

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

November 1-15, 2020

## Indian Muslims out on Streets in Support of Islamic Terrorism



- Row over Restrictions on Madarasas
- Islamic Terrorism Spreads its Tentacles in Europe
- Israel Establishes Diplomatic Tie-up with Bahrain
- Scholarship for Minority Students Siphoned off in Jharkhand

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## Summary

The threat of Islamic terrorism is increasing day-by-day in Europe. The European countries had started giving shelter to Muslim refugees on humanitarian considerations, but the same people have now become a headache for them. As long as the number of Muslim refugees remained small, they were never a trouble for the local Christian population. However, the Muslims started increasing their population and almost simultaneously started a 'jihad' against the local people. According to analysts, the problem is bound to increase in future and can reach disastrous consequences. The way Islamic terrorists have started creating bloodshed in countries like France and Austria, many countries are now thinking about making laws to stop such divisive forces from entering their country.

When the President of France vowed to end Islamic terrorism on its territory, many Islamic nations did not like his statement. President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, former Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohammad and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan soon joined the chorus for Islamic unity. However, the US soon sabotaged their plan. Till now, four Arab nations have recognised Israel. They are Egypt, Jordan, UAE and Bahrain. Saudi Arabia, irrespective of whatever claims they make, is hardly in a situation to antagonise US. This is the reason why the Crown Prince of UAE, Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan has openly supported France.

As far as Indian Muslims are concerned, they have voiced their open support for Islamic terrorism in Europe. Not only this, they have also started putting pressure on Indian government asking it not to support France which is involved in a fight with Islamic terrorism. Several rallies and protest marches have been taken out in various parts of the country with Urdu newspapers adding fuel to the fire. This protest can turn into a serious danger for Indian government at any point of time.

Meanwhile, the biggest organisation of Muslims, Jamiat-e-Ulema, has rejected the New Education Policy formulated by Modi government. In a statement issued at a meeting, the Jamiat has accused the government of trying to force Hindu culture and religion on Muslims. However, the reality is that the kind of liberty enjoyed by Muslims in India can't be found anywhere else in the world.

The Assam government has decided to close Madarasas and Sanskrit Pathshalas operating with government grants, raising the hackles of Muslim leaders. Their allegation is that it is an interference in their religious rights due to the violation of constitutional norms. On this occasion, the Finance Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma has issued a statement which carries lot of weight. He said that a secular government cannot promote a particular religion by using taxpayers' money. He said that if a Muslim organisation wants to run a Madarsa without government aid, then it is free to do so.

## Indian Muslims out on streets to protect Islamic terrorism



The entire Muslim leadership and almost all Urdu newspapers have come out in the open to support Islamic terrorism which has bared its fangs in Europe. What is strange is that these Muslim leaders and newspapers have also started putting pressure on Modi government demanding that it sever its ties with France and end its support to that country in its fight against Islamic terrorism. A dangerous atmosphere has been created in India as part of this campaign which can turn explosive at any point of time. The bizarre fact is that the Indian Muslim community has not raised even a single voice of protest against the killing of innocent people by Islamic jihadis in France and other European nations.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 3) reports that famous poet Munawwar Rana had refused to withdraw his statement in which he had justified the killing of innocent people in France. The poet had said that if anybody draws indecent cartoons of his father or mother, he would kill him and such a

killing would be totally justified. An FIR has been registered against Munawwar Rana in Lucknow after which he said that whatever he had stated earlier would not be withdrawn. "If I am sent to jail, I would love to die in jail. However, I will not apologise," he said. He added that the pen he holds is for writing the truth and not for pushing the lace through the pyjama. He said that an inspector named Deepak Pandey has registered an FIR against him. "I don't know anybody. However, I got to know that the inspector had passed out of the high school by cheating in exams," he said. Munawwar Rana claimed that the killings that took place over the cartoons of the Prophet were justified. According to sources, a French teacher named Samuel Paty had shown the cartoons of Prophet Mohammad that appeared in a French magazine to the students in his class. Enraged over this, a Muslim student of Chechnya origin beheaded him later.

Muslims took out huge rallies in Bhopal and Mumbai justifying the cruel murder that took place in France during which they demanded that India should sever its diplomatic relationship with France. Those who took part in the rally openly supported the killing of the French teacher. Lakhs of Muslims gathered for the rally in Bhopal, organised by Congress MLA Arif Masood. After these rallies, a number of protests and marches were held in different parts of the country against French President Emmanuel Macron and some continue even today. Almost every Urdu newspaper has openly supported this campaign. Each and every newspaper has also carried dozens of news and provocative articles on the subject.

**Mumbai Urdu News** headlined its editorial on October 31 as “India and France on same platform.” The editorial criticised Modi government for supporting France. It also said that one should not be surprised over the statement of Modi government extending support to France. For this government, the burning heart of Muslims is always a welcome factor. In the eyes of Hindutvavadis, every political party that claims to be secular in the country is involved in appeasement of Muslims. In their eyes, only Hindutva is real secularism. Hindutva is a system where there is no space for secularism. There non-Hindus have to live as second or third class citizens or even as fourth class citizens. Ever since the Modi government came to power, they have been going ahead with this plan. All these are taking place openly.

However, whenever the Modi government is required to show its face to the world, it shouts the slogan of secularism and claims that Muslims in India are the safest in the world. On the issue of France, there was actually no pressure on India to support France. The issue was between France and Muslims but by supporting French government, Modi government wanted to show the entire world that they are champions of secularism and democracy. This was at a time when France was violating all virtues of democracy and secularism.

“The fact is that both India and France are travelling on the path of religious extremism. They might be calling it as secularism or democracy. And what kind of secularism is the regular printing of blasphemous cartoons and their exhibition? It is nothing but an expression of hate and its publicity. India also travels on the same path and hence there is nothing unusual on India standing in solidarity with France. For the past six years, we have seen and in fact the entire world has seen how the masjid was snatched away in the name of secularism and democracy. Electricity at Madaras has been cut off and Shariat has been made a game. And here we have already implemented the hateful ideology that the French president has come up with now. Had there been any real thought about democracy or secularism, India would have already criticised the display of the cartoons.”

**Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (November 1) in its editorial claims that the statement of French President Macron, after the beheading of the school

teacher, that people had the right to draw the cartoons of Prophet Mohammad had shocked the entire Muslim world. There was a huge protest in front of the French embassy in Pakistan. In Bangladesh, thousands of people took part in a huge rally in Dhaka and had vowed to boycott all items made in France. Many protesters were seen holding banners declaring Macron as the world's biggest terrorist. They also burned Macron's effigy and hanged garlands of shoes on his pictures. In Mumbai also they hanged garlands of shoes on his photos and took out a rally. A rally was taken out in Lebanon also. In Al Aqsa mosque, thousands of people gathered and condemned the re-publication of Prophet Mohammad's cartoons. They shouted slogans like, "if our leader is Mohammad, then no one could defeat us." Addressing the namazis at Al Aqsa mosque, the imam said that only the French President is to be blamed for the violence taking place in France.

In Israel-occupied territories of Palestine, thousands of French flags were burned. Hundreds shouted slogans in anti-France rallies organised by Hamas in Gaza strip. "We will safeguard our Prophet with our life and blood," they shouted. Chairman of Darul Uloom Deoband, the biggest Muslim educational institution in India, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani has demanded that the Indian government openly condemn France and make laws against blasphemous representation of Islam. Nomani said that it is the duty of Organisation of Islamic Countries to bring all Muslim nations on one platform against France. President of

Turkey, Tayyip Erdogan said that the French President had gone mad and hence he should undergo treatment for mental illness. Former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohammad, has declared that it is the right of Muslims to punish French people and kill them.

**Hamara Samaj** (October 30) has published a statement of five Muslim leaders from Mewat in which they had criticised the statement of French President and justified the killing of those who insulted Prophet Mohammad.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 28) has published an editorial which quotes a report that Arab countries had decided to boycott French products and claims that French President Macron's justification of the insult to Prophet has hurt the feelings of crores of Muslims across the world. Nothing can compensate this insult. The entire Muslims of the world should unite and give a proper reply to France. The newspaper says that every Muslim in the world should stand by Turkey which is confronting France on the issue. Iran's foreign minister Jawad Zarif said that France is deliberately provoking Muslims to adopt the path of violence.

**Siasat** (October 28) in its editorial has urged all Muslims and Islamic nations in the world to unite against the anti-Muslim policies of France. The newspaper says that an anti-Muslim atmosphere has been created in France which will have serious consequences in future. The newspaper congratulated Turkey for snapping its ties with France. It also urged all Muslims in the world to boycott France

as a step towards marking their opposition.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 29) has published a news report which states that the founder-president of Raza Academy, Maulana Mohammad Sayeed Noori, had appealed to all Muslim nations in the world to oppose France and boycott French products. In yet another news published in the same newspaper on October 30, Maulana Moin Miyan has appealed to Indian government to withdraw its statement extending support to France. He said that their protests will continue till France unconditionally apologises to the Muslims of the world and said that they would take the issue right up to the international court of justice. This is because France is deliberately encouraging terrorism against Muslims. He warned that if the Indian government does not change its policy of supporting France, some faithful of the Prophet will take the path of violence and the Indian government will be fully responsible for it. The injustice being perpetrated against Muslims in France cannot be justified at any cost, he said.

**Inquilab** (November 3) in its editorial has threatened the French President that every fourth person in this world is a Muslim. There are 180 crore Muslims throughout the world. No nation can survive after antagonising such a huge population. The newspaper has demanded that the French President should immediately resign from his post. The entire Muslims of the world have stood up against him and he would not be able to contain their anger. The newspaper

also claimed that the French President has failed to contain the spread of Corona pandemic. The President should see the direction of the wind and immediately send those people who drew the cartoons of Prophet Mohammad to jail and should also make a law to ensure that in future no person would offend the religious sentiments of Muslims in the name of freedom of expression.

**Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (October 29) quotes the vice-chancellor of Darul Uloom Deoband, Abul Qasim Nomani, as saying that Europe is worried about the spread of Islam and that is why they have adopted anti-Muslim policies. In another news published in the same newspaper, the general secretary of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Mahmood Madani had demanded that the Indian government withdraw its support to France and cut off all ties with that country.

**Inquilab** in its editorial on October 22 said that the way the French President had declared a Muslim youth from Chechnya as a terrorist and had promised to avenge his actions, is strongly condemnable. The killing of two Muslim women who were knifed near Eiffel Tower is a vivid example of Christian terrorism. However, the President of France is not willing to call it as terrorism. His attitude is proof of his anti-Muslim stand, says the editorial.

**Inquilab** on its November 2 edition has carried at least 12 news items which were all critical of the French President.

**Inquilab** (October 30) published a statement of Shia leader Kalbe Jawad

Naqvi in which he has criticised those who insulted Prophet Mohammad and alleged that Muslim countries are busy fighting among themselves and that is why some people have got the courage to target Islam and the Prophet.

**Inquilab** in its October 31 edition also carried 12 news items against the French President which are mostly details of the protests held in different places. ■

## Bhim Army chief's secret meeting with Maulana Arshad Madani

**Inquilab** (October 25) reports that Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Ravan had arrived at Deoband and met the chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, at the latter's residence and held secret talks for over two hours. When the local journalists came to know about the meeting, they reached Madani's residence. However, both of them flatly refused to say anything about the meeting. When the journalists repeatedly asked Chandrashekhar Ravan about the purpose of his visit, he said he came there just to seek Maulana's blessings. Arshad Madani too refused to answer the questions of journalists. The Bhim Army chief's Azad Samaj Party is contesting the Bihar assembly polls.

**Comment:** Muslim organisations have been trying to launch a united front against the government for a long time now by forging an alliance with Dalits and Khalistani supporters. The latest meeting should be viewed in this context. Last year, Jamiat-e-Ulema, which is described as a B-team of Congress, had launched a nationwide 'Save Constitution, Save Nation' campaign during which the cooperation of Dalits was sought. In many states like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, joint meetings were held

during which it was claimed that minorities and dalits constitute a huge population and hence they should join hands and try to seize power.

It will be interesting to note that in the 1960s, notorious smuggler Haji Masthan had formed a Dalit-Muslim front and made actor Dilip Kumar (Yusuf Khan) as its patron. However, when the then government, with the help of its various agencies, started taking action against this notorious smuggler, his plan to create a pan-India organisation failed. In the 1980s, another effort was made by Jamiat-e-Islami to create a Muslim Majlis Mushawarat under the leadership of Syed Shahabuddin. Nearly 16 Muslims organisations were claimed to be part of this organisation. However, due to their internal contradictions, their attempt failed and the Majlis Mushawarat got divided into several groups.

As long as Jamiat-e-Ulema is concerned, the organisation was founded during the turbulent times of Khilafat agitation by Muslim Congress leaders like Maulana Azad and the then chief of Reshmi Rimal Tehreek, Maulana Mohammad Hussain Madani. After Partition, general secretary of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Maulana Hafizur





Rahman won a Lok Sabha seat on Congress ticket. It was claimed that he used to have the trust of Pandit Nehru and Maulana Azad. After his death, the reins of Jamiat-e-Ulema fell into the hands of Maulana Asad Madani who sat in Rajya Sabha for 24 long years on Congress ticket. After his death, Jamiat-e-Ulema got divided and the leadership of one part was taken over by the son of Asad Madani, Maulana Mahmood Madani. The leadership of the other group went into the hands of Arshad Madani, step brother of Asad Madani, and he is also a teacher at Darul Uloom Deoband. Recently, some Muslim leaders have started making some efforts to unite the two groups.

In the case of Chandrashekhar Ravan, he is a Dalit leader from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. First he formed an Ambedkar Army, which was renamed as Bhim Army. This organisation was founded by some Dalit leaders like Sathish Kumar, Vijay Ratan Singh and Chandrashekhar Ravan in 2015. In Dalit politics, Chandrashekhar is considered as a rival of Mayawati. He claims that his army has more than 20,000 Dalit members. Right from the beginning, this organisation used to target

especially Rajputs and other upper caste Hindus. Chandrashekhar had declared that he would form a united front against BJP with the cooperation of Muslims. He grabbed media attention a few years ago when he openly came out in support of those who sat on a dharna at Ram Lila Maidan against the harassment of Dalits at a village in Gohana in Haryana. In 2017, he held a massive rally at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

In August 2019, when the DDA razed a Ravidas Mandir in Tughlaqabad, he had organised a protest against the demolition. In December 2019, Chandrashekhar, while announcing his decision to join politics, declared that his aim was to snatch power from BJP. The interesting thing is that when the BJP government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act in Parliament in February 2020, Chandrashekhar and his organisation took part in the protests organised in various places by Muslim organisations. He was arrested when he organised a protest outside Jama Masjid along with the imam of the Jama Masjid. On March 15, 2020, he decided to form a new political party named Azad Samaj Party, and claimed that many leaders from BSP, SP, Congress and Rashtriya Lok Dal would join his party. Recently, BSP chief Mayawati seems to have mended fences with BJP and hence the prospects of Chandrashekhar Ravan are likely to improve in Dalit politics.

## Stringent law against Love Jihad in the offing

The increasing cases of Love Jihad in the country have prompted several state governments to think about formulating a stringent law to stop them. The latest incident took place in Ballabgarh in Haryana where a Muslim youth shot dead a Hindu girl in broad daylight because she refused to convert to Islam and marry him. The interesting thing is that the Urdu media, which used to carry dozens of articles on the Hathras incident, did not find it worth mentioning in their newspaper columns. They seem to have ignored the news as part of a well-planned policy.

Hindi newspaper **Dainik Hindustan** (October 28) had reported that when 20-year-old Nikita Tomar was returning home from Agrawal College, two men came in a car and stopped her. They shot her dead as she refused to convert to Islam and marry one of them. When the incident created ripples in media and on social media, the Haryana police arrested her killer Thouseef and his accomplice. Later, the man who gave him a pistol was also arrested. The government also decided to form an SIT to probe the murder and contain the public anger. The newspapers also wrote that Thouseef was a schoolmate of Nikita and he had been stalking her since then. In 2018, he had kidnapped Nikita and an FIR was also filed in the case. However, due to the political connections of the accused's family, the case was withdrawn.

**Comment:** Thouseef belongs to a Mev family in Mewat, a community

which holds substantial political influence in the region. His family members have strong Congress background. His grandfather was once a minister in Haryana government. His father was also a minister in Bhupendra Singh Hooda ministry. One of his uncles is an MLA. It is said that it was due to political pressure that the police withdrew the case registered against Thouseef in 2018. The then police commissioner of Faridabad was also said to be known to Thouseef's family. It is said that had police taken action against the kidnapper in 2018, he would not have mustered courage to kill her later. The father of the deceased disclosed on TV channels that he came under lot of pressure and hence he was forced to withdraw the case.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 2) has quoted Haryana home minister Anil Vij as saying that the state government would bring a stringent law against Love Jihad after the Ballabgarh murder. He alleged that one community is involved in conversion throughout the country through Love Jihad. Hence it is necessary to stop this crime. He said that he had spoken to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on the issue.

**Inquilab** (November 2) has reported that after the murder of Nikita, a mahapanchayat was held to discuss the situation during which a demand was made to hang the accused as early as possible. After the meeting, a clash erupted between two groups forcing police to lathicharge them. According to the newspaper, during

the mahapanchayat, somebody threw a shoe at Congress MLA from Faridabad NIT constituency, Neeraj Sharma, resulting in the clash. The police commissioner said that no permission was sought from the administration to hold the mahapanchayat. Haryana Chief Minister Manoharlal Khattar said it was a case of Love Jihad and nobody would be spared. The hearing in the case will be heard in a fast-track court.

**Inquilab** (October 31) reports that Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath had directed government agencies to keep an eye on incidents of Love Jihad so that action could be taken against the accused at the appropriate time. The Chief Minister stated that efforts are on to amend the law and make it more stringent to stop such incidents. Director general of police, UP, had already directed police superintendents and commissioners in districts to keep an eye on Love Jihad cases and also directed the intelligence wing too to keep a tab on such incidents to prevent deterioration of law and order in future. The state government is also planning to make a law against religious conversion. The education minister of Assam also expressed concern on increasing cases of Love Jihad and indicated that the government may take legal remedies to prevent such cases.

**Inquilab** (October 16) quotes the education minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, as saying that the Assam government has decided to take action against those people who elope for marriage. In Assam, Muslim youths often create fake identities on Facebook



using Hindu names and trap unsuspecting Hindu girls on social media and then marry them. He said the government is not against inter-caste marriages. However, if any person tries to marry through deceit, then the government would take legal recourse to protect our sisters and daughters, he said. Suitable amendments would be made in the law to deal with such situations, he added.

**Inquilab** (November 2) in its editorial criticised the decision to make a law against Love Jihad. Shakeel Shamsi in his editorial wrote that nowadays a ruckus is being created in states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the name of a concocted phrase, Love Jihad. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had threatened that those involved in Love Jihad will have to undertake 'Ram Nam Satya' yatra. It means that they will be put to death. The truth is that neither there is any such Love Jihad campaign in the country nor any probe agency had found anything like that. The term Love Jihad was first raised in 2009 when a petition was filed in Kerala High Court in which it was stated that 4,000 Hindu girls were converted after being misled. However, when the director general of police Jacob Punnose was asked by the court

whether it was found during the investigation that there was a well-planned conspiracy behind such conversions, he clearly said no.

In 2009, to create an atmosphere, a film called 'Kurbaan' was made which showed a Muslim professor trapping a Hindu girl in a love affair and then marrying her. Later they shift to America. There she get to know that the Muslim professor was a terrorist. Later when Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor got married, the vicious Sanghis attempted to prove that Muslims trap Hindu women for jihad. In 2010, once again the issue of Love Jihad came up for hearing before Karnataka High Court. That time it was claimed that one Muslim organisation had promised Muslim youths that if they successfully trap Hindu girls and convert them to Islam they would get huge money as reward. In 2014, Love Jihad became an issue in Uttar Pradesh as well. In 2017, due to the propaganda against Love Jihad, Kerala High Court

annulled the marriage of Akhila (Hadiya after conversion to Islam) with a Muslim man on a petition filed by her parents. Later when the issue reached Supreme Court, it revoked the decision of the high court and declared that any adult woman can marry any man as per her wish.

The editorial claims that dowry system is prevalent among Hindus and even an ordinary peon is forced to shell out Rs 10 to 20 lakh as dowry for his daughter's marriage. Hence many Hindu girls go for love marriage with Muslim men so that their family doesn't have to pay even a penny for their wedding. The Sangh Parivar, instead of improving their society, is running a false campaign against Muslims. The interesting thing is that if any Muslim girl marries a Hindu man, the Sangh people will encourage them. But if a Muslim man marries a Hindu girl, the nation's unity comes under threat. ■

## Row over restrictions on Madarsas

In February this year, the Assam government took a decision to close down all government Madarsas and Sanskrit schools because it felt that promotion of any particular religion would be against the tenets of the Constitution.

English newspaper **Hindustan Times** (October 14) quotes the minister for education and finance in Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, as saying that spending government money to promote religious education is against the tenets of the Constitution, especially

against Article 29. However, Article 30 of the Constitution empowers the minorities to run educational institutions. After this decision, no Hindu institution has come forward to oppose the closing down of Sanskrit schools. However, Muslim organisations have been strongly opposing the government decision.

**Inquilab** (October 31) says Congress spokesperson Meem Afzal has alleged that after Assam, BJP is getting ready to close Madarsas in Madhya Pradesh. He condemned the

statement of Madhya Pradesh minister Usha Thakur who alleged that Madarsas are schools of terrorism and demanded that the state government close them down. The newspaper states that in Assam also it was a BJP government which announced the closure of government Madarsas in that state. Usha Thakur had said that all terrorists grew up in Madarsas and that was the reason why Jammu and Kashmir became a factory for terrorism. She had said that the Assam government decided to close the Madarsas in nation's interest. Nobody should run Madarsas with government aid. The Constitution guarantees enough freedom to run Madarsas on one's own money.

Speaking to journalists, Meem Afzal said that these are part of BJP's agenda and they have green signal from the top to do all this. The same thing happened with Citizenship Amendment Act and the national president of BJP J. P. Nadda is now saying that they would implement the Act. He said that in Assam first the Madarsas would be closed and then the schools would be transformed. But now it is being said that they would not close private Madarsas. He asked whether only Muslims are imparting religious education in the country. If that is not the case, then why no restrictions were imposed on the institutions of other religions. He said that in government Madarsas, the entire expenses are not borne by the government. Yes, of course the salary of teachers is given by the government. Now after seeing what is happening, I find some weight in the stand of

Muslim leaders that no money should be taken from the government to run Madarsas. He said that if anybody has any evidence to prove that Madarsas impart religious extremism, then he should come forward with it. He alleged that the Sangh Parivar is deliberately running a campaign against Muslims.

**Inquilab** (October 23) has condemned the allegation that Madarsas breed terrorism. The newspaper states that three days earlier, a minister in Madhya Pradesh government had alleged in a press conference that all terrorists emerge from Madarsas. She demanded shutting down of Madarsas and added that BJP had shown the way in this respect in Assam. In any case, the anger of BJP on Madarsas is nothing new. Because their entire politics is based on hostility towards Islam. Someone should ask Usha Thakur how many among those held for terrorism in this country had studied in Madarsas. Those who harass Dalits study in which Madarsa? Actually, the political parties who are unable to solve people's problems often come up with such misleading things to divert the attention of public. Today, the entire media in the country have become bootlickers of the government and a majority of news channels are busy in portraying Usha Thakur's lies as truth. Opposition to Muslims has become the political ideology of BJP. May be they must be thinking that by spreading hate in the country they can ensure development.

**Inquilab** (October 16) quotes the chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Maulana

Sayed Arshad Madani as saying that right from the beginning they were against receiving any kind of government help for running the Madarsas. "Because we knew that if the government gives money, then it would also interfere in the education system as well. Hence to maintain the tradition of Madarsas, they should remain dependent on help from society. Even today, 95% of Madarsas are not dependent on government help. Organisations like Darul Uloom

Deoband have never taken even a single paisa from the government. In 2006, when the then education minister Arjun Singh suggested the formation of an All India Madarsa Board, I had strongly opposed it. Madarsas are a critical part of our faith. If one has to do namaz in a Mosque, then one has to learn it in a Madarsa. We intend to keep both the Masjid and the Madarsa away from any government interference. We are not ready for any compromise in this regard," he said.

## Hindu culture and religion foisted on minorities, alleges Jamiat

**Hamara Samaj** (October 25) has carried a news item on its front page titled, "New Education Policy based on the thoughts of Hindu Rashtra not acceptable to us." The newspaper states that this decision was taken at a meeting of Jamiat-e-Ulema presided over by Qari Syed Usman Mansoorpuri. In the meeting a decision was taken to strongly oppose the alleged campaign unleashed by BJP government against Madarsas and also the hate campaign against Islam and Muslims on social media. General Secretary of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Mahmood Madani said they would strongly oppose the efforts of the BJP government to close down Madarsas. In the meeting it was also alleged that BJP is deliberately spreading communalism in the country and is also harassing Muslims. In a statement after the conclusion of the meeting, it was alleged that the New Education Policy brought by Modi government is aimed at foisting Hindu religion on all

citizens of the country and make them slaves of Hindu way of life. The supporters of Hindu Rashtra wants to make every effort to change this country into a Hindu Rashtra in which non-Hindus will have no place. An effort has been made to bring uniformity in the name of language, culture and political thinking and its sole aim is to foist Hindu religion and culture on all citizens. The statement also claims that minorities, especially Muslims, have made lot of contributions for Independence struggle as well as country's development. We believe in one God and we recognise only that God. Our identity is solely on one God and its Prophet. However, now the government is hell bent on removing our belief system. The statement also says that to keep Islam alive, Muslims have to establish modern schools in huge numbers so that the religion remains safe from the Hindutva policy of the government.

The meeting expressed unhappiness over the deliberate campaign on the part of the government against Islamic Madarsas and describe them as terror-breeding institutions. However, these Madarsas have been imparting classes on brotherhood and political unity right from the beginning. That is the reason why Madarsas played an important role in freedom movement. The Jamiat-e-Ulema opposes the Hindutva policy of the government and demands that the country's secular structure and religious freedom shall be maintained. It has also been decided to form a four-member committee, the convenor of which will be Maulana Mufti Mohammad Salman, to start a

nationwide campaign against this policy of the government. Apart from him, the committee will have Maulana Mohammad Salman Bijnouri, Maulana Niyaz Ahamed Farooqi and Maulana Kalimullah Qasmi. Another committee has been formed to counter the campaign against Muslims and Islam on social media. The convenor of this committee will be Maulana Niyaz Ahamad Farooqi. The other members of this committee include Maulana Sadiqullah Chaudhary and Maulana Shamsuddin. The meeting also witnessed presentation of a report on the riots that took place in Delhi in which it was alleged that the riots were organised by communal organisations of the majority community.

## Row over police inspector's beard

**Roznama Sahara** (October 20) reports that despite the Senior Superintendent of Police of Baghpat repeatedly asking an inspector, Intishar Ali, to shave off his beard, he refused to do so and hence he was suspended. However, his suspension was revoked a week later and he was allowed to join duty after he shaved off his beard.

Commenting on the incident, **Etemaad** (October 25) columnist Masoom Muradabadi in an article published in the newspaper expressed shock saying that when Constitution allows every citizen to lead a life as prescribed in own religion, then why the Muslim inspector was forced to shave off his beard. In Islamic Shariah, it is mandatory for Muslim men to keep a beard. According to the inspector, he has been requesting his senior officers for the past two years to allow him to grow the beard as per



Shariah. However, he never got a reply. Why there is no freedom for a Muslim in this country to keep his beard as per his religious belief? The biggest question is if Intishar Ali keeps his beard, what difference will make it to his duty as a police officer? Can't he do his duty if he keeps his beard? Aren't Sikhs allowed to keep their beard? If yes, then why this discrimination against Muslims? The Superintendent of Police of Baghpat, Abhishek Singh said that inspector Intishar Ali kept his

beard without permission from his department. He was asked to shave off his beard several times in the past but he refused to obey.

It is being stated that he is in police service for the past 25 years. He is working as an inspector at Baghpat police station for the past three years. In November last year he sought permission from his senior officer to grow beard but instead of granting him permission, the senior officer started an inquiry against him for violating service rules. He was issued a show cause notice for not obeying the rules of police department. However, everybody knows that in Uttar Pradesh there is no police station without a mandir in it. Has the manual of Uttar Pradesh police says that mandir can be built on the premises of police stations? If a mandir can be built, then why not a masjid, church or a gurudwara?

The growing of beard by Muslim personnel in police and military has been a controversial topic for years now. Many complaints have reached even the Supreme Court, but till now there is no clarity on the government policy. Shouldn't Muslims also get their religious right to keep the beard like Sikhs?

**Inquilab** in its October 26 edition published an article written by a Supreme Court lawyer, Asad Alvi, in which he had mentioned about the discrimination being faced by Muslims. According to him, in 2009, the beard of a Muslim student called Mohammad Salim became a topic of discussion. He was expelled from the school for keeping the beard. When the issue reached Madhya Pradesh High Court, the court dismissed Salim's petition

and when the petition reached the Supreme Court, Justice Katju too dismissed the petition. However, when a controversy erupted on the issue, Justice Katju not only apologised but also allowed him to keep the beard. He also took steps to re-admit him to the school. In the Modi cabinet, out of 58 ministers, 18 of them have a beard. In 2016, the issue of the beard once again reached the Supreme Court. An employee of Indian Air Force, Mohammad Jubair, had sought permission from his senior officers to keep a beard, which was turned down. Later he went on leave and when he returned to duty he was spotting a beard. He was ordered to shave off his beard. Jubair questioned the directive in the high court. However, his petition was dismissed by the court.

Another petition seeking permission to keep a beard was filed before the Gujarat High Court by one Sheikh Mohammad Sajid Shabari, who was a policeman. The court had dismissed his petition as well. Before this, in 1963, the beard of a staffer of Kerala Police also became a topic of discussion. He had a beard and sought permission from the head of his department to keep it. He claimed that shaving off the beard is against the directives in Quran. In a petition filed in the high court, he also referred to Hadith in which Hazrat Umar quoted the Prophet that one should keep the beard and shave off the moustache to distinguish himself from a Kafir. The question is if the Quran and the Sunnat direct Muslims to keep the beard, then why they are not permitted to do so in India. ■



## Islamic terrorism spreading in Europe



A few decades ago, some Muslim refugees who were given asylum in European countries on humanitarian basis have now become a headache for these countries. France and Austria have already fallen into the clutches of Islamic terrorism. The interesting fact is that the Muslim countries, who are otherwise the custodians of Islamic brotherhood, neither allowed these refugees to step on to their land, nor understood the necessity to provide them with citizenship. In the past three weeks, at least four incidents related to Islamic terrorism took place in France and Austria in which several innocent people were killed. The government machinery has not been able to contain them till now. This is because the Muslim refugees who migrated to these European countries neither mentally accepted their culture nor developed a sense of belonging to their host country. They believe in their own Muslim culture which is distinct from European culture. Hence Muslim extremist organisations have managed

to spread their tentacles among the refugees.

**Inquilab** (October 18) reports that in France a Muslim youth of Chechnya origin cut off the head of a school teacher named Samuel Paty using a knife as the teacher had shown to his students the controversial cartoons of Prophet Mohammad drawn by a French publication Charlie Hebdo nearly six years ago. However, the student who murdered the teacher did not study in the same school. The murderer, an 18-year-old student, was later shot dead by police. He was shot dead as he was threatening to kill more people with a sword. According to police, the attacker belonged to a Muslim family from Chechnya and he was born in Moscow. For the past six years, he was staying with his family in France. He came to France as a refugee. It is being said that the teacher who was murdered used to teach history and geography to students. He was talking to students about freedom of expression in France and showed them

the cartoons. It is being said that before showing the cartoons to students he had told all Muslim students there that they could go out of his class if they feel insecure about the cartoons. It is also claimed that some Muslim students went out of the class soon after. It is also claimed that the family members of some Muslim students complained to the school administration and the issue even reached police. However, nobody took it seriously.

The newspaper alleged that the cartoons were published again on the directions of French President Emmanuel Macron. In 2015, when Charlie Hebdo magazine published these cartoons, Islamic terrorists attacked their office and killed 15 of their staff members. The case is still in the court. Last week, one Muslim youth barged into the office of Charlie Hebdo and attacked the employees with a knife in which four staffers were seriously injured. The youth was arrested later.

**BBC** (October 17) reports that the police launched a nationwide crackdown on extremist Islamic organisations after the murder of the school teacher. Nearly 15 people were immediately taken into custody which included four Muslim students from murdered teacher Samuel Paty's class. This apart, 15 others were also arrested. They included the terrorist youth's brother, parents and grandfather. The police also arrested seven others who were running a hate campaign against the murdered teacher. According to French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, the police have also arrested

two others who had issued a 'fatwa' to kill Samuel Paty. The police are also questioning a few others who posted comments on social media supporting the murder of Samuel Paty.

The French government also sealed more than two dozen masjids and madarasas where videos of Islamic terrorism used to be screened. The police have also launched an effort to arrest Islamic extremists throughout the country. It is being said that the murderer had visited the school and enquired from the students about Samuel Paty. Later he waited for a chance and attacked him with a knife. He then cut off his head with a sword and shouted Allahu Akbar. The police claimed that when they tried to arrest the youth, he fired upon them. The police had to return the fire. After the incident, President Macron had visited the spot and declared that it was an Islamic terror attack. Addressing the nation, the President said the country should stand united against terrorism so that the efforts of terrorists should not succeed. The President also visited the school and interacted with the staff there.

The newspaper reports that the government is planning to bring a law that will enable the country to send back the refugees who take part in terror activities back to their native places. The police also confirmed that the Chechen Muslim youth used to take part in the activities of extremist Islamist organisations. The National Assembly of France passed a resolution offering tributes to the murdered teacher and expressed condolences to his family. The Parliament also passed

a resolution condemning increasing cases of terrorism and vowed to deal them with an iron hand.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 30) reports that even before the wounds of the attack could heal, a few Muslim terrorists barged into a church in the French city of Nice and knifed three people to death. The dead included two women and the head of one of them was cut off. The dead included a church warden. The police nabbed one terrorist from the spot who was heard shouting Allahu Akbar. When the attack took place, people were praying inside the church. When the warden saw the terrorist attacking people, he rang the alarm bell in the church which alerted the police. The police soon reached the spot and nabbed one terrorist. When this attack took place, the French National Assembly was in session. The French Prime Minister said the country is facing a serious danger. The country has to stand united to thwart such dangers. France would not succumb to the threat of terrorism under any circumstances, he said. President Macron said the country would avenge the killings.

Two days after this terrorist attack, another Islamic terrorist entered a church in France and fired on a priest, whose condition is now stated to be serious. The interesting thing is that not a single Urdu newspaper in India reported this incident.

Hindi newspaper **Dainik Hindustan** (November 1), however, published the incident on its front page. In the French city of Lyon, a priest was shot at two times by a

Muslim youth while the former was closing the church in the evening. The priest was seriously injured in the firing. Soon after the incident, a red alert was sounded throughout the country and the Prime Minister's foreign visit was cancelled. He cut short his tour and returned to the country.

Islamic terrorism has started spreading out of France and the latest incident took place in Austrian capital Vienna. Gunmen opened indiscriminate fire at seven spots in the city and killed at least seven innocent persons. According to the newspaper, due to the start of the second wave of Corona pandemic, the government had announced another round of lockdown and hence there was a huge rush of people in parks and malls. Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz said the police managed to nab one attacker. The attackers opened fire in at least seven spots. The security officials of Austria said that many gunmen took part in the firing. Terrorist organisation ISIS owned responsibility of the attack. One of the attacks took place at the worship place of Jews. Following the attacks in France and Austria, other countries like Britain announced emergency measures and also sounded a high alert.

As per media reports, the gunmen shot dead a man who was standing on a road near the worship hall of Jews. According to police, at least 100 bullets were fired. It is being said that when some people tried to escape from the spot, the attackers fired at them one by one shouting Allahu Akbar. President of France Macron said

terrorism is spreading to its friendly nations as well. "We will not succumb to terrorism and will make efforts to finish them," Macron said.

President of United States Donald Trump said every effort should be made to stop such attacks. US will stand with France, Austria and all European nations in their war against terrorism, he said.

**Background:** In the past one decade, there was a flood of refugees seeking asylum in European countries. The main reason for this is the civil war that erupted in a number of Islamic countries like Syria, Iraq, Chechnya and a few African countries. Many people have fled these countries to save their lives and have approached European countries seeking asylum. There are nearly 2.5 crore Muslims living as refugees in nearly 28 countries of European Union at this point of time.

The Muslims living in Europe can be divided into six groups:

- 1) Original Muslims who are staying in Europe for several centuries. They include citizens of Bosnia, Albania, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria. This apart, Crimea and Poland have Muslims of Tatar origin.
- 2) Students and traders from Islamic nations who arrived in Europe for education and business purposes. In France alone, the number of such Muslim students is stated to exceed 70,000, who have mostly come from North African countries. Lakhs of them are staying in London as well.
- 3) This group of Muslims do not have any restrictions to move around anywhere in Europe. This include

citizens of Commonwealth nations, Algerian citizens living in France and Indonesian Muslims staying in Holland.

4) The fourth group are those Muslims who landed in Western Europe in the 1950s and 1960s as labourers.

5) Those who have converted to Islam from different sects and religions in Europe.

6) Nearly 10 lakh Muslim refugees who sought asylum from war-ravaged countries like Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan in the past few years.

In 2001, the Muslim population in France was only 6% which has now increased to 9% or 10%. There are nearly 20 lakh illegal Muslim immigrants in Europe who have not been given citizenship by any country. The Muslim population in Europe was nearly 1% in 2001, it has now risen to approximately 6%.

Due to the increasing population of Muslims, the local people in Europe, mostly Christians, are now facing an existential crisis. A US-based research institute has predicted that by 2050, the percentage of Muslim population in Europe will jump to 25% or 30% while that of Christians will remain at 50 to 60%. This is the reason why it is being discussed at different parts of Europe on the need to control the increasing population of Muslims. This is also the reason why at least a dozen countries in Europe are thinking about making laws that would enable them to send back Muslim refugees back to their original countries. In the past one decade, a lot of Muslims residing in Europe have got attracted to terrorism.

Because of this, extremist Islamic organisations like Al Qaida, Al Shabaab, Boko Haram, ISIS, Hamas and Al Fatah have managed to infiltrate these countries. And this is the reason

why Islamic terrorism is spreading fast in Europe. The recent terror incidents that took place in France and Austria were results of these developments. ■

## Rapists to get death sentence in Bangladesh

**Inquilab** (October 14) reports that the Bangladesh government, in an effort to stop increasing incidents of rape in the country, has made some amendments in the law to ensure that rapists get death sentence. The decision was taken at special meeting of the Bangladesh cabinet. Next day, the President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, issued an ordinance amending the law. As per the ordinance, the Bangladesh government has decided to amend the provisions of Women and Child Harassment Prevention Act that enables every rapist to be awarded capital punishment. Recently, there were nationwide protests in Bangladesh against increasing cases of rape. Though such protests came down during the lockdown, the protesters were back on the streets when the lockdown was lifted. The protesters had raised the allegation that most rapists had connections with the ruling party and hence the government was adopting a soft stand towards the accused. Recently, when a college student was coming out of her institution, a few goons related to the student organisation of the ruling party kidnapped her and gang raped her.

**Inquilab** (October 16) reports that as soon as the new law came into force, five rapists were hanged to death in Dhaka jail. The newspaper reports

that these men had allegedly gang raped a 15-year-old girl in 2012. They were sentenced to death by a special tribunal.

**Etemaad** in its October 14 editorial has welcomed the decision of Bangladesh government to award capital punishment to rapists saying that rape incidents were on the rise in that country. In the first eight months of this year, more than 1,000 cases of rape were reported in that country, out of which 20% were gang rapes. Recently, a video had gone viral which shows a woman of one community being gang raped. According to the newspaper, capital punishment has been abolished in majority of the countries in the world and hence there is a rise in such cases. However, in some countries, stringent law prescribing capital punishment is still in vogue.

In China, there is a provision to award death sentence to rapists. In Iran, rapists are hanged publicly at the intersections on roads. In Netherlands, rapists are given jail term for four years to ten years. In North Korea, rapists are executed by firing squad. In Afghanistan too, rapists are given death sentence as per legal provisions. In Saudi Arabia, rapists are either hanged at intersections after the namaz or send to gallows or beheaded in

public using a sword. The rape of women is not an issue limited to one particular country, but takes place

throughout the world. Hence it is necessary to make stringent laws to deal with such increasing incidents.

## Terror attack at Kabul University



**Inquilab** (November 3) reports that at least 25 people were killed and hundreds were injured in a bomb explosion that took place during the inauguration of an Iranian book fair at Kabul University in the Afghanistan capital. The dead included three employees of Kabul University. One among the three suicide bombers blew himself up. The other two were arrested. The firing between the terrorists and the army men continued for a long time. The Taliban claimed that they had no role in the bomb explosion. According to Afghanistan's interior ministry, the explosion was carried out by ISIS. More than 50 people still remain admitted in the hospital. The ISIS has taken responsibility for the attack. Before this, in 2018, nearly four dozen people were killed in an attack by the same terrorist organisation. One woman member of this suicide squad had died on the spot. In 2016 also the terrorists had attacked the American University

in Kabul in which 26 people were killed.

**Inquilab** (October 25) reports that at least eight persons were killed on the spot and more than 50 others were injured in a suicide attack that took place outside a college in Kabul. The attack took place outside a postgraduate centre of the college. Majority of the students at this centre were Shias. Afghanistan's interior ministry spokesperson Tariq Arian said that when the suicide bomber tried to enter the college, the security guards stopped him. The bomber then detonated the explosives hidden in his jacket, killing himself instantly. Nearly 18 others were also killed and more than 50 were injured in the explosion. In another report, 33 Taliban fighters were killed in a clash with military personnel in Afghanistan's western province of Nangarhar in which five soldiers were also martyred. The army recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition, manufactured in US, from the hideout of Taliban.

## Rebel soldiers arrested in Turkey

**Roznama Sahara** (October 14) reports that a spokesman of the defence ministry of Turkey has confirmed that hundreds of people associated with rebel leader Fethullah Gulen have been arrested. They include 167 soldiers. It is being claimed that they were planning to assassinate some important leaders of Turkey. Nearly four years ago, supporters of Fethullah Gulen, a political opponent of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and an Islamic scholar, had unsuccessfully tried to overthrow the government after which Gulen fled to United States and more than 10,000 of his supporters were arrested. Out of them, nearly a hundred rebels were

awarded death sentence. Government sources claimed that at least 300 people were killed in this coup attempt. Recently, the intelligence wing got information that the supporters of Gulen were planning to assassinate a number of leaders. The intelligence wing and police launched a nationwide crackdown to arrest the rebels following which hundreds of people were detained. Among the soldiers who were arrested, a dozen of them were senior officers of the Army and Air Force. Some 57 soldiers have turned fugitives and the police are on the lookout for them. ■

## 11 Opposition parties in Pakistan form united front against Imran govt.

**Roznama Sahara** (October 21) has reported that political instability is increasing day by day in Pakistan. A united front of 11 opposition parties have started a nationwide campaign against the government. So far, the opposition parties have successfully organised rallies in Karachi, Quetta and Lahore. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has accused Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of making the current Prime Minister Imran Khan a puppet in his hands and running a campaign against opposition leaders with the help of intelligence agencies. According to a senior journalist of Pakistan, Sohail Warraich, the political situation in Pakistan is deteriorating

day by day. Nawaz Sharif has targeted the Army since he believes that the Army is deliberately trapping opposition leaders in false cases.

According to another analyst, Hasan Asagari, the government had foisted false cases against opposition leaders because it wanted to divert the attention of people from the issues they face. He said that the way unemployment and inflation are spiralling in the country, an explosive situation could occur any time. The need of the hour is to avoid the path of confrontation and adopt the path of cooperation for the country's sake, he stated. ■

## Setback on efforts to unite Islamic world against France



The efforts of Islamic nations to form a united front against France and US have received a severe setback. After the terrorist attack at Austrian capital Vienna by ISIS, the efforts of Arab nations to form a front against Western countries received a jolt.

**Gulf News** (November 4) reports that the Crown Prince of UAE, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan telephoned French President Emmanuel Macron and condemned the recent terror attacks. He expressed condolences on the deaths and wished for the speedy recovery of an injured pastor and other people. He also assured that his country would cooperate with France in its fight against terrorism. Mentioning about the controversy over the cartoons, he insisted that France has the authority to take action against the accused as per its own law. If the refugees do not

abide by the law and the culture of France and if France make a law to return such people back to their original country, then UAE would support such a decision. Here it is worth mentioning that UAE has recently recognised Israel and UAE is considered as a supporter of US.

Earlier, **Mumbai Urdu News** in its October 27 edition has claimed that the France has come to its senses as the Islamic world got united against them. The Muslim countries had decided to boycott all items manufactured in France and also decided to cut off all ties with that country. Due to these steps, the France has toned down its stand. The newspaper in its report also claimed that the shopkeepers in Kuwait had decided against selling any item manufactured in France. The union of different malls in Kuwait had issued a circular to all its members



asking them to boycott all items made in France. The union has more than 700 malls as members. A spokesman of the union told journalists that the decision was taken in response to the insult of the Prophet. The Foreign Minister of Kuwait met the Ambassador of France and condemned the blasphemous act and said that the issue can lead to snapping of ties between the two countries. Kuwait had purchased material worth nearly 75.5 crore Dinar from France which would be returned to that country. The Foreign Affairs Ministry of France said that Islamic terrorist organisations are running a false propaganda to boycott France. Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan announced that his country would withdraw its Ambassador to France. The National Assembly of Pakistan during its sitting, condemned the anti-Islam stand of France and said that the country stands united with Turkey in its opposition to France.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 28) claimed that Saudi Arabia had also condemned the French campaign against Islam. In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry said that no country could be permitted to insult Islam or harass Muslims under the guise of freedom of expression and they would unitedly oppose such a step. In Teheran, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif, has alleged that the French President is abetting terrorism and in the name of freedom of expression, insulting the Prophet and hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims.

Thousands of people took part in huge protest rallies against France in

Baghdad as well. In markets, French-made items were set on fire by people. They demanded that the government should immediately announce cutting off all diplomatic ties with France. In Tunisia also anti-France protest rallies were organised. The newspaper claimed that French-made items were removed from markets in Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Algeria and Palestine and the traders also announced that they would boycott all French items in future. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan alleged that what is happening with Muslims in Europe is the same as what happened with Jews in Germany. An anti-Islam campaign is taking place in majority of the countries in Europe which intent to wipe out Islam. However, we will not allow them to succeed. He stated that under no circumstances we would accept anti-Islam policies.

**Inquilab** (October 25) reports that lakhs of people took part in huge protests in Dhaka. The mob also tried to set fire to the French Embassy. The protesters demanded that the Bangladesh government announce snapping of all ties with France. According to Dhaka times, the protesters became uncontrollable and targeted temples and shops of Hindus. Many buildings and shops of Hindus were looted and set on fire. The Bangladesh government deployed paramilitary forces in minority areas. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said in a statement that Muslims have a right to kill French people.

**Siasat** (October 30) quotes Mahathir Mohammad as saying that

the murder of the French teacher who insulted the Prophet is justified as per Islam. This is because Islam mandates the killing of anyone who insults the Prophet. Hence the student who killed the teacher has done his duty as per Shariah and Sunnat. He said that French magazine Charlie Hebdo published the cartoons of Prophet Mohammad and provoked the Muslims to take the path of violence. He said that there is no point on the French President's stand that opposition to the cartoons based on freedom of expression were not acceptable. I have a very clear stand on this—no force in this world has the right to vilify the Prophet. If anybody does it, then his killing is justified in Islam.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 1) reports that the chief of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militia, Sayyed Hasan Nasralla, has threatened France that either it stop its support to publishing of blasphemous cartoons of the Prophet or they have to face the opposition of the entire world. He said that nobody can take the licence to caricature Prophet Mohammad in the name of freedom of expression. France is deliberately dragging Muslims into the battlefield, said Hasan Nasralla. We will give them a proper reply, he said.

**Siasat** (October 30) reports that the US government had expressed concern over the rising tension between France and Turkey and said that only the enemies of America would benefit from it. The US also signalled its intentions to impose restrictions on Turkey.

**Salar** (October 31) states that Muslims took out protest marches in Japan as well demanding that France stop their anti-Muslim attitude.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 31) states that Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, addressing an international meeting on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, said that the attitude of France is anti-Islamic and hence the Muslims of the world are on the receiving end. We will not tolerate any attempt to insult our Prophet, he said.

**Roznama Sahara** (October 30) reports that the United Nations has expressed concern over the situation arising out of drawing of cartoons of Prophet Mohammad and urged all nations to stop efforts to fan violence.

**Inquilab** (November 1) has claimed that the support for President Macron is waning among French people and hence he has come up with anti-Muslim policies to become popular again. This is the reason why President Macron addressed the nation last month and insisted that Islam is in danger and that he has been making efforts to save his country from foreign influence. The French President is taking political advantage from the murder of the teacher and is engaged in destroying Muslims.

**Inquilab** (October 29) quotes Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan as saying that under no circumstances we would tolerate any insult to Islam or the Prophet. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said those who incite people against Islam in Europe and France actually want to revive the war of Christian nations against Islam. He said that it is our right to respect the

Prophet and we cannot change it under any circumstances. Meanwhile, the European Commission has warned Turkey that unless it changes its attitude towards France, it would not be admitted to European Union. Turkey had demanded membership in European Union way back in 1987. Till now, due to the opposition of other members, the issue remains buried. Turkey faces lot of economic troubles as it has no membership in European Union.

**Roznama Sahara** (October 31) reports that US President Donald Trump had expressed serious concern over increasing terror attacks in France and said that it is very important to stop them. He said that his country stands in solidarity with the people of France. Will France or any other country would tolerate this kind of terror attacks? Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended support to France. ■

## Israel establishes diplomatic relationship with Bahrain

**Roznama Sahara** (October 20) reports that Bahrain government and Israel signed a treaty at Bahrain capital Manama which declares Bahrain's due recognition to Israel and thereby establishing a diplomatic tie-up with Israel. Bahrain has become the fourth Arab country recognising Israel. Ever since the nation of Israel was established, the Arab countries kept boycotting it. Their stand was that they would recognise Israel only when a solution to the Palestinian issue was found. Before Bahrain, UAE, Egypt and Jordan had established diplomatic tie-up with Israel. Commenting on Bahrain's decision to recognise Israel, the Palestinian Authority said that it was like stabbing in the back of the Arabs.

In a function held in Manama, Israel and Bahrain signed a joint communique in which it was announced that both countries would open Embassies in the capitals of each



other. Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, said the agreement is a new beginning in the relationship between the two countries. The interesting thing is that the Saudi government gave permission for a special plane carrying a high-powered delegation of Israel to use its airspace and reach Bahrain. The reason for this new political turn is the ongoing power struggle between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Both UAE and Bahrain are members of Saudi Arabia-led group.

**Roznama Sahara** (October 19) states that US is behind this agreement between the two countries. Before the

agreement, high-level talks were held between Bahrain and Israel in White House. The interesting thing is that the Israeli delegation that visited Manama for talks also comprised the US Secretary of the Treasury, Steven Mnuchin. Israel said that it would cooperate with Bahrain on defence and they would extend their collaboration to different fields. Earlier, a delegation of Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, too visited Bahrain and held high level talks on security-related issues.

**Roznama Sahara** in a special editorial on October 20, expressed surprise that the unity of Arab countries has broken apart. During the 1967 war itself it became clear that the leaders of Arab nations were just babblers and were least concerned about their own countries. One would get evidence for this fact from Iraq war or during various incidents in Libya and other Arab countries. Once oil used to be the power behind Arab nations but now Arab countries like Saudi Arabia have fallen behind US and Russia in production of oil. And one more thing has become clear—this playing around with oil will not last long. Hence it is necessary that Arab countries need to remain more alert

and should remain as a single large group. They should also think about snapping their relationship with US. This is because there is strong Jewish lobby in US and the US is not in a position to disappoint Israel. However, both the US and Israel are playing gimmicks at Al Aqsa mosque and also over the welfare of Palestinians. The newspaper complains that the policies of Arab nations are wrong right from the beginning. The leaders of the Arab nations had failed to strengthen their own countries whereas Israelis have made their country a powerful nation.

**Inquilab** (October 16) published a news in four columns which claims that the US is putting pressure on Saudi Arabia to recognise Israel. This way other Arab countries will also get help from US if they improve their relationship with Israel. According to sources in US, the prospects of Donald Trump in the US presidential elections would increase if more Arab countries establish diplomatic tie-up with Israel. Recently, the Trump administration has announced sale of arms and ammunition worth 8 billion dollars to Saudi without approval from US Congress. ■

## Israel against US sale of F-35 fighters to Qatar

**Siasat** (October 13) in a report says Israel has announced that if the US sells F-35 fighter jets to Qatar, then Israel would oppose such a move as it would destabilise the regional power equation. It is believed that Qatar had asked US to provide it state-of-the-art

F-35 fighters for its own defence. According to Israeli minister Eli Cohen, for them, their security and military power are very important. It is being said that last year, Qatar had signed a deal with US and hence they have sought these planes as part of the deal. ■

## Israel, Islamic terrorist organisation sign peace deal

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 14) reports that Israel had announced that it had signed a peace deal with Palestinian militant organisation Hamas to end fighting on the borders of Gaza Strip. However, Israel has declined to give details of the deal. It is being said that the deal came soon after the visit of the chief of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, to Doha. It is also claimed that Qatar has played a major role in shaping up this deal. UAE had already established diplomatic tie-up with Israel. As per a report of Mossad, Qatar has given Hamas 10 crore dollars. Soon after, Israel and Hamas entered into a secret peace deal.

The efforts to sign such a deal started in August itself when the leaders of Hamas held several secret talks with Israeli intelligence agency Mossad in Doha. In Gaza, the chief of Hamas said they had accepted the terms and conditions of ceasefire with Israel, the outline of which was decided after talks in Qatar. Israel also announced that it would remove all restrictions being imposed on Gaza Strip. After all this, Hamas once again fired a rocket towards Israel and the Israeli military retaliated by targeting a hideout of Hamas.

## Umrah begins again

**Roznama Sahara** (October 28) reports that the Saudi government has been removing the restrictions which were imposed on Umrah and the journey to Masjid



Al Haram. The third phase of Umrah has been opened for elderly people and foreigners. Nearly 2.5 lakh rooms in nearly 1,800 hotels in Mecca have been readied for their stay. Those who come for Umrah and stay in these three, four and five-star hotels have to follow the Corona protocol and also have to pay the required fee. They will also get three-time meals in these hotels.

Foreign pilgrims can stay for three days in Saudi Arabia. These pilgrims will be divided into different groups and the in-charge of each group will

be a senior local official. This apart, 10% rooms will be kept as isolation wards for Corona-related patients in every hospital and hotel. A special medical team has been constituted to look after them. In the rooms of the hotel, not more than two persons will be allowed to stay at a time and every traveller has to maintain a distance of two metres. Even if an entire family has

come for Umrah, the members of the family will be allowed to stay only in separate rooms. Those who are tested positive for Corona will not be allowed to proceed on Umrah. Eatables and food from outside will not be allowed in hotels. In special hotels, pilgrims will be allowed to stay only in 30% to 40% rooms at a time.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 15) reports that nearly 2,500 people from Saudi Arabia had been given permission to do Umrah in the second phase. They include some elderly people apart from youths. In the second phase of Umrah, which started on October 18, nearly 6 lakh Saudi citizens have done namaz in masjids in small groups. This apart, Masjid Nabawi and the old part of the tomb of Prophet Mohammad have also been opened for the pilgrims.

In another news, the ruler of Saudi Arabia, King Salman bin Abdulaziz had expressed hope that the economy of Saudi Arabia, which received a severe jolt due to the Corona pandemic, would recover at the earliest. Saudi Minister for Foreign Investments Khalid Al-Falih expressed hope that the members of G-20 group would play a serious role in the economic development of Saudi Arabia. Recently, members of this group made investments worth 21 billion dollars in Saudi Arabia. The majority of the investments were in health sector. He said that in order to strengthen the world economy, members of this group has so far made available 11 trillion dollars. For poor countries, it has postponed loan recovery worth 14 billion dollars.

## Iran-Saudi conflict

**Roznama Sahara** (October 2) reports that the security spokesperson of Saudi Arabia has claimed that their aerial defence system had intercepted and destroyed an explosive-laden drone launched by Iran-aligned Houthis towards the kingdom before it could reach the target. He claimed that the Houthi rebels, on being provoked by Iran, are allegedly attacking targets in Saudi using drones and missiles. He said that the united Arab countries are giving them a befitting reply. The



spokesperson alleged that Iran is deliberately created divisions among Arab countries. Iran's aim is to create instability and to block development in the region.

## Held for offering namaz in temple



**Inquilab** (November 3) reports that one Faizal Khan, who offered namaz at Nand Baba Mandir in Mathura as a goodwill gesture, was arrested from Jamia Nagar area in Delhi by Uttar Pradesh Police. The police has filed an FIR against four persons over this incident. It was alleged that on October 29, four persons arrived at Nand Baba Mandir in Mathura and two among them, after misleading the temple manager, offered namaz at the temple. A report was filed at Barsana police station in which it has been mentioned that photos of the incident went viral on social media which offended the religious sentiments of Hindus. Secondly, speaking to a TV channel, Faizal Khan denied that he offered namaz in a fraudulent manner. Many people were present on the spot. Nobody objected to him offering namaz. He claimed that the controversy was created due to political reasons.

The newspaper claims that four persons belonging to an organisation

called Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) reached Nand Baba Mandir in Mathura with the aim of creating goodwill among different communities. Two of them were Hindus and the other two were Muslims. The two Muslims spoke about their knowledge about Lord Krishna and Gita on which the manager of the temple and others were very pleased. They also invited them to have the lunch. However, the two Muslims refused it, saying it was time for namaz. They said they would go somewhere else and offer namaz. Then some people told them that they can do namaz on the temple premises itself. However, some communal elements posted the photos on social media, resulting in an FIR. In-charge of Barsana police station, Azad Pal Singh said that when people came to know about such an incident, it sparked an outrage. On the basis of this, a temple employee, Kanhaiya Goswami, has filed an FIR against Faizal Khan, Mohammad Chand, Nilesh and Alok.

## Hindu youth tops exam in Islamic studies



**Roznama Sahara** (November 1) reports that a Hindu youth has secured the first rank in the entrance examination for Islamic Studies at the Central University of Kashmir. The youth, Shubham Yadav, secured 73% marks in the entrance examination for MA Islamic Studies. Interestingly, the

second rank holder, a Muslim candidate, secured only 51% marks. This year, 54 students have been selected for Islamic Studies in this university. Shubham Yadav is the only non-Muslim student selected for the course. The head of Islamic Studies, Professor Hamidullah Mujahiri said that in the past several Hindu students had attended the course. However, this is the first time that a Hindu student had secured more marks than all other Muslim students. The Central University of Kashmir is under Union government and the entrance examination is held at all-India level. Shubham Yadav is a non-Kashmiri and he is said to be from Uttar Pradesh.

## Efforts to grab multi-crore plot of Waqf Board

**Inquilab** (October 25) reports that Archaeology department and Aga Khan Foundation are making efforts to grab a plot worth crores of rupees at Hazrat Nizamuddin colony. According to the newspaper, when an official of the Waqf Board reached the site, he found the project director of Aga Khan Foundation digging at all the four sides of the plot. The employee of Waqf Board Hasan Jamal and his colleagues objected to it and called police to the spot. The police then sought documents for their claim, if any, from the Archaeology department and Aga Khan Foundation which they could not produce. The Waqf Board then filed a

complaint with the police in this regard.

According to Waqf Board, they own property worth crores adjacent to New Horizon Public School at Nizamuddin Colony. The property is at Khasra No. 523 and as per the gazette notification of Delhi government, it is Waqf property lying unused for several years. The property measures 1600 square yard and it is valued at more than Rs 600 crore. The land mafia have also set their eyes on this property. On October 13, the Archaeology department had tried to take over the property on which the Waqf Board put up a signboard proclaiming it as its



own property. However, some people threw away this signboard. Following this incident, when the Waqf Board approached the local police to file a case, the police refused to accept it. However, later on the direction of the government, police filed a report. The

Waqf Board is worried that the Archaeology department is making efforts to seize the property. It is being claimed that the Supreme Court, high court, Hotel Oberoi and a number of other government buildings were constructed on Waqf property. ■

## Jamiat-e-Ulema begins effort to save Delhi riots accused

**Inquilab** (October 22) reports that Jamiat-e-Ulema has started efforts to save those who were accused of organising the riots that took place in Delhi last February. Till now, more than 16 people have been released on bail. According to the general secretary of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Mahmood Madani, the police have booked innocent and poor Muslims in riots cases due to pressure from communal forces. Hence Jamiat-e-Ulema is trying to provide them free legal help and simultaneously arranging bail for them. This is because nobody is willing to stand for their bail and their family members do not have enough money to arrange for their bail. Recently, one accused, Noor Mohammad, has been released after filing eight surety bonds. The police have filed 14 cases against him. To get him out on bail, Rs 1.8 lakh have been deposited in the court. Noor Mohammad was in jail for the past seven months. The other group of Jamiat-e-Ulema, headed by Maulana Arshad Madani, claimed that his organisation had managed to get 16 accused released on bail. The accused who were released on bail included Sadab Ahmad, Rashid Saifi, Shah Alam and Mohammad Abid.



Before this, the Jamiat-e-Ulema had formed a legal aid committee to provide free legal help to those who were arrested in terrorist cases and this committee has been functioning for the past one decade. The coordinator of this committee is Gulzar Azmi. According to Gulzar Azmi, so far nearly 100 terror accused have been saved from the courts due to the efforts of Jamiat-e-Ulema. The lawyers of Jamiat-e-Ulema had properly argued in the courts and hence police could not substantiate their allegations in the courts. He complained that the attitude of police officials are hateful in nature and they deliberately trap innocent people in fake cases. He demanded that the government should create a system to extract compensation from police officers who file fake cases against innocent people. ■

## Scholarship for minority students siphoned off in Jharkhand



**Inquilab** (November 3) reports that a scam worth crores of rupees was unearthed in the scholarships being provided to students of minority communities in Jharkhand. Chief minister Hemant Soren has ordered a high-level inquiry into the scam. According to sources in the government, a few bank employees, brokers, school managers and government employees are functioning as a gang. They siphon off the money being allocated as scholarships to students of minority communities by the central government. As per the central government policy, students of families whose annual income is less than one lakh per year are entitled to the scholarship.

To claim the scholarship, one has to submit forms online every year. However, a majority of students do not know how to fill online forms. Hence some middlemen, in connivance with bank staff, open bank accounts in the name of students and take away the entire money that is released for the students. This apart, the gang also siphoned off crores of rupees in the name of non-existent students. Last year, the central government had released Rs 61 crore as scholarship amount to the Jharkhand government. A majority of this amount has been siphoned off by the gang and not a single penny has been given to the students till now.