahid. Its aim is to free Gaza from Israel through armed struggle. Sinwar had spent nearly 27 years of his life as a prisoner in different jails of Israel.

According to US news agency 'AP', the appointment of Sinwar as the head of the Hamas is a clear indication that despite suffering huge damages in Gaza, the morale of Hamas

is high. However, US, Germany, Israel and many other European nations have declared Hamas as a terrorist organisation. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a press conference that it is clear from the appointment of Sinwar that now the responsibility for a decision on ceasefire in Gaza rests with the new chief of Hamas. He said that it is true that for the past some time Sinwar has been running the military and political policies of Hamas. Now the responsibility to prepare an official strategy for the future rests with him.

Commenting on the appointment of Sinwar, Israel's defence minister said the reins of Hamas has now come into the hands of a dangerous terrorist. He said that the new chief of Hamas will also not be able to escape from our target and he would have been finished off early so that the world is freed from this Islamic terrorist organisation. Until Islamic terrorism remains, there will not be any peace in the world. Spokesperson of Israeli military said that our goal is clear-- will take Sinwar to the same place where we sent Haniyeh and many members of the Hamas leadership. It is necessary for the protection of Israel that terrorist organisations like Hamas and Hezbollah are wiped out under any situation.

Roznama Sahara (August 9) states that a senior official of Egypt's national security agency said that two names were discussed as successor to Haniyeh. Among

them, the name of Khaled Mashal's was on top, who is considered as the face of Ikhwanul Muslimeen. The second name was that of Iran-supported Khalil al-Hayya. In view of the dispute, the board of directors of Ikhwanul Muslimeen exerted pressure on the head of the executive council of Hamas Abu Umar Hasan that he hands over this responsibility to some



other person than these two. He claimed that there were serious differences between Iran and Ikhwanul Muslimeen over Sinwar. This differences could lay the seed for division of the organisation in future. He said that the documents related to the establishment of Hamas is evidence of the fact that Hamas is a wing of Ikhwanul Muslimeen in Palestine but in the selection of Sinwar, the leadership of Ikhwanul Muslimeen is ignored and importance was given to the leadership of Iran. Whether its Hamas or Hezbollah, both are working as puppets in the hands of Iran government. Ikhwanul Muslimeen does not like the dominance of Iran.

Hindustan (August 9) in its editorial, while welcoming the appointment of Sinwar as Hamas chief, said that ever since the name of Sinwar was announced, the Israel has lost sleep. One also gets an indication on this from the tweet of a senior official of Israel's intelligence wing that we have committed a mistake by killing Ismail Haniyeh and now Sinwar, a more dangerous person than him, has become the chief of Hamas. This has increased the threat to Israel. The newspaper has claimed that Israel, which was celebrating

its victory after the murder of Haniyeh, has bitten the dust. One move of Hamas has ruined all the plans of Israel. Now Israel and the US have to sit with the same person at the table whom they used to describe as a terrorist till yesterday.

Analysts across the world opine that Haniyeh was a serious person. He was such a face of Hamas who believed in diplomacy and was always prepared to resolve all issues by sitting on the sides of table. Now, Israel has to deal with a radical person who holds talks by keeping the pistol on the table and he doesn't keep faith on any kind of liberalism. His only goal is to completely destroy Israel using every possible means. He was famous for his cruelty towards Jews. He dares to beat even the CIA apart from the Israeli army and its intelligence agency Mossad. He is so cunning that the agencies of the US and Israel, despite using all most modern equipment, were unable to identify his location. His base was attacked at least a dozen times to kill him, but he has escaped every time. The truth is that whether it's the Ikhwanul Muslimeen of Arabs or the Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh, no power in the world can even touch their hair. ■

Attack by Islamic terrorists in Somalia

Roznama Sahara (August 4) reports that at least 32 people were killed and 63 were injured in an attack by Islamic terrorists in the coastal area of Somalian capital Mogadishu. A terrorist group belonging to

Al Qaida, Al Shabab, has taken responsibility for the attack. The Somalian government has also confirmed the attack. According to news agency 'AFP', armed terrorists belonging to Al Shabab arrived

on the sea coast of Somalian capital in boats and started opening indiscriminate firing on people. It is to be noted that Al Shabab is staging a rebellion against the UN-recognised government of Somalia for the past 17 years. In a viral video on social media, bodies were seen strewn around in many places and there is blood everywhere.



Informed sources claim that the number of those killed are much higher than that of the government release. Police spokesperson Abdifatah Adan Hassan said in a press conference that there is possibility of the number of deaths going up, because the condition of majority of those who have been admitted to hospitals with injuries is serious. He said

that as soon as the attackers of Al Shabab started opening fire on people, the government soldiers opened retaliatory fire. At least five terrorists were killed in this retaliatory fire. One terrorist blew himself up, in which six policemen were killed. Somalia has demanded African nations that they cooperate with it to wipe out Islamic terrorism.

Russian troops training in Iran



Roznama Sahara (August 11) reports that British news agency 'Reuters' has claimed that dozens of Russian soldiers are receiving training in the military camps in Iran. They were being given training in the use of ballistic missile system 'Fatah-360' developed by Iran. As per news, Iran would soon supply Russia with Satellite Guided weapons, which the Russia is likely to use in its war against Ukraine. Russian sources have confirmed that a few months ago, an agreement was signed in Tehran with the representatives of Iranian government

regarding the supply of ballistic missile system. It is being said that Iran is supplying missiles named Fatah-360 to Russia. The killing range of this missile is 120 km. A military expert said that though Russia has ballistic missiles with them earlier itself, their firepower has increased

due to the supply of missiles by Iran.

Hindustan (August 1) reports that Iran's Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) has claimed that Iranian Navy has such cruise missiles with them that it would not be possible to find them using radar. The chief of IRGC Major General Hussain Salami said that in today's world you need to be strong and powerful to protect yourself, otherwise you will be wiped out. He also said that Iranian Navy is being equipped with most modern surveillance equipment and radars.

Differences in the top leadership of Iran



Iran would continue to follow the policies of late president Ebrahim Riasi and would not make any changes in it.

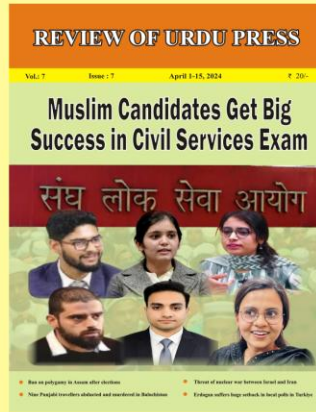
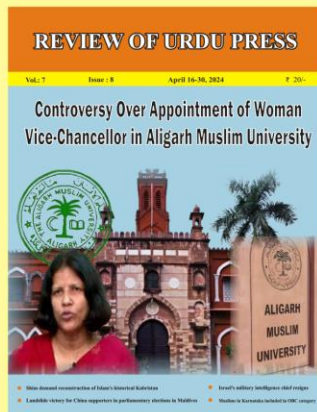
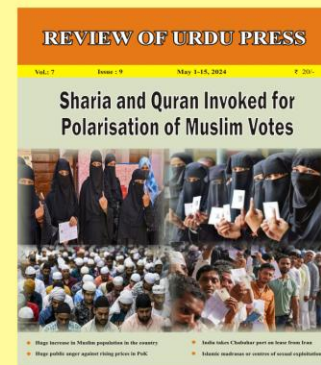
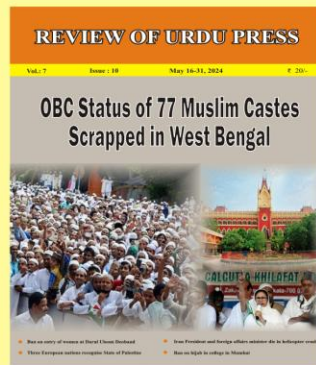
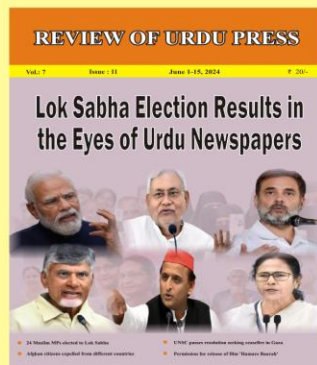
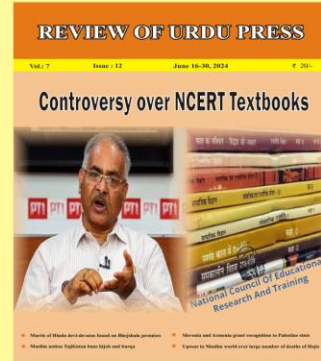
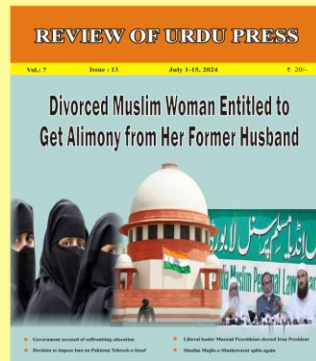
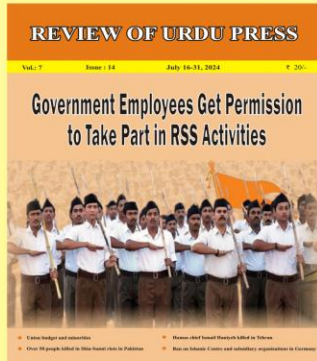
It is said that former president Raisi was considered as a radical and he was accused of hanging to death thousands of people while being the chief justice of the country. In the elections held in Iran in 2021, he had defeated liberal president Hassan Rouhani. Rouhani was considered as a supporter

Urdu Times (August 13) reports that serious differences have surfaced among the top leadership of Iran over determining the foreign policy. Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian has appointed former foreign affairs minister Jawad Zarif as the vice-president. Just 11 days after his appointment, Jawad Sharif resigned from his post.

Inqilab (August 12) states that the Iran President has appointed Mohammad Islami as the Vice-President and the head of the nuclear development programme. Sixty-seven-year-old Islami was initially removed from his post. Now he has been appointed once again as the head of the nuclear energy development department. President Masoud Pezeshkian has appointed him at a time when the Western countries have announced fresh sanctions on Iran in connection with the country's nuclear development programme. However, President Pezeshkian had announced during his election campaign that he would try to restore the nuclear agreements signed with foreign countries but now he had to change his policy due to pressure from the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei. Khamenei had announced that

of liberal policy. In the 2024 elections, Iran's supreme council had banned Rouhani from contesting the elections.

It is to be noted that no candidate got 50% votes in the elections held in Iran for the post of president after the death of Raisi in a helicopter accident and hence elections had to be held again. A total of six candidates were in the fray in this elections. The most favourite candidate of Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was radical leader Sayeed Jalili, but he was defeated by Masoud Pezeshkian. Apart from Pezeshkian and Jalili, many other candidates were also in the field, among which the names of Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Ali Raza Zakani and Mostafa Pourmohammadi were worth mentioning. Seven women had also expressed their desire to contest the presidential elections. This apart, a total of 80 candidates had expressed their wish to contest the presidential elections. However, Iran's Supreme Guardian Council had allowed only six candidates to enter the electoral field.



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