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Supreme Court Stops Surveys at Masjids and Dargahs



- RSS at the target of Urdu media
- Taliban minister killed in suicide attack in Kabul
- Bashar Al-Assad's rule ends in Syria
- Case against former ISI chief in military court

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Summary

Centuries ago, Islamic invaders had demolished Hindu temples and constructed masjids and dargahs in their places. In the past few years, the Hindu bodies had launched a campaign to find the original form of these masjids and dargahs by filing petitions in various courts in the country. The Muslim organisations have approached the Supreme Court against this move. Now the Supreme Court has stopped surveys to find the original form of Muslim places of worship and registering of new cases in this connection. Muslim organisations have come out in support of this order of the Supreme Court. They claim that this decision of the Supreme Court will put a stop to filing petitions in courts regarding Muslim places of worship.

Recently, a judge of Allahabad High Court, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, had said at a conference organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad that the country would be run as per the wishes of the majority community. He clarified that Hindus do not expect Muslims to adopt their culture, but they do not have the right to target Hindu devi-devatas or the faith of Hindus. The Urdu newspapers and the so-called secular parties have unleashed a propaganda against Sangh Parivar and Modi government under the pretext of the statement of Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav.

The powers sitting abroad are still dreaming about establishing an Islamic rule in Bharat. Sensing their dangerous intentions, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), has launched a massive drive against Islamic terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad. More than two dozen Islamic terrorists have been arrested in this connection so far. However, the financial aid being received by this terrorist organisation from abroad in an illegal manner could not be stopped so far.

In Bangladesh, Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI is rapidly spreading its network. The Islamic extremist organisations in Bangladesh are targeting innocent Hindus at the behest of Pakistanis. In Bangladesh, several Sants of ISKCON have been arrested on fake charges. The Hindu temples are set on fire after looting them. Anti-Hindu and anti-Bharat protests are taking place in Bangladesh at the behest of Pakistan. The Bangladesh government is giving open support to these protests.

Syria's autocratic President Bashar al-Assad had to flee from his country. A repeat of the manner in which Saddam Hussain's army in Iraq surrendered their weapons without facing the US army has happened in Syria. The Syrian army's strength is nearly 1.5 lakh. Whereas the strength of the rebels is just 30,000. In Syria, there has been a faceoff between the Shias and the Sunnis. The Sunnis won this fight. Bashar Al-Assad has been in power in Syria for the past 24 years. He had the open support of both Iran and Russia. The US and Israel have been trying to overthrow President Bashar Al-Assad for a long time. Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been supporting the two countries in order to overthrow the Al-Assad government.

The Bashar Al-Assad government has been on the target of the Sunnis right from the beginning. In 2005, Sunni terrorist organisation Al Qaida had launched a campaign to overthrow it. Sunni leader Abu Mohammed Al-Julani was selected to run this campaign. He formed a rebel organisation named Al-Nusra Front. Later it severed its relationship with Al Qaida and entered into a deal with the chief of hardcore Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. It is said that both the organisations were linked to the US in one way or the other.



Supreme Court stops surveys at masjids and dargahs



Inquilab (December 13) states that the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition of Jamiat Ulema, stopped hearings in all the courts in the country on new cases related to surveys in masjids and dargahs. It is to be noted that in the past few days, the Hindu activists filed petitions in the court and staked claims over Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Ajmer dargah and a few other Muslim places of worship. Against this, the Jamiat Ulema filed a petition in the Supreme Court and demanded that the Constitutional validity of Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991 be clarified. A special bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna, Justice P V Sanjay Kumar and Justice K V Vishwanathan directed various courts in the country not to conduct any hearings until the Supreme Court delivers its final verdict in cases related to surveys or staking claim over Muslim places of worship like the Gyanvapi masjid, Shahi Idgah in Mathura and Jama Masjid in Sambhal. This apart, no new petition shall be filed in the courts in this connection. The Supreme Court has directed the Central government to file its reply within four weeks. The court said that without knowing the view point of the Central government, the issue cannot be discussed. Justice Vishwanathan said in his remarks that the five-member Constitution

bench of the Supreme Court had upheld the Constitutional validity of Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991 in the Ram Janmabhumi-Babri Masjid issue. However, despite this the lower courts are hearing cases in this connection.

Roznama Sahara (December 8) states that the Supreme Court has announced the constitution of a special bench to look into the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991. Earlier, the Gyanvapi masjid management committee had sought the Supreme Court's intervention in the case questioning the Constitutional validity of the Act. It is said that BJP leader Subramanian Swami, spiritual orator Devkinandan Thakur, senior advocate Ashwini Upadhyaya etc filed a petition in the court and questioned the Constitutional validity of Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991. In its petition, Jamiat Ulema said that if courts are allowed to conduct hearings on petitions filed against this law, then a flood of cases will be filed against the masjids and dargahs across the country.

The Supreme Court had earlier in March 2021 itself issued a notice to the Centre and sought its reply on petitions questioning the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991. The court had also directed that the petitions filed in various

courts in this connection shall be heard together. On this issue, the final order was issued by the registrar in the court on November 30, 2023. It has been said in this that the Centre has not filed its counter affidavit yet. In the petitions filed in the court, the Constitutional validity of Article 2, 3 and 4 of Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act was questioned and it had been argued that these sections are against the spirit of the Constitution and principles of secularism.

Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna suggested that a portal shall be created where the replies filed in this connection could be easily seen. On this Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that in this connection some platform like Google Drive link could be used. The court has given four weeks' time to all sides to file their replies in the court. The court said that as long as this case is pending, no court in the country should hear any new cases in this connection. This apart, until the Supreme Court delivers its verdict with regard to the Places of Worship Act, 1991 the lower courts shall not issue any orders on Bhojshala, Gyanvapi and on the Jama Masjid issue in Sambhal.

A lawyer said in the court that currently 18 cases are pending in different courts in the country related to places of worship. Among them, 10 are related to masjids. In lower courts where cases are pending against Muslim places of worship include Jama Masjid (Mangaluru), Jama Masjid Shamsi (Badaun), Gyanvapi masjid (Varanasi), Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah (Mathura), Tele Wale Masjid (Lucknow), Bhojshala Kamal Maula Masjid (Dhar), Quwwatul Islam Masjid (Delhi), Jama Masjid (Sambhal), Dargah Ajmer Sharif and Atala Masjid (Jaunpur). The Supreme Court order could affect these cases.

Inquilab (December 13) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has welcomed the final order of the Supreme



Court. The board expressed surprise that despite the existence of Places of Worship Act, the lower courts are hearing petitions seeking survey in masjids and dargahs. Due to this, the entire law has become meaningless. The board claimed that due to this decision of the Supreme Court, there would be an end to the activities of mischievous elements across the country. Senior journalist Shahid Siddiqui has described this verdict of the Supreme Court as historic. He said that due to this verdict of the court, those elements who have been trying to spoil peace have suffered a major jolt.

Roznama Sahara (December 15) in its editorial has welcomed the verdict of the Supreme Court. The newspaper said that the increasing attacks on Muslims and incidents of staking claims on their religious places raise serious questions regarding the country's social and legal system. It is a dangerous threat not only to the Muslims of the country, but also to the democratic and secular fabric of the country. This increases social tension. Looks like the law created by the Indian Parliament for the protection of places of worship itself has landed in trouble now. The petitions which have been filed against this law and the directions issued by various courts for a survey looking for so-called temples beneath the masjids have increased communal tension in the country. The digging for temples beneath the masjids have hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims.

Hindustan (December 14) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court. The newspaper said that



this will create an atmosphere of communal harmony and peace in the country. This direction of the court has proved that the Supreme Court is fully aware of the sensitivity of the issue.

In an article published in **Etemaad** (December 15), it has been said that some political parties have taken advantage of a statement of the former Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud and they have started challenging the Places of Worship Act in the courts. This has created a threat to the peaceful atmosphere in the country. It is worth mentioning that the petition seeking survey at Gyanvapi masjid has been accepted by the district judge of Varanasi. When this decision was questioned in the Allahabad High Court, it also upheld the decision of the district judge. The Muslim side approached the Supreme Court on that day itself against this verdict of the high court and demanded from the court that the survey shall be stopped immediately. The bench headed by

Chief Justice Chandrachud granted green signal to the decision to conduct the survey. This decision gave lower courts a free hand to act arbitrarily. Following this, various courts across the country started giving verdicts related to the survey of mosques, tombs and dargahs. Now the Supreme Court has stopped this storm of communalism for the time being by staying the petitions related to the survey pending in various courts. The most welcome thing is that the court has stayed the survey at the masjids in Mathura and Varanasi as well. This simply means that the court has overturned the decision of Justice Chandrachud's bench.

Munsif (December 14) in its editorial said that the politics that the Central government is playing on this sensitive issue is very dangerous for the country. This will not only shatter the Hindu-Muslim unity in the country, but also can lead to a civil war in the country. Due to the manner in which Hindutva elements are making fabricated claims on the masjids and dargahs in the country, and the courts are issuing orders for survey without hearing the opposition arguments, there is a threat of civil war breaking out. In order to maintain peace in the country, it is necessary that the Supreme Court gives direction to strictly implement the law for protection of the places of worship.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh at the target of Urdu media

Hamara Samaj (December 4) said that the Sargsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Mohan Bhagwat has issued a direction to have at least three children. The newspaper said that If any government announces recruitment for 500 posts, then 5 lakh people stand in queue to get those jobs. The situation in private

sector is worse than this. They pay less and exploit more. The inflation is growing like the mouth of rakshasi Sursa. The government is increasing inflation even more by imposing GST on food items. In spite of all this, this new direction of Mohan Bhagwat is surprising. However, Muslims do not want to get embroiled in

these controversies and they mind their own business. People like Mohan Bhagwat are experts in spreading lies. It is better not to believe his words. If a Muslim gives birth to five children, the person immediately becomes a target. This gives an opportunity for Sangh Parivar to run a propaganda against Muslims that they are increasing the population of the country. Are Hindus afraid that there will be a Muslim rule again on the throne of Delhi? However, the Hindus have more children. Muslims are notorious anyway. Muslims believe that anyone who comes to this world comes by the will of Allah and brings his livelihood with him.



Roznama Sahara (December 6) said in its editorial that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has recently advised people to have at least three children. However, for the past century, the Sangh Parivar has been harping on the issue of the danger posed by the growing population in the country. The truth is that the aim of those who speak about the increasing population of the country is to target Muslims. They consider Muslims as the biggest obstacle in the path of development. Former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi in his book unraveled the propaganda regarding the increase in Muslim population. In his book, he rejected the claim that Muslims produce more children compared to Hindus. The Modi government had published a survey report on its own, in which it had been stated that majority of the Muslims are uneducated, hence they do not pay attention to family planning. This is applicable for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well.

For example, the rate of growth of population in those states which are described as BIMARU states is much more than the states in south India. Now, the states in south India are feeling that if their population is declining compared to the states in north India, their dominance in politics will diminish. This is the reason why the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh,

Telangana and Tamil Nadu have urged people to have more children. The population of states in south India is less, hence they are getting less allocation in Union budget compared to north Indian states. The constituencies for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha are determined on the basis of population. The newspaper said that it is wrong to believe that the declining population rate will lead to problems like in Japan, South Korea and China in the future. The answer is that till 2060, there will not be any significant difference in the population of India. However, if the birth rate does not increase by the end of this century, then there will be a shortage of youth power in the country and this will have a bad impact on the development of the country. The author says that Mohan Bhagwat is deliberately spreading panic in the country.

Avadhnama (December 2) states that the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mohan Bhagwat, while expressing concern over the falling birth rate, said the countries where there is a rapid fall in the birth rate would cease to exist. He said that in order to maintain the population balance in the country, it is necessary to have more than two children. While taking part in a programme, Mohan Bhagwat said that according to scientists, if the birth rate of a society falls below 2.1, then it vanishes from the world. In such a situation, it is necessary that we need to have more than two children. It would be better if there are three. It is essential for our survival. Mohan Bhagwat said the population policy of our country was prepared in 1998 or in 2002, in which it

had been said that the population growth rate should not go down below 2.1. Now people should focus on having more children. If they have three children it would be better.

The opposition has criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi said that Mohan Bhagwat says that the population should grow. Will he provide some specific facilities to the community which increases their population? Will he provide some specific financial help every month to those families who have more than two children? Owaisi said that Bhagwat should first set an example in his own community. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Fakhru Hasan Chand said that whenever Mohan Bhagwat says something, it troubles the BJP. Recently he said that looking for a mandir inside every masjid should be stopped. This would definitely trouble the BJP, who does the mandir-masjid politics and wants to remain in power by digging for mandir beneath every masjid. Congress leader Umang Singhar also criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. He said that the agriculture land is decreasing day by day, but Mohan Bhagwat, while wandering in the world of imagination, is stressing on producing more and more children. On the other hand, China has curbed its increasing population and today it has become a super power. Doesn't Mohan Bhagwat believe in learning from China?

Urdu Times (December 7) in its editorial said that earlier Mohan Bhagwat has been singing the tune that there is a huge increase in the population of Muslims in the country. Whereas, as per the Census of 2011, the population of Muslims increased by 0.8 percent during the 2001-2011 period. Dr J K Bajaj of Centre for Policy Studies claimed that there is an increase in the birth rate of Muslims, which may create an imbalance in the society. However, his claim is absolutely false. As per the study of Dr Bajaj, the data that has been shown regarding the increase of



population of Muslims in Bharat is less compared to the followers of other religion. As per the 2011 Census, the second highest population in the country is that of Muslims. In 2005, this institution has published a report regarding the religion-wise population of Bharat. In this report, it has been claimed that there is a constant increase in the population of Muslims in the country and due to this the population balance could be disturbed in future. It has also been claimed that Muslims will become majority in Indian sub-continent in 50-60 years compared to Hindus. This is the reason why the RSS is feeling the heat because its policy is divide and rule.

Urdu Times (December 16) has alleged that the RSS, in order to implement the agenda of Hindutva in the country, is planning to fill up law enforcement institutions, civil services and judiciary with people of Sangh Parivar ideology. If all these institutions start working under a specific ideology and plan, though the present form of the Constitution may continue, in practical form the present status of the Constitution will come to an end and it will remain crippled. RSS and its affiliated organisations have been working for several decades to fulfill this aim.

Munsif (December 13) has alleged in its editorial that RSS and its affiliated organisations are filling the judiciary and the administrative system with people belonging to their ideology in a planned manner so that they could run the administration of the country as per their will. Now the country's administration and judiciary are openly manifesting their faith



regarding Hindu devi-devatas and the cow. Many judges have openly supported conspiracy theories like love jihad in their judgments. In such a situation, it is necessary that anti-Constitution people and those with a particular ideology should be dismissed from their Constitutional posts. Until it happens, the image of the judiciary cannot be restored.

Hindustan (December 15) has alleged in an article that the Sangh Parivar has prepared a plan to infiltrate the highest governing structure of the country. Under this plan, without appearing for any competitive examination, RSS supporters have been started getting recruited in high-level jobs. The aim of the RSS is to ensure that the administration of the country is fully under its control.

Etemaad (December 1) alleged that the RSS has launched a special campaign to seize power in Telangana. The newspaper said that despite an anti-BJP

wave in Haryana, the RSS succeeded in coming to power. The same formula was adopted in Maharashtra as well and the BJP got unexpected victory. The Sangh high command believes that it would be able to capture power in Telangana in the Assembly elections in 2028. Recently, in this connection, the leaders from Telangana met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. The training programme of RSS workers are going on in Telangana.

Recently, a programme named Lokmanthan was organised in this connection. In this programme, the country's President Draupadi Murmu also took part. In the previous Assembly election also the BJP had gained a lot. In the duel between BRS and Congress, the BJP won eight seats. It got 14 percent votes. Due to the efforts of Sangh, communal hatred is being propagated in the state so that polarisation of Hindu voters takes place. The BJP thinks that the state's Muslim vote will get divided between Congress and the BRS. If the Hindu votes get polarised in its favour, then the possibility of its victory increases. The Sangh Parivar is running a campaign for polarisation of votes in the country's Adivasi areas through Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. In this connection, small groups of Sangh swayamsevaks have been formed, which will go to every mohalla and establish contact with Hindus.

Uproar over statement of Allahabad High Court judge

Hamara Samaj (December 10) states that while taking part in a seminar organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad on the Uniform Civil Code, a judge of Allahabad High Court Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav said that he had no hesitation in saying that this is Hindustan and this country will run as per the wishes of the majority community

who live in the country. He said the Hindus do not expect the Muslims to follow their culture, but they definitely do not want the Hindu culture to be insulted. Justice Yadav said we teach our children compassion towards animals right from their birth. We feel sad at their sufferings. When you slaughter domesticated animals in front of



your children, how can we expect compassion from those children? As Hindus, we respect our religion, but we have no ill will towards other religions. We also do not even expect people of other religion to follow us. While getting married, you may not take rounds around the fire, you may not take a dip in the Ganga, but at least you should not insult our gods and goddesses. He said that we believe in respecting women. In our scriptures, women are considered as devis. You cannot take the right to have four wives, do *halala* or give *triple talaq*. This apart, you also do not have the right to refuse alimony to women on the pretext of Shariah.

The Muslim leaders and Urdu media unleashed a planned campaign on this statement of Justice Shekhar Yadav. Muslim organisations allege that Justice Yadav deliberately delivered a hate speech against Muslims which is totally against the spirit of impartiality of the judicial system of the country. On behalf of the Opposition, preparations were being made to bring an impeachment motion in the Parliament. More than 50 MPs of Congress, Samajwadi Party and DMK signed on this. National Conference MP Ruhullah Mehdi said he would be bringing a resolution in the Parliament to remove Shekhar Kumar Yadav from his post. On the other hand, several lawyers including Prashant Bhushan and Kapil Sibal wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of the Supreme

Court demanding action against Justice Yadav. He alleged that Justice Yadav by making comments against Muslims violated the values of ethics, impartiality and secularism of the judiciary. Because of this, the entire judiciary got defamed and the concept of 'rule of law' got damaged. The Bar Association of India also condemned the speech of Justice Shekhar Yadav and said his statement is not only against secularism but also against the Constitution of the country. Chairman of Interfaith Harmony Foundation Dr Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad said that if people with this mentality sit in the courts, then how can we expect fairness and justice from them?

Roznama Sahara (December 11) in its editorial alleged that by giving such a statement, Justice Yadav has tarnished the position of a judge. He has indicated that his verdict would be supportive of the interests of the majority community. From his statement, it has also become clear that now the country's judiciary is not free from political and religious influence. The newspaper expressed surprise that now judges are also openly taking part in the programmes of organisations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The newspaper said that in order to restore the faith of the citizens on judiciary, it is necessary that stringent action should be taken against such elements.

Inquilab (December 12) in its editorial has criticised the statement of Justice Shekhar Yadav. The newspaper



expressed surprise over Justice Yadav taking part in the function of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. There is no need to explain what is Vishwa Hindu Parishad. We do not even accept that Justice Shekhar had no information about the reality of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The interesting thing is that so far he has not given any clarification regarding his speech. The newspaper has expressed satisfaction that the Allahabad High Court has sought a reply from Justice Yadav and the Supreme Court has also decided to take action against him.

Hindustan Express (December 11) has written in its editorial that if this nation runs at the behest of the majority, then it is understood that the country's Constitution is facing threat from all four sides and the country is rapidly moving towards a Hindu Rashtra. The newspaper said that the speech of a sitting judge of Allahabad High Court was very much rude and objectionable. From this it has been proved

that those who are sitting on the chairs of the judges have also become shameless and they do not hesitate to trample under their feet the Indian Constitution or the law. The newspaper said that such people do not have any right to sit on the chairs of the judges. The sad thing is that Justice Yadav had used the term *kathmullah* to describe Muslims. This exposes his mentality.

Hindustan (December 12) has said in an article that today the existence of Muslims is under threat. There has been a campaign against them for a long time at the political level, but now the anti-Muslim campaign in the judiciary has also exploded out in the open. The truth about the condition of Muslims is revealed through increasing incidents of mob lynching in the country, violence against Muslim students in universities and the harassment of Muslim women and incidents of desecration of masjids. The Muslims should get united and face such actions.

Hindustan (December 10) in its editorial said that the poison of communal hatred spread by the Sangh Parivar in the country has now reached the judiciary. It is shameful that now the judges also speak the same language which were being used by the workers of the Sangh and BJP till now.

Ban on beef in hotels and public places in Assam

Roznama Sahara (December 5) reports that a ban has been imposed on beef in Assam. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told journalists that a cabinet meeting has decided to impose a ban on the sale of beef in hotels, restaurants and public places in the state and also on its consumption. He said that now no person would get beef for consumption in hotels or in public places. He said that the ban imposed on beef in the state will be strictly implemented. Chief Minister Sarma said

that we had brought a law three years ago to stop cow slaughter in Assam and this law has helped us in stopping cow slaughter. He said that initially the Assam government had imposed a ban on sale of beef in areas near to temples. This ban has now been extended.

It is to be noted that the Assam government has imposed a ban on beef at a time the beef has been a topic of discussion in the state. In the by-elections held to the state Assembly recently, Congress MP

Rakibul Hussain had alleged that BJP had ensured victory by organising beef party to the voters. The chief minister had termed this allegation by him as baseless and said that if the Congress gives it in writing then I am willing to impose a total ban on beef in the state.

Hamara Samaj (December 9) has described this decision of Assam government as a dictatorial step. The newspaper said that as per Indian Constitution every individual has the freedom to eat the food of his choice, follow any religion and wear the desired dress. The newspaper said that Muslims are infamous anyway. Whereas the followers of other religions eat most of the meat. There is animal sacrifice in several temples in the country.

According to **Inquilab** (December 6), state vice-president of BJP in Kerala, Major Ravi said we should not give any wrong message which would increase



communal tension. He said that there is difference between cow meat and beef. Everyone should be given the permission to eat the food of his or her choice and it should not be given communal colour. Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan criticised this decision of Assam government. She said that this was against the Constitution. Such people want to establish dictatorship in the country.

Bail for accused in Hashimpura massacre



Inquilab (December 7) states that the Supreme Court has ordered the release on bail of 10 personnel of Uttar Pradesh Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), who are the accused in the Hashimpura massacre. They were accused of the murder of 38 Muslims in 1987. It is being said that the personnel of PAC shot dead these Muslims and threw their bodies into the

Hindon river. The lawyer of PAC personnel argued before a bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice A G Masih of the Supreme Court that these people have been in jail since 2018 and hence they should be released on bail. The lawyer also claimed that the Delhi High Court had wrongly rejected the verdict to acquit these accused. Among the

10 accused whose bail petitions were filed before the court include Niranjn Lal, Mahesh Prasad, Jaipal Singh, Suresh Chand Sharma, Ram Dhyan, Hambir Singh, Kunwarpal Singh, Budh Singh, Mohkam Singh and a Muslim, Sami Ullah.



It is to be noted that the Supreme Court had ordered the transfer of the case against the accused in Hashimpura massacre from a court in Ghaziabad to Delhi. The Tis Hazari court in 2015 had acquitted 16 accused in the massacre citing lack of evidence. The court argued that the survivors of the massacre had failed to identify these PAC personnel. This decision of the Tis Hazari court was questioned in the Delhi High Court. On October 31, 2018 a bench comprising Justice Murlidhar and Justice Vinod Goyal overturned the decision of the lower court. The court, while awarding them life-term in jail, said that the police did targeted killing of unarmed people.

It is said that the PAC was deployed during the communal riots in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh in 1987. The PAC personnel picked up 42 Muslims from Hashimpur locality in Meerut and took them in their vehicle, but instead of taking them to the police station they were taken near to a canal. Later the PAC personnel shot dead all these Muslims and threw their bodies

into the canal. Majority of those who were killed were labourers and weavers. Among them, four persons pretended to be dead and later managed to escape from there. Following an uproar over the incident, an FIR was registered on the directions of the court but after getting the bail, the PAC personnel stayed out of the clutches of law. When it was alleged on behalf of the accused that the court in Ghaziabad is dragging the case instead of deposing it, the case was transferred from Ghaziabad to the Tis Hazari court in Delhi on the directions of Allahabad High Court. The Tis Hazari court acquitted all the 16 accused. Later, this decision of the court was questioned in the Delhi High Court. The court overturned the verdict of the Tis Hazari court and awarded them life-term in jail. Later, this verdict was questioned in the Supreme Court.

Nationwide drive against Islamic terrorists



Inquilab (December 13) states that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted simultaneous raids in several

places in Jammu-Kashmir, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi. The purpose of the raids was to break the nationwide network of Jaish-e-Mohammad. According to NIA, the network of Jaish-e-Mohammad is rapidly spreading in the country with foreign aid. In this connection, several people have been taken into custody from Jammu-Kashmir, Jhansi, Deoband and Delhi and their interrogation is still on. Recently, a joint team of NIA and Uttar Pradesh ATS raided the houses



of a mufti, Khalid Nadvi, in Jhansi. His house was searched for several hours. When the NIA officials tried to take the mufti into custody, it was announced from the loudspeaker of the masjid that some people have been kidnapping mufti Nadvi. Following this, hundreds of men and women surrounded the house of Nadvi and freed him from the custody of police. The police registered cases against 122 people. So far, four persons have been taken into custody. Nadvi was questioned for several hours. He was also asked about his relations with the prominent leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, Mohammed Ilyas Ghuman who stays in Pakistan. Nadvi said that he gives both online and offline religious education and his students are spread within and outside the country. He has also been questioned in detail over the financial aid being received from abroad.

This apart, the NIA also took into custody two Rohingya Muslims from Deoband. It is being said that they belonged to Islamic terrorist organisation Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen based in Bangladesh. From Sitamarhi in Bihar, Abdul Halim Ansari was also taken into custody. This apart, many people were

taken into custody from Budgam and Riasi in Jammu-Kashmir. Informed sources claimed that some people were arrested from Amroha in Uttar Pradesh as well on charges of maintaining links with Jaish-e-Mohammed. A top official of NIA said that since investigation process is still on, it would not be possible to provide any credible information regarding this gang. He said that interrogation of those who have been caught is going on. This apart, some people have been taken into custody from Delhi as well.

Aurangabad Times (December 13) states that the NIA had raided four places in Amravati, Bhiwandi and Aurangabad. The NIA had taken into custody one person each from the three districts. It is said that the three arrested persons had their links with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and Islamic terrorist organisations. In October 2024, the NIA had raided 56 places across the country in search of Jaish-e-Mohammad modules over the Jaish-e-Mohammed conspiracy case and had arrested the chief of the module, Sheikh Sultan Salahuddin Ayoobi. On the basis of the information received from him, a search is on to trace him.

Taliban minister killed in suicide attack in Kabul



Inqilab (December 12) states that Taliban government's minister for refugees Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani was killed in a suicide blast that took place in Afghanistan capital Kabul. Along with him, more than a dozen prominent Taliban leaders were also killed. Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani was the brother of the founder of Haqqani Network, Jalaluddin Haqqani and uncle of interior minister in Taliban government, Sirajuddin Haqqani. The Haqqani Network had carried out several deadly attacks on US soldiers during the Afghan war in which several US soldiers were killed. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Ishaq Dar has condemned this attack. Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani's nephew Anas Haqqani has confirmed the death of his uncle.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 13) states that the Afghanistan government has

described this attack as a deadly one. In Peshawar, an expert on Taliban affairs, Mushtaq Yousafzai, said the killing of Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani at his own office was a huge lapse in the security arrangements of Afghanistan government. Those who carried out the attack has given this clear indication that nobody would be able to escape from their attack and Afghanistan is not a secure nation. Earlier also, several

deadly attacks had taken place on Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, but he narrowly escaped. Yousafzai said the hands of an insider of Taliban government could be behind this attack. In August 2021, after the Taliban came to power, this was the third biggest terrorist attack in Afghanistan. Earlier in October 2022, several namazis were killed in a blast that took place in a mosque located on the premises of Afghanistan's interior ministry. Later in March 2023, the Governor of Balkh province Muhammad Daud Muzamil was killed by Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. According to sources in Taliban government, in the past also, four brothers of Sirajuddin Haqqani were killed by the ISIS. In September 2011, the terrorists had killed the former president of Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Case against former chief of ISI in military court

Hamara Samaj (December 11) reports that hearings have started in a case against the former chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lt General Faiz Hameed, at a military court. The chargesheet has also been filed against him. As per a press release of the public

relations department of Pakistan Army, General Faiz Hameed was arrested on August 12, 2024. He has been accused of putting the security of Pakistan in danger by violating the Official Secrets Act, taking part in political activities and misusing his power and government resources. Faiz



Hameed has also been accused of conspiring to destabilise the Pakistani government for which he conducted anti-national activities. This included carrying out armed attacks on the bases of Pakistani army on May 9, 2023.

It is to be noted that a case has been pending in the court against former prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan also based on similar charges. According to Pakistani media, General Faiz Hameed had conspired along with former prime minister Imran Khan to overthrow the government of Shehbaz Sharif. He carried out attacks on the army headquarters and other bases through his supporters. It is being said that Faiz Hameed had conspired for this on the directions of Imran Khan. It is to be noted that it was for the first time in the history of Pakistan that a case has been filed against an ISI chief in a military court. Faiz Hameed could be awarded life-term in jail or death sentence if one goes by the sections under which the case has been registered.

It is worth mentioning that in November 2023, Pakistan's Supreme Court, while hearing a petition filed by builder Moez Ahmed Khan, said that the

charges filed against General Faiz Hameed are quite serious. It has seriously damaged the reputation of Pakistan government, army, ISI and Rangers. The Supreme Court had directed the army that it should file a case against the accused in the military court. Owner of Top City Housing Society, Moez Ahmed Khan alleged that General Faiz Hameed had demanded a huge amount as bribe from him.

When he refused to give bribe, Faiz Hameed along with hundreds of soldiers raided his office and the house on the midnight of May 12, 2017. They looted diamonds and jewels worth crores of rupees from his house. After this, he has been framed in false charges of terrorism. The petitioner also alleged that he was forced to pay Rs 4 lakh in cash. He was also pressured to pay the full expenses of a private television channel for six months. This deal was struck with him by Faiz Hameed's brother Sardar Najaf and two Brigadiers of ISI.

In April 2024, the Pakistan Army had constituted a special investigation committee headed by a Major General. This committee had conducted a preliminary inquiry into the allegations levelled against Faiz Hameed. General Faiz Hameed was arrested on the basis of the report of this committee. The interesting thing is that after the arrest, Faiz Hameed was not lodged in any jail, instead, he was kept under house arrest in the guest room of the army officers' mess in Rawalpindi. There he was kept under strict military surveillance.

Tension in India – Bangladesh relationship

Etemaad (December 5) states that tension has been rising between Bharat and Bangladesh. This tension started when the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina was given political refuge in Bharat. Recently, after the arrest of a Sant

of ISKCON, Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu in Dhaka, relations between the two countries have become even more strained. In both the countries, series of protests against each other are still continuing. Recently, following a huge protest outside

the office of the Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Agartala, the situation further turned worse. This protest was organised by pro-Hindu organisations. During this protest, the national flag of Bangladesh was also burned. In retaliation for this incident, thousands of students held a protest against Bharat in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka.

Urdu Times (December 2) reports that three other office-bearers of ISKCON were also arrested on charges of treason. Earlier, a Sant of ISKCON, Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu was arrested. The court had refused to release him.

Roznama Sahara (December 11) states that mobs of protesters initially looted the temples of ISKCON located in Dhaka and Chatgaon and broke their murtis before setting them on fire. The Bangladesh students are demanding a ban on ISKCON.

Siasat (December 4) in its editorial expressed concern over the deteriorating relations between the two countries and said that due to the so-called attacks taking place on the minorities in Bangladesh, there is lot of public anger in Bharat. The newspaper said that in view of the tense relationship between the two countries, the Bangladesh government had called back its Deputy High Commissioner based in Kolkata and the Assistant High Commissioner based in Agartala.

Hindustan Express (December 10) states that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expressed concern over the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh in the Assembly. She demanded the Indian government that it take immediate steps to bring the situation to normalcy and do not take any step that will create more tension in the relations between the two countries.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 4) in its editorial said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expressed concern over the increasing sense of



insecurity among the minorities in Bangladesh and demanded Prime Minister Modi that he intervenes in the issue. He should request the United Nations that it send a peacekeeping force to establish peace in Bangladesh. Mamata Banerjee suggested to Prime Minister Modi that those who have fled Bangladesh due to insecurity should be given refuge in Bharat.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 10) in its editorial alleged that those organisations which are protesting against the harassment of minorities in Bangladesh should raise similar voice against the harassment of minorities in their own country. The newspaper said that if an Indian Muslim protests against any government policy, then bulldozers are run over his house. This is condemnable. The newspaper said that the Indian Muslims should not be avenged for the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh.

Etemaad (December 3) reports that thousands of sants in West Bengal organised a protest on the Bangladesh border against the attack on Hindus in Bangladesh and against setting ISKCON temples on fire. This was organised on behalf of Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti. The protest was led by BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari. The ISKCON organised a keertan at its Centre in Kolkata in protest against the actions being taken against ISKCON in Bangladesh. They demanded immediate release of Sants of ISKCON who were arrested in Bangladesh. The ISKCON alleged that the population of Hindus in Bangladesh was 22 percent in



January 1971 which has now come down to less than 8 percent. After the collapse of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024, more than 200 attacks took place on Hindus in the over 50 jails in Bangladesh and this situation continues even now. ISKCON has sought from the Indian government that it put pressure on Bangladesh government so that the persecution of Hindus is stopped.

Siasat (December 10) states that the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has alleged that the present government in Bangladesh is conspiring to commit genocide in the country. Hundreds

of activists of her party Awami League were arrested and their houses were set on fire after looting them. She expressed serious concern over the increasing incidents of atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh. Hasina asked the United Nations to intervene in Bangladesh and send peacekeeping force in order to establish peace in the country.

Urdu Times (December 6) states that the Bangladesh government has banned the telecast of the speeches of Sheikh Hasina in the country. Government lawyer Gulam Munawar Hussain Tameem told journalists that the tribunal is investigating the serious allegations against Sheikh Hasina and hence we imposed a ban on telecasting her speeches. The speeches can put pressure on witnesses and they can create hurdles in the functioning of the tribunal. It is to be noted that recently Sheikh Hasina, while addressing her supporters in New York through a video link, accused the interim prime minister of Bangladesh Mohammad Yunus of genocide.

12 Islamic terrorists arrested in Russia

Etemaad (December 12) states that 12 Islamic terrorists have been arrested in South Dagestan in Russia on charges of indulging in violence. These terrorists were making preparations to carry out massive attacks in different regions of Russia. A huge cache of arms was also seized from them. It is being said that the officers of Federal Security Service carried out raids in several cities of Dagestan on the basis of intelligence tip-offs and arrested 12 terrorists. One tonne ammonium nitrate, a huge cache of weapons and gunpowder

were also seized from their houses. As per the information obtained during the interrogation of arrested accused, Islamic terrorists have been making preparations to carry out armed attacks in different places in Russia at the behest of foreign powers. It is to be noted that the Islamic terrorists carried out attacks on at least three places in Russia this year and killed more than 200 people. So far, more than 100 terrorists have been arrested in this connection. It is said that their links are with banned Islamic terrorist organisations.

China extends Pakistan 29 billion dollar loan

Aurangabad Times (December 5) reports that China has become the biggest lender to Pakistan. As per a report of the World Bank, China has extended a 29 billion

dollar loan to Pakistan. As per the report of the World Bank, the financial condition of Pakistan is deteriorating day-by-day. It has been said in the report that till 2023,



Pakistan had a foreign debt of \$130 billion, which is 352 percent of its total exports and 39 percent of its gross national income (GNI). China has the largest share of Pakistan's total foreign debt, which is 22 percent of the total foreign debt. This apart, Pakistan has taken a loan of 23 billion dollars from the World Bank, which is 18 percent of the total debt. Similarly, the Asian Development Bank's share in Pakistan's total debt is 15 percent. This loan is of 19 billion dollars. After China, Saudi Arabia is the second largest lender to Pakistan. Saudi Arabia has given a loan of 10 billion dollars to Pakistan. This is eight percent of the total foreign debt.

As per another news, the world Islamic banking has expanded to 3,700 billion dollars. Now there is a possibility of increasing it further. Governor of Pakistani state bank Jameel Ahmad said that there are several hurdles in the expansion of Islamic banking. One hurdle is that in Islam it is haram to take interest for loan. Hence

Islamic nations face more challenges compared to other countries. As per Islam, the Islamic loan cannot be invested in those industries which are considered as haram as per Shariah. This includes liquor and tourism.

While addressing a seminar organised in Karachi over Islamic loan, Mufti Taqi Usmani said that Pakistan has clearly declared in its Constitution that it will neither take interest for the loan nor will pay the interest. Islamic banking system should be as per Quran and the directions of the Prophet. It is necessary that Islamic nations should expand the activity of extending interest-free loans. He said that when the Islamic banking system started, there were several questions before it. He said that in Pakistan, the Islamic banking system has been a success. Sheikh Ibrahim bin Khalifa of Dubai said that nearly 40 percent portion of world's Islamic banking system belongs to Pakistanis.

Bashar Al-Assad's rule ends in Syria



Urdu Times (December 9) states that the 53-year-long dictatorship of Al-Assad family has ended in Syria. Rebel organisation Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) has seized control of capital Damascus. The government army of Syria surrendered before the rebels without a fight. The developments have dealt a major blow to Russia and Iran because the administration of President Bashar Al-Assad was dependent on the help extended by these two countries.

Urdu Times (December 14) states that the new government of Syria has announced the suspension of the Constitution and the Parliament for three months. The government said that it is committed to the establishment of rule of law in the country. The government spokesperson said that committees will be formed for the review of the Constitution so that the Constitution could be amended to establish human rights and an independent judiciary. The spokesperson said those who have oppressed the public will not be spared and they will be given stringent punishment as per law. It is to be noted that the present Constitution of Syria was implemented in 2012. In this Constitution, Islam has not been declared as official religion. The citizens of Syria

celebrated the end of the dictatorship of deposed president Bashar Al-Assad and namaz were offered in masjids after getting freedom from coercive rule. It is to be noted that a civil war was taking place in Syria for the past 14 years. More than seven lakh people were killed in this civil war and nearly 1.5 crore people became homeless.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Jordan King Abdullah II and stressed on making Syria a safe country. He said that the Syrian government would be given all cooperation in tracing those US citizens who had gone missing during the rule of Bashar Al-Assad. Blinken dodged a question on Israel's attacks on Syria. He said that today the most important question is on establishing peace and stability in Syria. The US wants to ensure that in future Syria will not be used as a stronghold for terrorists and neither Syria becomes a threat to its neighbours.

As per another news, Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and held discussions on regional issues. Following this meeting, the Turkiye's President said that our efforts to improve the relationship between Turkiye and the US in all the fields will continue. He said



that Turkiye will continue its fight against all terrorist organisations active in Syria like PKK, PYD, YPG and ISIS. As per another news, Turkiye has appointed its new Ambassador in Damascus.

Urdu Times (December 14) states that Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has clarified that Iran was not responsible for the collapse of Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria. Whatever our military could have done there, those were done. He said the Bashar Al-Assad government never sought any help from Iran. The Syrian army had refused to fight against the rebels and we people were helpless. He said that Iran had made it clear that now the people of Syria will decide on their own future. It is worth mentioning that earlier Ali Khamenei had alleged that a neighbouring country's hands were behind the pulling down of the Bashar Al-Assad government. In this connection, Iran had given an indication to the Syrian government four months back itself. He said that whatever has happened in Syria was the result of the joint planning of the US and Israel. Iran has concrete evidence that the US and Israel had made plans for a military coup in Syria. He said that Iran has not been happy about Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad for quite some time. Al-Assad had assured Iran that the situation was in the control of his army, but he did not give the indication that his army has joined the rebels.

According to **Aurangabad Times** (December 10), HTS has announced Mohammad Al-Bashir as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria. He has also

announced a general amnesty for the government army.

Urdu Times (December 16) states that Hezbollah chief Sheikh Naim Qasim has admitted that the reason for the end of Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria is that the supply line to us for the military aid from Iran has got cut. He alleged that Israel has captured Golan Heights and now it wants

to occupy a major portion of Syria. He demanded HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Julani and the caretaker prime minister of Syria, Mohammad al-Bashir, not to maintain any relationship with Israel. The Hezbollah chief has expressed hope that the new ruler of Syria will also consider Israel as its enemy. Naim Qasim said that it is the religious duty of every Arab country and Muslim to support the Arabs fighting in Gaza.

This newspaper has claimed in another news that after the capture of Damascus by the rebels, the relatives of Bashar Al-Assad fled from there and reached Lebanon. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati said that the Syrian refugees staying in Lebanon should return to their own country. He said that currently the total population of Lebanon is 58 lakh, out of which 20 lakh are Syrian refugees.

Siasat (December 16) states that the chief of rebel organisation HTS Abu Mohammed Al-Julani alleged that Israel is looking for false excuses to justify their attack on Syria. He said that we do not want to enter into any new controversy. Currently, our entire focus is on reconstruction of Syria.

Munsif (December 14) states that after rebel organisation HTS captured Syria, lakhs of Shia Muslims fled from there and reached Lebanon. They have this fear that the Sunnis will run a campaign to wipe them out. As per another news, the rebels have released thousands of prisoners lodged in jails in Syria. They include those



people also who have been lodged in jails for the past 30-35 years without any cases.

According to **Munsif** (December 10), Russia has confirmed the arrival of deposed Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad along with his family in Moscow. According to Russia's official news agency 'TASS,' the Russian government has decided to give political asylum to the family of Bashar Al-Assad. The interesting thing is that the flag of the new government was hoisted at the Syrian embassy located in Moscow. India has urged all sides to maintain unity and peace in Syria.

Etemaad (December 13) states that Syrian rebel leader Abu Mohammed Al-Julani announced that the new government has decided to terminate the Syrian army. He said that they do not have the support of any foreign power. The Syrian people have led the war on their own. During this time, some armed men set fire to the tomb of deposed President Bashar Al-Assad's father Hafiz Al-Assad. After taking control of Syria, the rebels started removing the posters and statues of Bashar Al-Assad and his father which were erected across the country. As per another news, the US army carried out attacks on the bases of Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS and destroyed them. In Baghdad, a US spokesperson has announced the US would not allow ISIS to take advantage of the latest situation in Syria and it would crush them.

As per another news published in this newspaper, Bashar Al-Assad has become a burden for his colleagues and that is why nobody stood with him. Iran's

foreign affairs minister Abbas Araghachi during his last meeting with Al-Assad in Damascus told him clearly that the Iran government is tangled up with Israel in Lebanon and in Gaza and hence it is not in a position to send its forces to support him. A spokesperson of Iran government said that it was very much surprised over the manner in which the Syrian army surrendered their weapons before the rebels without a fight. Another source has confirmed that Turkiye has been

supporting rebel organisation HTS and it has been providing it with different kinds of help. Similarly, Russian leaders also clearly said that Russia is helpless in assisting the Assad government as it is caught in the Ukraine war.

Inquilab (December 14) states that a member of notorious 'tiger force' of Bashar Al-Assad, Talal Dakkak, has been hanged to death by the rebels. Talal had fed the opponents of Assad government to the lions. Deposed president Al-Assad had formed a special intelligence organisation named 'tiger force' to deal with his opponents. There were 1,500 people in this organisation. Their job was to arrest the opponents of Assad government and kill them in cold blood. After deposing Assad, the rebels first arrested Talal and he was hanged to death in front of a large crowd at the square of Jama Masjid in Damascus.

Majority of the Urdu newspapers expressed surprise over the deposition of Assad government in Syria. The Urdu newspapers supported the seizure of power by the Islamic rebels.

Munsif (December 10) said in its editorial that the revolution that has taken place in Syria is the beginning of welcome changes in the Arab world. The newspaper expressed surprise that one-and-a-half lakh Syrian soldiers failed to face 30,000 rebel militants. The newspaper said that what has happened in Syria is a serious challenge to dictatorship in the Arab world.

Aurangabad Times (December 10) in its editorial said that every dictator falls

sooner or later and the latest developments in Syria confirm this. The newspaper has written that 54 years ago, Hafiz Al-Assad captured power after overthrowing the elected government with the help of the army. After his death, his son Bashar Al-Assad also continued with the dictatorial regime. Nearly



13 years ago, an organisation of Muslims started a fight against this dictatorship of Bashar Al-Assad. This group has its links with Islamic terrorist organisation Al Qaida. Later this group Al-Nusra came to be known as Al-Nusra Front. A few years later, this group became famous as Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS).

The newspaper said that the chief of HTS Abu Mohammed Al-Julani's real name is Ahmad Hussain Al-Shara. He was born in Saudi Arabia in 1982. His father was working as a petroleum engineer in Saudi Arabia. His family arrived in Syria in 1989. In 2003, Abu Mohammed Al-Julani left for Iraq. Later he joined the Islamic terrorist organisation founded against the US, Al Qaida. In 2006, the US army arrested him. After spending five years in jail, he was released. Later he came in contact with the chief of the notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS, Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi. Later he founded a resistance organisation, Al Nusra Front.

In 2013, Al-Julani had announced that now he had no relations with ISIS. However, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi had tried to merge Al-Julani's organisation Al-Nusra Front with ISIS, but Al-Julani once again established relations with Al-Qaida. Towards the end of 2016, he announced the formation of a new organisation named Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS). Al-Julani said that now his entire focus will be on establishing an Islamic government in Syria. Following this, he succeeded in uniting the resistance forces active against Bashar Al-Assad. His aim was to free Syria

from the clutches of the Shia government of Iran, on which he fully succeeded.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 14) in its editorial welcomed the end of the autocratic rule of Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria. The newspaper said that the biggest power which has been extending help to the rebels in Syria is Turkiye. In 2011, when a rebellion took place against Bashar Al-Assad, Erdogan had openly stood with the rebels. He extended support to all those Islamic jihadis who were involved in the civil war in Syria. There is no doubt that nearly 33 lakh Syrian refugees were forced to take refuge in Turkiye due to the civil war in Syria. The newspaper said that Syria is a victim of economic distress. Due to this, the army is not getting the wages on time and hence they stood with the rebels.

The newspaper has written that the Assad family had ruled Syria for more than 50 years. Though there might have been many mistakes, he was a totally secular leader. The interesting thing is that in order to remove a secular ruler like Al-Assad, the US entered into an alliance with Islamic jihadis. The roots of the rebel organisation named HTS which overthrew the Assad government are in Al-Nusra Front. Its relationship with Al Qaida is well known. The most interesting thing is that the head of the organisation which overthrew the Al-Assad government in Syria with the help of US had been declared as a terrorist and a reward of 10 million dollars on him had been declared by the US. There are no principles or ideals before the world



powers. They use terrorist organisations depending on their interests and once their

purpose is fulfilled, they are declared as terrorists.

Hindustan Express (December 9) in its editorial has welcomed the overthrow of Bashar Al-Assad government. The newspaper said that the US in the past also had overthrown Islamic governments in Egypt and Libya. The newspaper wrote that if the Islamic world does not act wisely, then Syria will be divided into several pieces.

Citizenship of 3,000 persons revoked in Kuwait

Roznama Sahara (December 14) reports that the Kuwait government has announced to revoke the citizenship of more than 3,000 people. As per a report of the Gulf News, the committee which was constituted to inquire into the citizenship concluded that these convicted persons had obtained Kuwaiti citizenship fraudulently. The citizenship of people belonging to 54 countries have been revoked. They had dual citizenship. Now this decision will be sent for approval from the council of ministers. It is to be noted that after receiving complaints over fake citizenship, the government had constituted a committee to inquire into it. The committee received 12,000 complaints regarding fake citizenship. In the past three and-a-half months, the Kuwait government revoked the citizenship of nearly 9,000 people out of them.



Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister Fahad Al Yusuf said that no action will be taken against the wives of Kuwaiti men, divorced women and the widows staying in Kuwait. Their jobs will remain secure and

they will continue to get the fixed salary. It is said that there is a ban on keeping dual citizenship as per Kuwaiti law. The home ministry of Kuwait has set up a special hotline to complain against those keeping dual citizenship and those who obtained Kuwaiti citizenship in a fraudulent manner. The government has assured that the names of those who make the complaint will be kept secret. The government has also announced that cases will be registered in courts against those people who obtained citizenship in a fraudulent manner after which they will be expelled from the country.

Saudi Arabia refuses to sign defence deal with the US

Inquilab (December 1) reports that the Saudi government has refused to sign a defence agreement with the United States. According to Saudi Press Agency (SPA),

the Saudi government has made it clear to the US that until an independent Palestinian state is formed, Saudi Arabia will not enter into an agreement with the

US. After Israel's military action in Gaza, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told the US in clear terms until Israel recognises the existence of an independent Palestinian state, Saudi Arabia will not establish normal relations with Israel and neither will it enter into any kind of agreement with the US.



According to British news agency Reuters, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants a normal relation with Saudi government. Netanyahu also said that until the Saudi government condemns the attack by Hamas on Israel, it would not enter into any kind of relations with Saudi Arabia. According to informed sources, after the victory of Donald Trump in the presidential elections, the US stand with

regard to Saud Arabia could be become further stringent. A two-thirds majority in the US Senate is needed to approve a defence agreement between it and Saudi Arabia. Until Saudi Arabia grants recognition to Israel, the possibility of US representatives giving approval to these kinds of agreements is almost equal to zero.

200 people killed in clashes between Army and RSF in Sudan



Urdu Times (December 12) reports that at least 200 people were killed and hundreds were injured in clashes between the Army and its opponent organisation Rapid Support Forces in the past two days in Sudan. Earlier, more than 100 people were killed in an air strike by the Army on a market in Kabkabiya in Darfur province.

Inqilab (December 1) states that RSF carried out attack on a village in Al-Jazirah state in Sudan and shot dead nearly a dozen people. Nearly 100 people were

injured in this attack. According to international agencies in Sudan, at least 30,000 people were killed in clashes that took place between government army and the RSF from April last year till now. Nearly 1.4 people have been rendered homeless due to these clashes.

Inqilab (December 8) reports that 70 people were killed and many were injured in a bombing on a masjid near Sudanese capital Khartoum. The government army bombed this masjid

when namaz was being offered there. The United Nations said that due to the civil war in Sudan, nearly 40 lakh people had to flee Sudan and take refuge in nearby countries. It is to be noted that a civil war has been taking place in Sudan since 2019. It is worth mentioning that Ahmed Al Mirghani had been in power in Sudan from May 1986 till June 1989. In 1989, the then chief of Sudanese army, Omar Al Bashir rebelled and captured power. He ruled over Sudan as a dictator for nearly 30 years.

Later, public anger spread over his dictatorship. In 2019, a military coup took place in Sudan due to massive anti-government protests and hartals and the chief of Sudanese army General Abdel Fatah Al-Burkhan seized power. He had declared his colleague and the commander of RSF General Mohammad Dagolu as the vice-president. Later the two friends clashed over sharing power. Sudan is now divided into two pieces. The soldiers supporting the two are attacking each other.

Ethiopia and Somalia sign deal mediated by Turkiye



Urdu Times (December 13) states that Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced at a press conference that two African nations, Somalia and Ethiopia, have signed a deal due to its efforts. This agreement was signed in Turkish capital Ankara. It is a historical agreement which will end the tension between the two Muslim countries of Africa. President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed were also present at the press conference. In this press conference, it was announced that the differences between the two countries will be resolved through mutual talks. Somalia will provide Ethiopia secure access till the sea. Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the President of Somalia said that talks will begin in February in order to resolve the controversial issues between the two countries. These talks will

continue for four months. The purpose of these talks is to find solutions to the mutual differences between the two countries. He said that the two countries also agreed that if there is any difficulty in resolving any issue during these talks, then it will be resolved through the mediation of Turkiye's President.

It is to be noted that Ethiopia is the biggest nation in Africa from the point of view of population. In 1993, Eritrea got separated from Ethiopia. Because of this, Ethiopia lost its access to the sea. Now, Somalia has assured it of safe passage to sea. This will begin a new chapter in the trade relations between the two countries. Ethiopia has also assured that in order to find solution to the civil war that has been taking place in Somalia, the Ethiopian government will extend all possible help to Somalian government.

Iran approves new law in favour of hijab



Qaumi Tanzeem (December 6) reports that the Iranian Parliament has approved a new law in favour of implementing hijab. This law is quite stringent compared to the current law. Under this law, those women who do not wear hijab or oppose the hijab will be given life-term in jail. Though Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian has opposed the hijab law, the Iran Parliament has approved this stringent law at the behest of Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. It is to be noted that the draft of the new law passed by the Parliament was prepared by Iran's late president Syed Ebrahim Raisi. It is worth mentioning that following the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, Shariah has been forcibly implemented in Iran and hijab has been declared as mandatory for women.


In September 2022, taking advantage of the public anger that has erupted in Iran after the death of a Kurd woman, Mehsa Amini, in police custody, the women had reduced wearing hijab. As per this law, there is also a provision that if any woman

violates the hijab law, her passport and driving licence will be cancelled for ever. As per this law, CCTV cameras will be installed in public places across Iran so that women who do not wear hijab could be identified. The law also has the provision that if any clothing, statue or toy is made that encourages obscenity, then action could be taken against their manufacturers as well. Iranian women's leader Maryam Mohamadi has called it as an attack on women's rights. She said that now women have only two paths before them—either freedom or death.

Urdu Times (December 14) states that Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian has criticised this new law. He said that he was not prepared to implement this law. It is to be noted that this law cannot be implemented until it gets the approval of the President. The statement of Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian has confirmed the differences between Iran's supreme religious leader Ali Khamenei and Pezeshkian.

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Urdu Media Disappointed Over BJP's Victory in Maharashtra



- Congress remains the main force in Maharashtra
- BJP's victory in Maharashtra is a setback for the Muslim community
- BJP's victory in Maharashtra is a setback for the Muslim community
- BJP's victory in Maharashtra is a setback for the Muslim community

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Aligarh Muslim University's Minority Status Restored



- The Muslim Education Board Act is a landmark decision
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Urdu Media Targets Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh



- RSS is a major force in Maharashtra
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Efforts to Incite Riots in Five States During Durga Puja



- Efforts to incite riots in five states during Durga Puja
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Differences Among Muslim Organisations Over Waqf Amendment Bill



- Differences among Muslim organisations over Waqf Amendment Bill
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12 People including Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui Get Life-Term for Illegal Conversions



- 12 people including Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui get life-term for illegal conversions
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Six Gangrape Accused Linked to Ajmer Dargah get Life Imprisonment



- Six gangrape accused linked to Ajmer Dargah get life imprisonment
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Waqf Amendment Bill Referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee



- Waqf Amendment Bill referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee
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Government Employees Get Permission to Take Part in RSS Activities



- Government employees get permission to take part in RSS activities
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- Government employees get permission to take part in RSS activities



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