

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

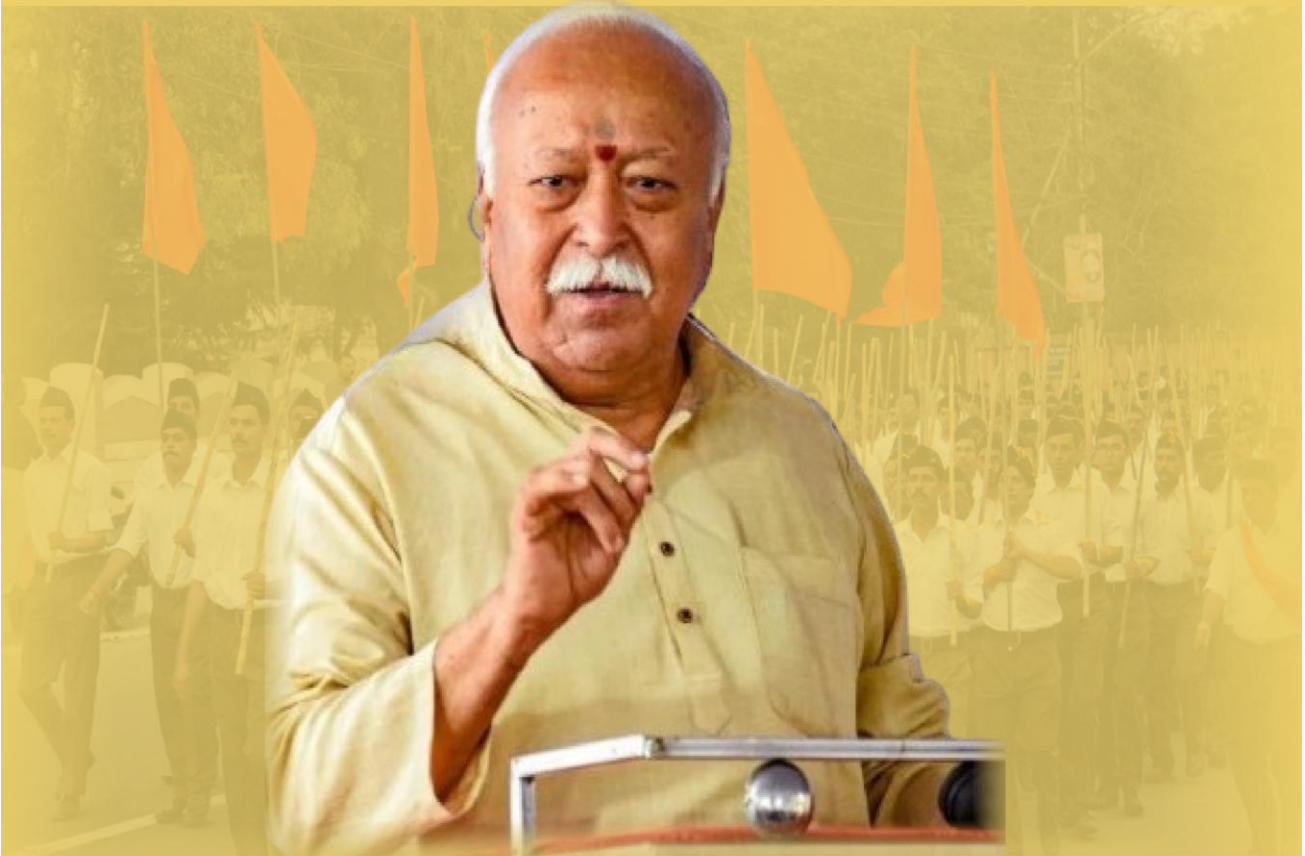
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Reaction of Urdu Newspapers to the Statement of RSS Chief



- Prime Minister Modi gets Kuwait's highest honour
- Over 50 Afghans killed in Pakistan's airstrike
- Shia-Sunni civil war erupts in Syria
- Bloody clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Tablighi Jamaat

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Summary

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat has suggested that new disputes on mandir-masjids should be avoided so that social harmony and communal goodwill can be maintained. He said that after the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, some people want to come to the limelight by creating a controversy on the temple-mosque issue and want to strengthen their position in politics. Hindus have always respected all religions. This is the reason why organisations like Ram Krishna Mission celebrates Christmas with great pomp. The Urdu media and Muslim leaders have broadly welcomed this statement of Mohan Bhagwat. The Urdu newspapers said that if Mohan Bhagwat is honest about his statement, then he should also ask the leaders of organisations associated with Sangh Parivar to stop the hate campaign against Muslims and stop the process of searching for a Shivling or a mandir beneath every masjid.

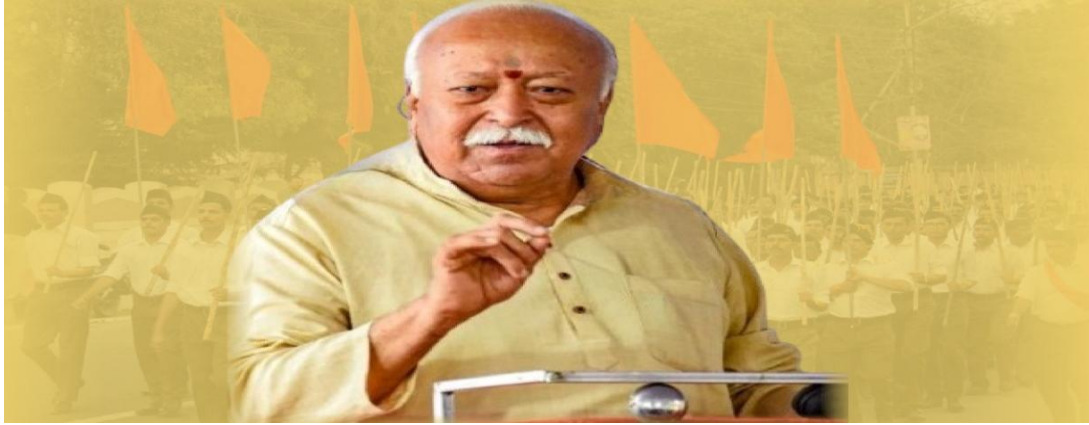
The Kuwait visit of Prime Minister Modi was a success. He was honoured with Kuwait's highest award 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer.' The interesting thing is that apart from addressing people of Indian origin residing in Kuwait, he also had a special meeting with the person who translated Ramayan and Mahabharat into Arabic language. Prominent Urdu newspaper **Inquilab**, while commenting about the Kuwait visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that even though we disagree with Modi's policies, we are proud to accept that in the past 10 years, he has taken Bharat's relations with the Arab world to new heights. The newspaper also said that though Indian Muslims may have complaints regarding Modi, but for the rulers of Arab nations, it is not an issue.

Tension has been increasing in the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan day-by-day. Recently, the Pakistan air force bombed several villages in Afghanistan after violating the latter's airspace. More than 50 people were killed in these bombings. When the Afghanistan government launched a protest, the Pakistan government, while justifying its action, argued that they carried out the attack on the hideouts of Islamic terrorists who were creating havoc in Pakistan. The Afghan government described this allegation of Pakistan as baseless. Later, the Taliban soldiers seized four border outposts in Pakistan. More than 20 Pakistani soldiers were killed in this attack. Analysts are concerned that this armed clash between the two countries may take a serious turn in future.

In Syria, a civil war has erupted between Shias and Sunnis once again. It is to be noted that Syria's deposed President Bashar Al-Assad was a Shia, and hence he had the support of Iran. Now, a rebel organisation named Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), linked to Islamic terrorist organisation Al Qaida, has captured power in Syria. This organisation belongs to Sunni sect. This is the reason why the new government in the country has started targeting the holy places of Shias. Several renowned Shia dargahs have been demolished and set on fire. Due to this, a civil war has once again started between the Shias and Sunnis. Now it is being speculated that unity in Syria will not remain intact in the future and the country will be split into several parts.



Reaction of Urdu newspapers to the statement of RSS chief



Recently, the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Dr Mohan Bhagwat has stressed on ending the mandir-masjid controversies. The Urdu media have broadly welcomed this statement by him.

Urdu Times (December 21) states that while delivering a speech in Pune, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had expressed concern over the mandir-masjid controversies raising their head again. He said that after the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, some people think they can become the leaders of Hindus by raising such issues. Mohan Bhagwat was delivering his speech on the topic 'Vishwaguru Bharat' organised in Pune. While supporting a multi-religious society, he said that it is necessary to show to the world that we live in mutual harmony. He said that Christmas is celebrated in Ramkrishna Mission and only Hindus can do this. He said some groups which had come from outside brought fundamentalism along with them and they want their earlier rule to be brought back to the country, but now the country is run as per the Constitution. In this system, the people elect their representatives and they run the government. The days of such dominance are now over. Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's rule was a fundamentalist one. However, his own descendent Bahadur

Shah Zafar imposed a ban on cow slaughter in 1857.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 26) said in its editorial that Mohan Bhagwat's recent statement gives a message of brotherhood and social harmony, but is he honest about his statement? Or is it just a strategy to improve the image of RSS and BJP? The newspaper said that fear had arisen in the minds of Muslims during the communal riots that broke out in the country following the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992. The secular foundation of the country also came under threat along with it. After Babri Masjid, the controversies raised over the Gyanvapi Masjid, Shahi Idgah in Mathura, Ajmer dargah and other masjids have again created a feeling of insecurity among Muslims. In such a situation, this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is unexpected, because RSS is famous for fueling communal disputes right from the beginning. Muslims are being targeted through mob lynching in the name of cow protection, love jihad and ghar wapasi slogans. These incidents raise the question whether this statement of Bhagwat indicates a positive change or is it just a political ploy?

Siasat (December 24) states that Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya, while making a scathing remark on the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, said that Mohan



Bhagwat is just the head of an organisation. He is not the leader of Hindu dharma. This statement of Mohan Bhagwat is his private opinion and it indicates a sense of appeasement. He also said that Sangh has no role in the construction of Ram Mandir. Even when there was no Sangh, the Hindu dharma was very much there. Commenting on the Sambhal controversy, Ramabhadracharya said that if they had razed our temple and constructed masjid in its place, don't we have the right to take back our temple? We do not tease anyone, but if someone teases us, then we have to give him a befitting reply.

Urdu Times (December 24) states that Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktswaranand, while criticising the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, said that in the past foreign invaders had demolished our religious places and constructed masjids in their places. If we seek their return, what is wrong with it?

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 22) states that Congress leader Husain Dalwai has welcomed the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. However, he also said that there is a difference in the speech and actions of Mohan Bhagwat. Dalwai said that violence has been unleashed against Muslims at the behest of Sangh. Their houses are demolished using bulldozers and a campaign is being unleashed to take over their religious places. The policy of Sangh is anti-Muslim right from the beginning. It looks like that Mohan Bhagwat is cheating Muslims by giving these kinds of statements.

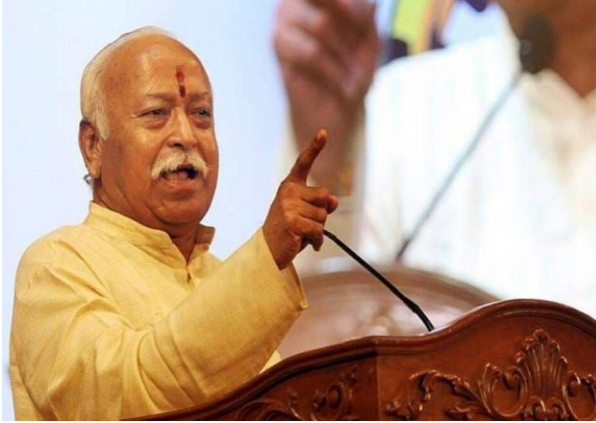
Urdu Times (December 24) in its editorial has welcomed the statement of

Mohan Bhagwat. The newspaper has demanded from him that he should also instruct his followers who raise new mandir-masjid controversies every day that enough is enough. Now they should not try to become the leader of Hindus on this pretext. The Sajjan Dargah, Syed Jainul Abdeen Ali Khan, and the Muslim organisations of the country have adopted a positive stand over the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. The newspaper said that there is no need for Muslims to be too happy about this statement of Mohan Bhagwat because it is just a statement only.

Urdu Times (December 26) said that in the past also Mohan Bhagwat had given similar statements but there is a lot of difference between his words and deeds. Muslims need to remain alert about it. At one level, Bhagwat keeps issuing such statements. On the other hand, the action taken by his followers in Sambhal was terrifying. Now, many important mosques of Muslims have also become embroiled in such controversies.

Munsif (December 25) said that the statement of the chief of the so-called cultural organisation should not be taken seriously. The real aim of this statement by him is to permanently stay in power and to strengthen the organisational structure of RSS in order to fulfill the aim of making this country a Hindu nation.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 31) states that the joint general secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Dr Surendra Jain has launched a new game plan. He said that if Muslims abandon their claim over Kashi and Mathura, then they will stop looking for mandir beneath every masjid. He said that in this connection, the Muslims should take the first step. Muslims should hand over those holy places of Hindus back to them which were forcibly seized during the Muslim rule. He said that the construction of Ram Mandir has already taken place. Now, the Krishna Janmabhoomi and the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir will also be liberated. Jain said that peace-loving Hindu society has been staking claim over Kashi



thing is that these statements of Mohan Bhagwat do not have the slightest effect on his followers. On the contrary, they are filing more and more cases to gain control of masjids and dargahs. We hope that after seeing this statement of Mohan Bhagwat, all the Hindu parties withdraw their cases filed in different courts. If Mohan Bhagwat is honest, he should also instruct the rulers of BJP to follow his advice. If this happens, then Ram Rajya will truly be established in Hindustan.

and Mathura since 1984. That time also we had asked the Muslims that if they hand over these two places to Hindus, the Hindu society will not stake claim on other places, but the Muslim community has rejected this offer. He said the Muslims should first give up the bigotry.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 27) has indirectly criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. The newspaper said that at one level Mohan Bhagwat has been singing the tune of social harmony. On the other hand, his followers are staking claim over dozens of masjids and dargahs in the country including the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. The newspaper said that the MP of Samajwadi Party Iqra Hassan has welcomed the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. Iqra Hasan said that for the first time she agrees with a statement of Mohan Bhagwat, but along with this, Mohan Bhagwat should also direct his followers to stop the system of staking claim over the dargahs and masjids of Muslims. Senior leader of Congress Digvijay Singh said that if this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is the voice of his heart, then he should ban the anti-Muslim campaign of organisations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal. He said that the surprising thing is that Mohan Bhagwat does not make any effort to convince the Prime Minister of his party, who is involved in spreading hatred against Muslims in the country.

Hindustan (December 29) said that this statement of Bhagwat shows that he had this realisation that some communal elements are harassing Muslims. The sad

Hindustan Express (December 29) in an article said that Muslims should not fall into the trap of Mohan Bhagwat's sweet talk. This is nothing but hatred towards Muslims. In the past also he had given such statements, but the impact of his statements are not visible on the ground. The fascist powers have not changed their stance against Muslims. It is not hidden from anyone who is responsible for the fascism which has been growing in the world. Those who have taken oath on the Constitution and the law are running a campaign against Muslims. The religious places of Muslims are being forcibly occupied and they are being harassed in every manner.

Urdu Times (December 23) in its editorial has advised Mohan Bhagwat that he should first direct his workers to follow the raj dharma. The concern expressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on the communal politics and the mandir-masjid controversy has put everybody in surprise, because this controversy was raised at the behest of RSS and now the RSS chief himself is playing the drama of expressing concern over it. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has thrown to winds the statements of Mohan Bhagwat through his communal statements. In view of this, our advice to Mohan Bhagwat is that instead of advising others, he should control his own workers, so that the entire controversy will end. Wherever violence is unleashed against Muslims, there the names of RSS workers

come to the surface. The seeds of hatred are sown against Muslims in the RSS shakhas in villages across the country. Only Mohan Bhagwat can stop this.

Avadhnama (December 24) said that there is huge difference in Mohan Bhagwat's walk and talk. At one level, he gives these kind of harmonious statements. On the other hand, his own party's chief minister in Uttar Pradesh is openly running a campaign against Muslims in the state. Efforts are being made to take over the dargahs and masjids of Muslims. If any voice is raised against the arbitrariness of the government, he is gunned down and his house is demolished using bulldozer.

Hindustan (December 20) in its editorial has alleged that at one level RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat preaches social harmony. On the other hand, life is being made difficult for Muslims. A campaign is being unleashed in Uttar Pradesh to convert centuries-old masjids into mandirs. In every district, every town, a search is being done for such masjids where it could be claimed as a mandir. If a Muslim buys a house from a Hindu, then an atmosphere could be created against him as well. The sad thing is that instead of curbing the unjustified demands of communal elements, the administration also sides with them.

Hindustan (December 22) said that the statements made by Mohan Bhagwat to Nitin Gadkari are aimed at fooling the world and to cover up the campaign being run against Muslims in the country. At one level, Mohan Bhagwat is singing the tune of social harmony. On the other hand, organisations linked to RSS are provoking the innocent Hindus in the country against Muslims. Communal tension is being created in the country by staking fake claims over dozens of masjids. On the pretext of atrocities being committed on minority Hindus in Bangladesh, the flames of hatred are being spanned against Muslims in India. Muslims are being



economically boycotted in several parts of the country. In such a situation, it is necessary for Mohan Bhagwat to take some credible steps to stop the anti-Muslim campaign instead of issuing statements. We understand that until Mohan Bhagwat takes some credible step in this connection, no positive result will emerge. Mohan Bhagwat can force not only his organisation, even the BJP government also to walk on the path of law and the Constitution. If he does not do so, his statements will not have any value.

Hindustan (December 31) said that how serious is Mohan Bhagwat's organisation about his statement could be assumed from the fact that the RSS's own journal 'Organiser' has refused to accept it.

Roznama Sahara (January 2) has said in a news published on its front page that the mouthpiece of Sangh, 'Panchjanya' had supported the statement of Mohan Bhagwat. Editor of Panchjanya Hitesh Shankar has given the title for his editorial as, 'What kind of a fight is this over temples.' He said in his editorial that it is not appropriate to use mandirs to fulfil political interests and it should not be used as political weapon. The statement given by Mohan Bhagwat in this connection reflects his serious thinking and social concern. Panchjanya said that after this statement of Bhagwat, a war-like situation has arisen in the media. Is this being done intentionally? This statement of Bhagwat is an appeal to the society to deal with the matter wisely. Encouraging unnecessary

discussion and propaganda on such issues is a matter of concern to the nation. Some anti-social elements are exploiting the social sentiments of people on social media. It is necessary to keep away from such elements. Bharat is the name of such a civilization which not only presented the vision of unity among diversity for centuries, but also lived and experienced it.

This statement of the Sarsanghchalak shows that Hindu society should stay away from political controversies while protecting its cultural heritage.

It is worth mentioning that at a function organised in Pune on December 19, Mohan Bhagwat said that after the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, some people had the feeling that they could become leaders of Hindus by creating such issues in new places. Every day a new issue is being raised. How can this be allowed? The country needs to show that we can live together.

However, another mouthpiece of RSS, 'Organiser' has expressed an opinion



different from that of Mohan Bhagwat. The Organiser has described it as a search for historical truth and a fight for cultural justice. Organiser Editor Prafulla Ketkar has written in his editorial that this effort to know the historical truth from Somnath to Sambhal and beyond has nothing to do with religious chauvinism. He had said in his editorial that the Congress is raking up casteism and caste system for their electoral benefits. On the other hand, Bhimrao Ambedkar had made serious efforts to do away with caste system in the Constitution.

Prime Minister Modi gets Kuwait's highest honour

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 23) states that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with the highest award of Kuwait, 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer' during his visit to Kuwait. He was presented this award by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Shabah. On this occasion, the Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was also present. This was the first time in the past 43 years that an Indian Prime Minister had visited Kuwait. The Kuwait government had instituted this award in 1974. The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer is a knighthood award of Kuwait. So far this honour has been bestowed on renowned world leaders like former US presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush and Prince Charles. During the visit, the two countries

also signed on agreements related to strategic partnership.

Siasat (December 22) states that Prime Minister Modi also met Abdullah Al-Baroun as well. Al-Baroun had translated Ramayan and Mahabharat in to Arabic. Talking about India's relationship with Kuwait, Prime Minister Modi said that our relations are centuries old. At one point of time, even the Indian currency was in circulation in Kuwait. Nearly 10 lakh Indians stay in Kuwait, which is nearly 21 percent of the total population of Kuwait.

Hindustan (December 24) in its editorial has welcomed the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The newspaper said that earlier in 1981, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had also visited Kuwait. Meanwhile, in 2009, the then Vice-President Hamid Ansari had also



visited Kuwait. Many prominent people in Kuwait, while expressing concern over anti-Islam activities in Bharat and harassment of Muslims, had also demanded to end Kuwait's relationship with Bharat. When a leader of the ruling party made objectionable remarks regarding the Prophet of Islam, the Kuwait government had lodged a protest with the Indian government. India is among those countries which had granted recognition to the autonomy of Kuwait in the beginning itself. Prime Minister Modi, while talking about 10 lakh Indians working in Kuwait, said that this community acts as a bridge between the two nations.

The newspaper said that the highest honour given to Prime Minister Modi by Kuwait is an example of the growing relationship between the two countries. It is clear from the visit of Modi to Kuwait that the BJP government in Bharat has lot of love towards the Muslim countries in the world, but the other side of the picture is very sad. The Muslims in the country are on the target of Hindutvawadi communal elements. Prime Minister Modi should have restrained such mischievous elements. Then only this country can progress. Nearly a dozen agreements have been signed upon during the visit of Modi to Kuwait. In a broader view, not only this visit of Modi was a success, it has also

produced important results. In order to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the state, it is necessary to immediately stop the campaign of hatred towards Muslims because it is necessary to have a peaceful atmosphere for foreign investments in the country.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (December 24) in its editorial welcomed the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Kuwait and said those who have been running a hate campaign against Muslims in Bharat do not see the truth that an Islamic nation has honoured the Indian Prime Minister with the nation's highest honour. Whereas on the other hand, incidents of persecution of Muslims in Hindustan is continuously increasing. At one level, slogans like 'Batenge to katenge' and 'Ek rahege to safe rehega' are being raised in Hindustan. On the other hand, you expect that your relationship with the Muslim nations in Arab will remain friendly.

Siasat (December 24) in its editorial said this visit of Prime Minister Modi took place due to the invitation of the rulers of Kuwait. The relationship between Bharat and Kuwait is centuries-old. India gets huge quantity of petrol from Kuwait, which is crucial for the energy in the country. It is necessary for the development of Bharat that the Muslim nations of Middle-East make more and more investments in the



country. For this, these nations need to have the trust that Muslims are staying in a peaceful atmosphere in Bharat and they do not have to face any threat here.

Urdu Times (December 25) said the recent visit of Prime Minister Modi to Kuwait became a topic of discussion in Muslim nations. At one level, it is being made difficult for Muslims to live in Bharat. On the other hand, we expect that Bharat's friendly relationship with Arab nations improve further. Prime Minister Modi wants to keep oppressing Indian Muslims and the Muslim nations keep singing his praises so that the stature of the Prime Minister keeps growing on the world platform. The newspaper said that when Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation of a temple in Dubai last time, the two princes there carried the Bhagwat Gita on their head and placed them at the feet of the murtis of devi-devatas. Today, we feel like mourning the intelligence of the Gulf countries. Hindus see a mandir in every masjid in Bharat and want to construct temple after destroying the masjid there. If the Muslim nations of the Gulf also start walking on the same path what will be the

result is something that our rulers also should seriously think about. Do our rulers want to prove by building Ram temples in the Gulf Muslim countries that these countries were also once the abode of Ram and Sita? The day it happens, it will be unfortunate for Muslims and Islam.

Inqilab (January 2) said we do not agree with the policies of Modi, but we are forced to accept that in the past 10 years he had taken Bharat's relationship with Arab nations to a new level. Indian Muslims may have complaints regarding Modi, but for the rulers of Arab nations, these are not issues. You will remember that when Article 370 was scrapped from Jammu-Kashmir on August 5, 2019, Pakistan created a huge hue and cry in Islamic world, but despite that no Arab country did even raise a finger against this decision of Modi government. International relations are not based on religion but are implemented on reality, facts and mutual interests. It is in the interests of Muslim nations to keep friendly relations with a country like Bharat which is the fifth largest economy in the world and powerful nation.

Vow to protect Islamic Waqf at any cost

Aurangabad Times (December 20) states that a meeting of All India Shia Personal Law Board was held in Lucknow recently. The meeting has expressed concern over

the petitions filed in courts demanding survey of masjids. The board, through a resolution, warned the government that the Muslims will not tolerate incidents of



desecration of masjids under any circumstance and the government needs to take steps to forcibly stop such incidents. Such incidents hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. However, as per the Constitution, every individual has the freedom to take out a procession, but the way the masjids are being targeted during such processions cannot be tolerated under any circumstance.

Chairman of the board Maulana Syed Saem Mehdi Naqvi said that in the past one decade there was a rapid increase in the incidents of pelting stones at masjids, writing objectionable slogans on their walls and intruding into them and hoisting the flags of a particular religion at the behest of anti-social elements. Provocative speeches are delivered in front of masjids. The surprising thing is that the administration does not take any stringent action against the accused. Mentioning about the Waqf property, the board said these properties are a depository for the next generation and the Muslims will protect them at any cost. The board also expressed strong dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to examine the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024. Spokesperson of the board Maulana Yasooob Abbas said the JPC should seek the opinion of those organisations, which have direct relations with the Waqf. However, JPC chairman is playing in the hands of the

majority community and they are also seeking the opinion from such organisations which do not even have any distant relations with the Waqf. The board welcomed the verdict of the Supreme Court related to the ban on survey of masjids and said that this would increase communal harmony.

The Shia board has sought from the United Nations that a ceasefire should be declared in Gaza. The board, while criticising the change of power in Syria, said the Shia government of Bashar Al-Assad has been overthrown as part of a conspiracy. This was led by the head of a terrorist organisation of Sunnis, Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), Abu Mohammed Al-Julani. The board said that due to the change of power that took place in Syria, the lives and the religious places of Shias are facing threat. The board has appealed to the United Nations and human rights organisations that they take steps to protect the holy places of Shias in Syria. This included the Khabr of Hazrat Zainab and Hazrat Sakina.

Hindustan (December 28) reports that a meeting of Jamiat Ulema has been organised in Delhi under the chairmanship of Maulana Mahmoud Madani. Maulana Madani said that Muslims should be prepared to fight for the protection of masjids and Waqf properties. He said that we will oppose government interference in

Waqf properties. He alleged that a communal group of the majority community wanted to take over the Waqf properties of Muslims worth billions of rupees. The Muslims in the country will strongly oppose this.

Urdu Times (December 17) reports that a ‘Save Constitution Sammelan’ was organised by Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind in Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing this meeting, chief of Jamiat Ulema Arshad Madani accused the Modi government of interfering in the religious affairs of Muslims. This is against the basic sentiments of Constitution. We will protect the Waqf properties till the last drop of our blood. He said that the current government at the Centre is throwing the Constitution to the winds and if any attempt is made to amend the Constitution, then the unity of the country will be in danger. He demanded Telugu Desam Party president and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu to exert pressure on Modi government to withdraw the Waqf Amendment Bill. If the Modi government is not ready for it then the Telugu Desam Party should withdraw its support to the Modi government.

Etemaad (December 29) states that a public meeting was held in Hyderabad on



behalf of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM). In this public meeting, the Dalits were urged to join hands with Muslims for their rights and fight against the majority community. AIMIM MLA Mohammad Majid Hussain said that the BJP and RSS want to take away the rights given to Dalits and Muslims by Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the Constitution. The ruling party in power at the Centre is anti-minority and anti-Dalits. They wanted to change the Constitution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and make this nation into Hindu Rashtra. Muslims and Dalits should join hands and oppose these efforts. On this occasion, it has been decided that a Dalit-Muslim unity campaign shall be run at full speed in the country.

Life-term for 28 accused in Chandan Gupta murder case

Avadhnama (January 4) states that a Special NIA court has awarded life-term in jail to the 28 accused in the Chandan Gupta murder case. The youth named Chandan Gupta was killed during a Tiranga Yatra take out in Kasganj district in Uttar Pradesh on January 26, 2018. It is worth mentioning that the father of Chandan Gupta had filed a case after the murder of his son. Those who have been awarded life-term in jail include Asif Qureshi, Aslam Qureshi, Shabab, Saquib, Munazir Rafi, Amir Rafi, Salim, Wasim, Nasim, Bablu, Akram, Taufeeq, Mohsin, Rahat, Salman, Asif,

Nishu, Imran Qayyum, Asif Jimwala, Wasif, Shamsad, Zafar, Shakir, Khalid Parvez, Faizan, Imran, Shakir Siddiqui and Zahid alias Jagga.

The accused, while questioning the legal status of this court, filed a petition before the high court seeking to stop the hearings in the case, but the court rejected the same. Commenting on the decision of the court, the father of Chandan Gupta said that he got justice. It is to be noted that a Tiranga Yatra was taken out in Kasganj by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on December 26, 2018. Some people opposed this yatra.



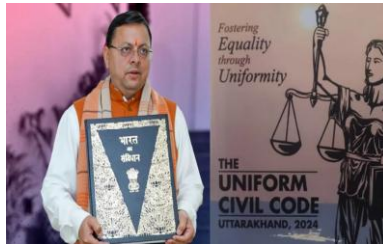
When this yatra was passing through a Muslim majority area, the yatra was attacked. In this attack, 22-year-old youth Chandan Gupta was killed. Chandan Gupta was an activist of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and his death sparked a massive communal tension in Uttar Pradesh.

The court said that the murder of Chandan indicates a serious development.

If this is not forcibly stopped, then such extremist activities will take the lives of other people as well. During the hearings, the lawyer of the accused claimed that Chandan Gupta was hit by the bullet of his own colleagues and no outside person attacked him. He said there was a competition among different groups on the question of taking out a Tiranga Yatra. There has been mutual conflict due to it. Later, firing took place and Chandan Gupta was killed. The court, while terming this claim of the lawyer of the accused as baseless, said the investigation and the statement of witnesses prove that the murder of Chandan Gupta was a planned one and many were involved in the attack.

Implementation of Uniform Civil Code announced in Uttarakhand

Urdu Times (December 19) states that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has announced that the Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in Uttarakhand in the beginning of 2025. It is to be noted that



while discussing about the Constitution in Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah announced that along with Uttarakhand, the Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in all BJP-ruled states. The home minister also revealed what all steps that the BJP-ruled governments had taken to implement the Uniform Civil Code and what preparations had been made.

Delivering a speech in Uttarakhand Assembly, Pushkar Singh Dhama said that Uttarakhand has emerged as a model for BJP-ruled states towards implementing the Uniform Civil Code. He said that the BJP had promised in the election manifesto for the Uttarakhand Assembly elections in 2022 that if the BJP comes to power again, the Uniform Civil Code will be

implemented in the state. We have made all necessary preparations to fulfill this promise. Uttarakhand will be the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. All

administrative steps have been taken in this direction.

It is to be noted that after the BJP came to power once again in Uttarakhand in 2022, a committee was constituted under the chairpersonship of a retired judge of Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. The committee had received 20 lakh suggestions. In this connection, the committee had contacted 2.5 lakh people on individual basis. Following this, the draft of the Uniform Civil Code Bill was tabled in the state Assembly on February 6, 2024. After the Bill was passed in the Assembly, it was sent to President Draupadi Murmu through the Raj Bhawan. The President approved the Bill on March 11, 2024.

Over 50 Afghans killed in Pakistani airstrike



Roznama Sahara (December 26) reports that the spokesperson of Taliban government Zabihullah Mujahid told journalists that the Pakistan air force on December 24 bombed four places in Barmal district in Paktika province in Afghanistan in which more than 50 people were killed and over 100 injured. Majority of those killed were women and children. In an official statement, the defence ministry of Afghanistan condemned this recent attack on Afghanistan's territory and described it as barbaric action. It has been said in the statement that the Afghanistan government will give a befitting reply to this cowardly act. This is an attack on our sovereignty which we will not tolerate under any circumstance. It has also been alleged on behalf of Afghanistan that the Pakistani Army is regularly violating the borders of Afghanistan and targeting innocent people.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson of Pakistan government told French news agency 'AFP' that the Pakistan air force carried out attacks on terrorist bases located in Afghanistan's territory. The spokesperson also alleged that terrorist activities were being carried out against Pakistan from Afghanistan's territory. He said that we drew the attention of the Afghanistan government towards this several times, but they did not take any

action against it. The Pakistan spokesperson said that the Afghanistan government is not only giving refuge to terrorists, but is also providing them with weapons. This is a very serious issue. The Taliban government in Afghanistan rejected this allegation of Pakistan and said the Pakistan government has failed to find solutions to its internal issues and hence it is blaming the Afghanistan government. We will not give permission to anyone to use our territory for terrorist activities.

Hindustan (December 26) states that Afghanistan's defence ministry said the Pakistani attack will be given a befitting reply. The ministry claimed that majority of those who were killed in Pakistani air strike were refugees from Waziristan region in Pakistan. Spokesperson of Afghanistan's defence ministry Enayatullah Khwarizmi said that it is totally wrong for Pakistan to say that its air force carried out attacks on the terrorist bases located in Afghanistan. The truth is that the common people became the victims of these attacks and majority of those who were killed were women and children.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the Taliban government has directed the people residing in border regions not to use mobile phones because the Pakistani air force could track them. It



Afghan defence ministry Enayatullah Khwarizmi said that recently a neighbouring country had violated our airspace. In retaliation for this, several military posts of the enemy nation were targeted from the south-eastern region of Afghanistan. The spokesperson, without taking the name of Pakistan, said the attacks had been carried out along the imaginary border line. Khwarizmi said that this imaginary border line was created by the British, which we do not

recognise. This area does not belong to Pakistan, instead it belongs to Afghanistan. It was forcefully occupied during the British rule. Commenting on this statement of Khwarizmi, the Pakistan government said the Afghan government is ignoring the facts. The Durand line is recognised as Pakistan-Afghanistan border for decades. We are totally free to take any step to protect our territory.

is worth mentioning that the attack took place at a time when the special representative of Pakistan Mohammad Sadiq was holding talks with the Taliban government in Kabul. The purpose of this talks was to normalise the relationship between the two countries. Analysts said that due to this attack, the series of talks between the two countries may get halted. In the past too, clashes took place between the armies of Pakistan and Afghanistan several times over trespassing of border. Nearly 100 people were killed in these clashes. The Pakistan-Afghanistan border is closed for the past two months. Due to this, there is huge setback to the trade between the two countries.

Hindustan (December 29) has claimed that clashes are taking place between the armies of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Deadly weapons are being used during these clashes. Hundreds of Afghans protested and raised slogans against Pakistan in the Khost province in Afghanistan. According to television network Al Arabia, there is an increase in the clashes between the soldiers of the two countries. Recently, a blast took place near the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Six persons were injured in this blast. The Afghan government is probing the blast.

It is to be noted that the Pakistani air force has carried out attacks on Iranian territory as well. Then also the Pakistani military had claimed that it had carried out attacks on the terrorist bases located in Iran. Many Iranian citizens were killed in these attacks. Following this, Iran had closed its border along Pakistan.

Munsif (December 27) in its editorial expressed concern over the increasing tension on Pakistan-Afghanistan border. According to the newspaper, the Pakistan government has alleged that the terrorist incidents taking place in the country are being operated from Afghanistan. Nearly 270 people were killed in the terrorist incidents that took place in Pakistan last month. They included 70 soldiers as well. After Shehbaz Sharif came to power, the Pakistan government has failed to stop terrorist incidents.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 30) states that in retaliation to the Pakistani air force attack on Afghanistan, the Taliban army attacked four border outposts of Pakistan and seized them. According to sources in Afghanistan, 22 Pakistani soldiers were killed in this attack and many were injured. Pakistani sources have confirmed this attack. It is being said that at least three Taliban soldiers were killed in retaliatory action by the Pakistan army.

According to Pakistani newspaper **Jung** (December 29), spokesperson of

Bloody clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Tablighi Jamaat



Roznama Sahara (December 10) reports that bloody clashes took place between two groups of Tablighi Jamaat over occupying the world ijtema grounds in Tongi, which is 20 kilometres from Bangladesh capital Dhaka. It is being said that at least 10 people were killed in these clashes. Whereas the spokesperson of Tablighi Jamaat (Saad group) has confirmed the death of seven of its activists in these clashes. The home ministry of Bangladesh has claimed that at least five persons were killed in these clashes and more than 200 people were injured. To stop the situation from turning worse, a ban has been imposed on ijtema and the entire region has been handed over to the army. The army has been directed not to allow more than two persons to gather in the area. This apart, a stringent ban has also been imposed on carrying weapons and also on raising slogans. The army has been arresting rioters belonging to both the groups. Till now, more than 200 people have been arrested. It is to be noted that the Tablighi Jamaat organises world ijtema in Dhaka every year. Nearly 20-25 lakh people take part in this ijtema.

According to official sources, the clashes began in the morning on December 18 when the supporters of the chief of Bangladesh Tablighi Jamaat Maulana Zubair tried to stop the chief of the Indian

Tablighi Jamaat Maulana Saad Kandhlawi and his supporters from entering the ijtema place. Following this, a violent clash erupted between the two groups. It is being said that this system of bloody clashes continued for three hours. When the police tried to stop the clashes, then the activists of Tablighi Jamaat attacked them as well, during which more than two dozen police personnel were injured. In view of the worsening situation, the Army had to be called to the spot.

It is to be noted that the system of organising World Tablighi Ijtema in Dhaka started in 1967. Initially this ijtema used to be of single day only. Later, when people started thronging this ijtema in large numbers, its period has been extended up to three days. It is worth mentioning that Islam is the biggest religion in Bangladesh. After Indonesia, Pakistan and Bharat, the highest number of Muslims reside in Bangladesh. The controversy between Maulana Saad and Maulana Zubair groups started in 2014. Following this, the then Sheikh Hasina government had allowed the two groups to hold the ijtema on different dates in view of the possibility of violence.

According to English newspaper **The Daily Star** (December 21) published from Bangladesh, the police had arrested Muaz bin Noor on charges of spreading violence. It is being said that Muaz is

associated with Saad group. Incharge of Tongi West police station, Iskandar Habibur Rahman, said that five cases have been registered in connection with the riots. Out of them, three cases were registered by the supporters of the Tablighi leader of Bangladesh, Maulana Zubair Ahmed. Spokesperson of Zubair group, Habibullah Rehan, told journalists that Tablighi Jamaat keeps itself away from politics and limits itself to Islam and religious issues. Whereas Maulana Saad was sent by the government of a neighbouring country to Bangladesh so that violence could be ignited here. We have been opposing him from coming to the ijtema because of this. We had directed our supporters not to allow Maulana Saad or any of his supporters to the ijtema, because he has been playing in the hands of political leaders.

Spokesperson of Bangladesh's home ministry said that last year the two groups were given permission to hold the ijtema on separate dates. The Zubair group held the ijtema from January 31 to February 2. Whereas the Saad group held the ijtema from February 7 to 9. This time, the home ministry had been trying to find some middle path to stop the riots during the ijtema. In this connection, the government had also held talks with the two groups as well. During this time, Maulana Saad had arrived in Dhaka from Delhi with his supporters. The situation turned worse due to this and many people were killed in the clashes that took place between the two groups. The spokesperson said that the government has decided to send Maulana Saad back to Bharat.

Background: Tablighi Jamaat is the biggest Islamic organisation in the world. Its branches are spread in 140 countries in the world. It is said they have more than 30 crore followers. The Jamaat leaders claim that they have nothing to do with politics and their activities are limited to promotion



and propagation of Islam in the world. However, according to US intelligence agency FBI, it is the biggest factory preparing the jihadis. It is said the hands of this organisation were behind the terrorist incidents that had taken place in many parts of the world. The Tablighi Jamaat was established in India in 1926. According to the spokesperson of the Jamaat, the Tablighi Jamaat came into being in 1920 as a reaction to the Shuddi Andolan launched by a sanyasi of Arya Samaj, Swami Shradhdhanand to bring Muslims back to the Hindu fold. Its founder was Maulana Mohammad Ilyas Kandhlawi. Kandhlawi belonged to Kandhala town in Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to the Wahabi sect. He received Islamic education from Darul Uloom Deoband.

The headquarters of Jamaat was initially set up at the Banglewali masjid in Nizamuddin colony in national capital Delhi. After the Partition of the country, apart from India, its headquarters was also established at Raiwind in Pakistan and at Tongi in Bangladesh. The interesting thing is that a ban has been imposed on the activities of Tablighi Jamaat in many Islamic countries. Prominent among them include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. After the death of Maulana Mohammad Ilyas Kandhlawi, the leadership of the organisation was taken over by his son Maulana Mohammad Yusuf Kandhlawi. After the death of Yusuf, his son Maulana Inamul Hasan



Kandhlawi became the Amir of the organisation. After his death, his son Zubair Al Hasan became the head of this organisation.

In March 2014, Zubair Al Hasan passed away. Following this, when Zubair Al Hasan's son Maulana Zuhair ul Hasan Kandhlawi was made the new head of the organisation, the protests started and Tablighi Jamaat got divided into three pieces. The responsibility of one group has been taken over by Maulana Ilyas's great grandson Maulana Saad Kandhlawi. Whereas the responsibility of the third

group has been taken over by a monitoring committee of seven prominent leaders. Later rebellion took place in the group of Maulana Saad as well and a Shura-e-Amal was formed to take over the keys of one group. Its headquarters has been established in a masjid located in Navi Mumbai.

The Tablighi Jamaat came into limelight during the Corona period. That time the government had alleged that due to participation of those taking part in the ijtema of Tablighi Jamaat, the spread of corona in the country had increased. Following this, the government had sealed the headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat at Banglewali Masjid located in Nizamuddin and arrested hundreds of activists of Jamaat. Later Maulana Saad had questioned this ban in the Delhi High Court. On the intervention of the high court, the headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat located in Banglewali Masjid was handed over to Maulana Saad.

Bangladesh seeks extradition of Sheikh Hasina from Bharat



Roznama Sahara (December 24) states that the interim government in Bangladesh demanded the Indian government that it hand over the deposed Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to it so that a case could be registered against her on corruption charges. As per a report of the

Daily Star, advisor on home affairs in Bangladesh, Jahangir Alam Chaudhary, has confirmed the news and said that the Bangladesh government has sent a letter to the Indian External Affairs Ministry in this connection. He said that an extradition treaty had been signed between the two countries in 2013. As per this agreement, there is a legal provision to exchange the accused between the two countries. He said that under this agreement, Bharat has to handover Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh government.

Earlier, the Bangladesh government had urged Interpol that it issue a Red Corner Notice to arrest Sheikh Hasina so

that she could be arrested and handed over to Bangladesh government. Legal advisor of Bangladesh government, Asif Nazrul said that no matter where in the world the criminals of our country are hiding, we will bring them back and present them in court so that a case can be filed against them. On October 17, the tribunal constituted by the Bangladesh government had issued an arrest warrant against Sheikh Hasina and 45 other people. They included the son of Sheikh Hasina Sajeeb Wazed and several former ministers of Sheikh Hasina's cabinet.

It is worth mentioning that due to the nationwide violent protests that took place against the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina fled from Bangladesh and left for India on August 5, 2024. The caretaker government in Bangladesh has claimed that more than 1,000 people were killed in these protests and thousands were injured. Nearly 225 cases have been registered against Sheikh Hasina. This included 194 cases for murder. It is to be noted that several terrorists of banned terrorist organisations are hiding in Bangladesh since 2013. So far, India's external affairs ministry has not reacted to this request by the Bangladesh government. Informed sources say that if such cases are filed against any political leader, India could reject handing over of the political leader concerned to Bangladesh.

The Dhaka Tribune has claimed that due to the extradition treaty between the two countries, the Bangladesh government had handed over the leader of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) Anup Chetia to India in 2015. Under this agreement, the Indian government has also handed over several people to Bangladesh till now. The newspaper claimed that the treaty was amended in 2016. As per the amended treaty, there is no need to produce any document to hand over the accused to the nation concerned. For this, the warrant issued by the court is more than enough.

Aurangabad Times (December 26) reports that Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb



Wazed alleged that the Yunus government is using the judiciary as a weapon due to political animosity and vendetta and making false allegations against opponents.

Munsif (December 24) states that the president of Nationalist Democratic Movement Party Bobby Hajjaj filed a petition before the Dhaka High Court. In this petition, it has been alleged that Sheikh Hasina had taken bribe for the establishment of Rooppur nuclear energy plant. This plant was built at a cost of 12.65 billion dollars. The Russian government has given 90 percent of the amount as loan to Bangladesh. Hajjaj alleged that Sheikh Hasina and her family has embezzled five billion dollars from the funds sanctioned for this plant.

Inquilab (December 25) states that the Russian government has rejected the allegation that Sheikh Hasina or any member of her family had taken bribe from the company which had been given the contract to set up the nuclear energy plant. The Russian government said this allegation is baseless and fake.

Hindustan (December 25) has said in its editorial that the Bangladesh government wants to arrest deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and file cases against her. After the liberation of Bangladesh, the relations between Bharat and Bangladesh remained quite friendly. Now after Mohammed Yunus came to power, allegations and counter-allegations are going on between the two countries. The Indian government has been raising the news regarding the so-called persecution of Hindus and attacks on mandirs. In this connection, the ruling party BJP has been



did not like the message sent by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Bangladesh government on the occasion of Vijay Diwas. The newspaper expressed surprise that the Indian government had removed the photo showing the surrender of Pakistani Army during the Bangladesh liberation from the Indian Army's headquarters. In such a

organising protests across the country. However, when the Indian government raised this issue before the Bangladesh government, the government there showed the mirror to the Modi government told it in clear terms that they first make arrangements for the security of its own minorities. After that raise the issue of Bangladeshi Hindus. The Bangladesh government has made it clear that if the Indian government does not hand over Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh government, there would be further strain in the relationship between the two countries. Now it is left to be seen what decision the Modi government would take in this connection.

Urdu Times (December 17) in its editorial said the Bangladesh government

situation, celebrating Vijay Diwas cannot be considered as appropriate under any situation.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 26) in its editorial said the Modi government has got trapped in such a Chakravyuh on the issue of Sheikh Hasina that it does not look possible to come out of it. Neither can it hand over Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh government nor can it spoil its relationship with Bangladesh government.

Hindustan Express (December 26) in its editorial said that due to this demand of Bangladesh government, a new dispute has started between Delhi and Dhaka. It is difficult to say what will be the outcome of this controversy. The Indian government has to make its every step carefully because the matter is very complicated.

Islamic terrorists create havoc in Germany and the US

The Islamic terrorists are creating havoc in US and Germany. In both the countries, the Islamic terrorists had killed dozens of people celebrating Christmas and New Year.

Avadhnama (January 2) states that a terrorist carried out an attack on people taking part in New Year celebrations in the US. This terrorist crushed to death 15 people using a truck and injured more than 200 people. This jihadi had also kept the flag of notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS on the truck. Following this, the terrorist opened indiscriminate

firing on the crowd. Many people were killed in this firing and dozens were injured. One policeman was also among the injured. Later the police had killed the terrorist.

Inquilab (January 2) states that this terrorist attack took place in New Orleans in the US. Thousands of people had gathered here to celebrate the New Year. The security arrangements were tightened in view of the huge crowd and more than 300 policemen were present on the spot. All of a sudden a man came driving a truck and he started crushing people. When the



police tried to stop him, he alighted from the truck and started indiscriminate firing. The attacker was killed in the retaliatory firing by police. According to the police, the attacker had been identified as 42-year-old Shamsuddin Jabbar. This man was of Afghan origin and he was given refuge as a refugee in the US. Jabbar has served the US army for nearly a decade. He was also deployed in Afghanistan as a US soldier for nearly a year. Jabbar had married twice, but both his wives got separated from him. The US police is trying to trace his terrorist contacts. According to FBI sources, a few bombs were also seized from the spot.

Yet another terrorist incident took place in the US on the occasion of New Year. A massive explosion took place in a truck outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas. Many people were injured in the blast. US investigation agency FBI has expressed the possibility of the hands of terrorists behind this incident as well.

Roznama Sahara (December 22) reports that an Islamic terrorist ran over his car over a crowd at a Christmas market in Magdeburg in Germany. At least seven persons were killed on the spot and over 100 injured in this attack. It is said that there were more than 20 Indian citizens among them. The police have taken the car driver into custody. This man's name is Taleb al-Abdulmohsen and he was an original resident of Saudi Arabia.

As per a report of BBC, the Saudi government has confirmed that the accused person was a citizen of Saudi Arabia. He was found involved in the activities of an Islamic terrorist group and hence the Saudi Arabian government had expelled him from the country. Later he took political refuge in Germany. The Saudi government has also claimed that the German

government was duly informed about the dangerous background of this person but due to the liberal law in Germany, the government there did not take any action against the accused individual. Taking advantage of it, he has played Holi with the blood of Christians there. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz condemned the attack and said the German government will amend the law regarding immigration and make it more stringent. He said there is a possibility of increase in the number of people killed because the condition of 40 admitted to hospitals is said to be serious. Magdeburg police official Michael Riff said the attacker deliberately ran over his car over those celebrating Christmas. He selected this crowded market with the aim of killing people. Despite warning, he did not make any effort to stop his car and continued to crush people.

As per another news, the Saudi Arabian government has condemned this attack. The Saudi government said the person who carried out the attack was a citizen of Saudi Arabia and he is a doctor by profession. He was expelled from Saudi Arabia in 2006 for his involvement in terrorist activities. Since then he has been living in Germany. It is to be noted that earlier in 2006 also a radical Islamic extremist, Anis Amari, had deliberately ran a truck into a crowd which had gathered at the Christmas market in German capital Berlin in which at least 12 people were killed and more than 100 were injured. This driver of Tunisian origin tried to escape, but the police shot him dead.

The German government has announced that it is getting this incident probed by intelligence agencies so that all those associated with this incident could be arrested and stringent action could be taken against them. The government spokesperson said that some radical Islamic extremists want to overthrow the current administrative setup and establish an Islamic Caliphate instead. The German people will not tolerate such activities under any situation. ■

Now, ban on windows too in Afghanistan



Siasat (December 31) states that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has imposed a ban on having windows in houses. This step has been taken in accordance with Shariah. It has been claimed on social media platform X on behalf of Taliban government that gazing at women working in the kitchen and the courtyard or women fetching water from the wells may promote obscenity. This is against Islam. Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzadah has ordered that such windows in houses shall be shut from where one could see women in the neighbourhood houses working. The house owners have been ordered to shut all the windows using brick and cement. The municipalities and police have been given stringent directions in this connection.

Urdu Times (January 1) states that the Taliban government has ordered all

national and international organisations working in the area of women's rights to stop their business. The Taliban government had directed these organisations not to keep women as employees, but several organisations have violated this directive. In future, no native or foreign organisation will be given permission to take part in any activity in women's field. The government has decided to cancel the licence of all the organisations. The Taliban rulers said this decision has been taken because the system of not wearing purdah, not wearing burqa and not covering the hair has been increasing among the women in Afghanistan. The Taliban government has also given the direction that in future the women and girls in Afghanistan cannot enrol in any institute imparting training in nursing or medical education.

Shia-Sunni civil war erupts in Syria



Inqilab (December 27) states that the caretaker government in Syria has accepted that the supporters of deposed President Bashar Al-Assad are still carrying out attacks on government army in different parts of the country. So far 14 people have been killed in these attacks. According to BBC news, government sources said that in the past few days, war erupted near the Tartus port situated on the Mediterranean coast of Syria. Those who are opposed to the caretaker government belong to the Alawite tribe of Bashar Al-Assad. This is a Shia tribe. The BBC said the Shia-Sunni clashes are spreading day-by-day.

Siasat (December 27) reports that a Shia dargah situated in the northern part of Syria has been attacked and vandalised. In protest against this, Shias launched a protest rally in Syrian towns of Tartus and Latakia. This apart, anti-government protests also took place in several regions in the ancestral city of Bashar Al-Assad Qardaha and Homs. The protesters shouted the slogan, ‘Sunnis, we want peace, do not target our dargahs.’ Government sources confirmed that the army has imposed curfew in several parts of the country so that the violent protests taking place against the present government could be controlled. As per media reports, the

Sunnis destroyed two Shia dargahs in Aleppo and Ma'lula. When Shias opposed it, the government army shot dead at least 12 protesters.

Inqilab (December 27) states that when government soldiers arrived in Damascus to arrest a top official of the most infamous jail Sednaya, the armed supporters of Bashar Al-Assad attacked them in which 10 government soldiers were killed. The military operations wing has admitted that the supporters of previous government carried out attacks on government army in at least two dozen places in the country. Several soldiers were killed in these attacks. According to the correspondent of Al Arabia, following an attack by the government army on the Shia dargah Abu Abdullah Al-Husseini Al-Khasibi located in Aleppo, the armed men clashed with the army. Several people were killed in these clashes. A video has gone viral in this connection which showed the attackers damaging the dargah and setting fire to it.

Syria's interior ministry has claimed that the video was an old one and the foreign agencies have broadcasted it in order to defame the present government. The defence ministry has confirmed that military units had been sent from capital

Damascus to crush the rebels based in the eastern parts of Syria. The defence ministry said that our army has taken into control a rebel base and many were killed in the firing that took place between the two sides. The supporters of Bashar Al-Assad are fighting the government army in a dozen places in Tartus, Latakia and Homs. Due to this, curfew has been imposed in Homs, Baniyas, Tartus and Jabala. In order to crush the rebels, the caretaker government in Syria has launched a new military operation.



Inqilab (January 1) reports that bloody clashes are taking place between US-supported Kurd alliance, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the government army in several places in north-eastern region of Syria. The international alliance formed under the leadership of US has sent a huge quantity of military equipment to the STF fighting the government army. The government sources have confirmed that the US has sent armoured vehicles and tanks to Raqqa and Kobani. This apart, the US has put pressure on Turkiye so that they do not attack the bases of SDF, but the Turks have refused to accept it. The Turks said the Kurd rebels do not have any other option except to surrender.

As per another news, fighting has broken out between the Turkish army and the Kurds. According to French news agency 'AFP,' more than 50 soldiers were killed in these clashes recently. The Kurds are regularly supplied military equipment at the behest of the US. It is to be noted that the US had formed the SDF in 2015 and they used it to take on Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. The Turks had alleged that a prominent wing of this organisation People's Protection Unit (YPG) is linked to rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The US defence ministry has confirmed that a war is taking place between Kurd army and the soldiers of Syria's government army. All efforts to stop this war have failed. A

war is taking place between the Kurds and government army in the Aleppo region of Syria. Due to this, two radar centres located near a bridge on the Farat river and many tanks were destroyed. According to British media, a war is being taking place between Kurds and government army for the past three weeks in this region. In Syria, nearly 2,000 US soldiers are present even now. These soldiers are fighting the war against ISIS alongside SDF.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 29) states that Iran's foreign affairs minister Abbas Araghchi alleged that foreign powers are interfering in Syria. He said the Syrian people should have the right to decide their own future and foreign powers should not interfere in them. It is to be noted that the Iran's foreign minister is in China nowadays. He had made this statement in an interview given to official Chinese newspaper 'People's Daily'. Araghchi alleged that the caretaker government in Syria is playing in the hands of foreign powers.

Avadhnama (January 2) states that Islamabad-based Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam has claimed that the US and other Western powers are conspiring to make the Muslim nations fight against each other along Shia-Sunni divide. He expressed concern that these imperialist powers are succeeding in their goal.

Siasat (December 22) states that Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that his country is ready to extend any kind of help to revive the collapsed economy of Syria due to the civil war. He expressed hope that Turkiye's relationship



with the new government of Syria will get strengthened. Erdogan demanded that various foreign powers who had imposed economic sanctions on Syria should withdraw them. He said the chief of Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) Abu Mohammad Al-Julani is trying to bring unity among all Islamic nations.

Urdu Times (December 25) states that the chief of HTS Al-Julani has claimed that all armed groups fighting in Syria have agreed to join the armed forces of Syria. He said that all armed groups will work under the Syrian defence ministry in future and they will hand over their weapons to the government. He said that this step has been taken so that Syria does not walk on the path of Afghanistan and civil war ends in the country.

Munsif (December 31) states that Abu Mohammed Al-Julani said he had a lengthy meeting with the rulers of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is ready to cooperate in the reconstruction of Syria. Al-Julani said I was born in Saudi Arabia, and hence I have deep love for that country. I am confident that Saudi Arabia will have an important role in the reconstruction of Syria.

Etemaad (December 30) states that Al-Julani said that his role is not the only one in Syria's fight for freedom. Its freedom also includes those people who fought against the dictator Bashar Al-Assad for many years. He said that it is not possible to conduct elections immediately in Syria. First of all, a new Constitution will be prepared for the country. This will take at least three years. Only after that

general elections could be held. He said that Kurdish people are an integral part of Syria and we will not allow a division of the country under any circumstance. Those foreign powers who want to break the unity of the country will suffer a setback.

Urdu Times (December 27) reports that the interior minister of Syria Mohammad Abdul Rahman, while addressing journalists, said we will not enter into any such agreement which is against the unity of Syria. He said those people who are spreading disturbance in Syria at the behest of foreign powers will be crushed. We are trying to ensure that all armed groups who were fighting in Syria hand over their weapons to the government so that the possibility of a civil war stops permanently.

Urdu Times (December 23) states that an employee of the Iranian embassy located in Damascus was killed when he was travelling in his car. The Iran government has urged Syria that it take stringent action against the assailants.

Siasat (December 23) states that Turkiye's home minister Ali Yerlikaya has claimed that in the past one month 1.24 lakh Syrian refugees had returned to Syria from Turkiye. He said that the process still continues and every day approximately 11,000 refugees are returning to their native place. He said that efforts are being made to spread disturbance at the behest of PKK and we are committed to crush these terrorists with an iron hand. Last year, more than 800 terrorists have been wiped out and approximately 2,000 suspected terrorists have been taken into custody.

Hindustan (December 19) in its editorial said that the manner in which the US is trying to spread its network in Syria will prove detrimental to Islamic unity in future. The newspaper expressed surprise that the army of Bashar Al-Assad had surrendered themselves before the HTS all of a sudden without a fight. The most surprising thing is that Russia had been

supporting the previous government in Syria for the past 50 years and the Bashar Al-Assad government had survived on the support of Iran and Russia. All of a sudden, how these two countries stepped back from supporting the Bashar Al-Assad government? It is such a secret where no answer is in sight.



Siasat (December 16) states that HTS chief Abu Mohammad Al-Julani has claimed that Israel is looking for some false pretexts to carry out attacks on Syria. Israel wants to usurp a portion of Syria. He said that we are not interested in war, because we want to reconstruct our country. On the other hand, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also made it clear that we are not interested in a war with Syria. It is to be noted that the then President of Syria Bashar Al-Assad

had fled from his country and took refuge in Russia on December 8, 2024. Since then, Israel has carried out attacks on various parts of Syria several times. According to Israel government, the purpose of these attacks is stop the offensive nature of Syrian army and to ensure the security of Israel.

Allegations of killing more than one lakh people in Syria



Inquilab (December 30) reports that as per a report of Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), it has been confirmed that more than 1.12 lakh citizens had gone missing in Syria during the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. As per official documents, during the rule of deposed President Bashar Al-Assad, these people who were considered as the opponents of the government, were initially arrested and

later killed. The organisation has claimed that after the collapse of the administration of Bashar Al-Assad, nearly 60,000 prisoners lodged in different jails in Syria were released. Many among them were lodged in different jails in Syria for the past four decades. No cases were registered against them in any court at any point of time. According to the president of SNHR, Fadel Abdul Ghany, mass graves were



He used to be known by the name 'Kazai' during the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. It is being said that the hands of Jamil Hassan were behind the killings of lakhs of people who were opposed to the government. He was the head of the intelligence agency of Syrian air force. He was counted among the most trusted persons of Bashar Al-Assad. The US, Germany and France had announced a reward of 10 lakh dollars for his arrest. Till now it is not clear in which country he had taken refuge in.

found in several places in the country, where the previous ruler had buried people after killing them. He said that so far more than a dozen mass graves have been identified and search is on for similar graves. Abdul Ghany said that a DNA test of the remains found in the graves would be conducted and later they would be handed over to the families of the persons concerned.

Hindustan (December 27) in its editorial said that after overthrowing the Assad family which has been in power in Syria since 1971, their dirty deeds are being exposed. Till now, more than two dozen mass graves have been found. The security guards of these kabristans said that every day 400 bodies are brought from different parts of the country in containers, from which stray dogs would fill their stomach. Following this, these bodies were buried in kabrs which are 20-20 feet deep. As per secret documents, 150 mass graves were found in Damascus alone. As per these documents, the soldiers of the intelligence agency of Syrian airforce used to bring 200-300 people filled in trucks and they used to be killed. Later their bodies used to be burnt by pouring petrol. The remains of the bodies used to be buried in these kabrs.

Roznama Sahara (December 31) states that the military operations wing of Syria has appealed to the people not to destroy the mass graves. If it is done, then it would not be possible to identify those who were buried in them. The department has appealed to the people of the country that if they come to know about such graves, they should immediately inform the government about the same. The government has appealed to the people of Syria whose relatives were arrested and executed by the old regime that they hand over all documents related to them. Director of Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) Raed Al Saleh said that the special investigation team are probing the mass graves. International cooperation is also sought in this connection. He said that since we have a shortage of equipment to conduct DNA tests, there is difficulty in conducting the investigations into the remains obtained from these graves.

As per official documents, the Assad government has killed 10 lakh people from 2011 till now. Whereas 1.3 crore people became homeless. The Assad government used to adopt different methods to get rid of the corpses of its opponents. This included the burning of corpses. In order to burn the corpses, huge furnaces which were run on electricity were being used. Inhuman treatment was meted out to the innocent people lodged in jails. They used to be kept in dark rooms for decades. Among those people released from the jails by the caretaker government, hundreds were mentally ill.

Urdu Times (December 23) states that during the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, the head of Syrian prisons, Jamil Hassan, had fled from the country. When the government army entered his residence, there was half-finished food on his table. This seems to indicate that they fled Syria in a hurry after receiving the news of Bashar al-Assad's escape from the country.

Syria demands compensation of 300 billion dollars from Iran



Inqilab (December 27) reports that the caretaker government in Syria has sought 300 billion dollars as compensation from Iran for the damage caused to the country during the civil war. In this connection, a case has been registered in the international court against Iran. The government's claim is that during the 13 years of civil war that took place in the country, the Iran government had been extending military support to the Bashar Al-Assad government of Syria. Due to this, Syria's economy and the people had to suffer huge damages and the country's entire economy was destroyed. Had Iran did not interfere in

the internal affairs of Syria, this situation would not have arisen. Iran had spent billions of dollars in support of Bashar Al-Assad during the civil war. This apart, thousands of soldiers of Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) were sent to Syria to support the government of Bashar Al-Assad so that he remains in power. Due to this policy of Iran, Syria had to suffer huge damages.

Syria's caretaker foreign minister Asaad al-Shaibani has warned the Iran government that it should not interfere in the affairs of Syria. Iran should respect the freedom of Syrian people. He said they will not allow Iran and its allies to spread disturbance in Syria. Recently, rebellion broke out in Syria once again and Iran's hands were behind this as well. Iran doesn't want the people of Syria to decide their own fate. They want to keep Syria as their slave. We oppose this. Iran has no right to interfere in our internal affairs. Those elements who are trying to spread disturbance in the country at the behest of Iran will be strongly crushed.

Ban on entry of Palestinians in Egypt

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 29) states that the Egypt government has imposed a ban on the entry of Palestinians arriving from Syria and four other Arab countries. Government sources told Al Arabia that the Egypt government has imposed a ban on the entry of Palestinian citizens arriving from Syria, Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Yemen from entering Egypt. Earlier, the Egypt government had imposed a ban on the entry of Syrian citizens staying in Europe, US and Canada from entering Egypt. This decision was aimed at stopping Syrian citizens having the US visa from entering Egypt. This apart, a ban has been



imposed on people of Egyptian origin staying abroad also from entering Egypt. Spokesperson of Egypt's foreign affairs ministry said that we support the present government of Syria and will fully cooperate with the reconstruction of Syria.

Israel's massive bombing in Yemen



Urdu Times (December 20) reports that Israel had carried out attacks on oil tanks and power stations in Yemen capital Sanaa. Sana is under the control of Houthi rebels. Three ports of Houthis have been destroyed due to the attacks. The biggest power station in South Sanaa was also destroyed in the Israeli attack. It is being said that 200 Houthi rebels were killed in these attacks. Spokesperson of Israeli military claimed that this military action has been taken against the Houthis because they have been regularly targeting Israel. However, Israel has been destroying majority of the missiles fired by Houthis before reaching their destination. Hamas has criticised the Israeli attack on Yemen and threatened that this attack will be given a befitting reply. These attacks cannot break our spirits.

Qaumi Tanzeem (December 30) states that Israel's defence minister Israel Katz has announced that we will cut off every hand that is raised against Israel. The Houthis should know that our long arms have reached them. Anyone who harms Israel will be given a seven-fold punishment. The spokesperson of Israel Army claimed that the Iran government, apart from extending financial aid to Houthis, had been providing weapons and intelligence information to them. We will not tolerate any opponents of Israel and all those puppets who dance to the tunes of Iran will be wiped out.

Munsif (December 20) states that the Israeli military has continued to attack

the Houthi bases, ports, oil reserves and power stations in Yemen. The attacks have destroyed two power stations in Sanaa and several oil depots. Israel carried out this attack in retaliation for the attack by Houthis on Israel. Houthis have announced that they won't get frightened by these attacks. Our missile attacks on Israel will continue.

Hindustan Express (December 24) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel military has destroyed Hamas and Hezbollah. Now our next target is Houthis. Apart from Israel, the US military has also targeted the Houthis. The US carried out these attacks in retaliation for the attack by Houthis on its ships.

Hindustan (December 26) reports that the Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed that they had fired more than a dozen ballistic missiles on central Israel. Several military bases of Israel got destroyed in these attacks. The Houthis claimed that they will continue with their attacks on Israel.

Etemaad (December 24) states that Iran has described the attacks carried out by US on Yemen as a violation of international law. Spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry Ismail Baghaei claimed that these attacks are against the international human rights law and its principles. Baghaei has sought from the Muslim world and the United Nations that they take credible action to stop the attacks

on Yemen by the US, Britain and Israel. As per another news, the Houthi rebels have claimed that they had shot down an F-18 US fighter plane.

According to **Aurangabad Times** (December 25), Israel had directed its diplomatic missions in Europe that they

establish contact with the respective governments to get the Houthi rebel groups declared as terrorist organisation and stress that the Houthis are a threat not only to Israel, but to the entire world. Due to their attacks, the commercial activities of ships in Red Sea have come to a halt.

Explosion in a factory in Turkiye



Avadhnama (December 25) states that Turkiye's interior minister Al Yerlikaya announced that 12 people were killed and many were injured in an explosion that took place in a factory manufacturing explosive substances in North-Western Turkiye. The entire structure of the factory collapsed in the explosion. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed grief over the explosion. He has ordered a high-level

inquiry into the explosion. According to local officials, it was a terrorist attack. It is to be noted that several terrorist organisations are active in Turkey for the past several decades. The prominent among them includes ISIS, Al Qaida and PKK.

It is worth mentioning that the terrorists had attacked the headquarters of Turkiye's Aerospace Industries on October 23, 2024. Nearly 20 people were killed in this attack. The dead included five terrorists as well. Earlier, a blast took place at Istanbul Trade Centre as well. Terrorist organisation ISIS had taken responsibility for the same. Nearly 15 people were killed in this attack, which included a suicide attacker as well. The Turkiye's air force has been regularly targeting the ISIS bases located on Turkiye-Iraq border. Turkiye's intelligence wing claimed that 2,700 Islamic terrorists were caught in Turkiye last year, which included several women and Israeli agents.

