

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 4

Issue : 17

September 1-15, 2021

₹ 20/-

Debate over RSS Chief's Talks with Muslim Leaders



- Survey at Gyanvapi Masjid Stopped
- Differences Within Taliban Government
- Israeli Prime Minister's Visit to Egypt
- Questions over Aid to Madrasas

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Printed and Published by
Manmohan Sharma on behalf of
India Policy Foundation published
at D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi- 110016. Printed at Sai
Printo Pack Pvt. Ltd., A-102/4,
Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II,
New Delhi - 110020

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Summary

The discussions started by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat to remove the deep-rooted misunderstandings among Muslim community about RSS have gathered momentum. In this connection, a Pune-based organisation arranged a meeting of eminent persons from Muslim community in Mumbai recently. Apart from many intellectuals and social activists, the Muslim Ulema also took part in this meeting. Urdu newspapers gave wide publicity to the event and many of them even wrote editorials on the issue. The most interesting thing is that for the first time Amir-ul-Hind Maulana Arshad Madani also openly supported the observations of Mohan Bhagwat. He accepted that the DNA of Hindus and Muslims in Bharat is same. Arshad Madani is the biggest religious leader and ideologue of Deobandi sect among Muslims. The Urdu newspapers also appreciated the efforts of Bhagwatji. However, radicals have not liked this goodwill effort.

The secularists and Leftists in the country are peeved at the increasing popularity of Sangh Parivar. That is the reason why well-known lyricist Javed Akhtar compared RSS to Taliban on a TV channel. His statement has been opposed by the nationalists saying that if he doesn't apologise to the Sangh Parivar for his statement, they would boycott his films. Congress leader Digvijay Singh, Tariq Anwar and former Governor Aziz Qureshi too have come out in support of Javed Akhtar.

The president of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, is getting ready to jump into the election fray in Uttar Pradesh. Targeting Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party during a three-day visit to Uttar Pradesh, he said that these parties have only neglected Muslims till now. He said that his sole aim is to ensure a rightful place for Muslims in Indian politics. Owaisi also announced his decision to field 100 candidates in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. In an effort to improve his party's position in the state, he is also trying to rope in some strongmen. Gangster Atique Ahmed and wife have already taken membership of Majlis. It is being said that Owaisi's next target is Mukhtar Ansari, who has been denied a ticket by BSP chief Mayawati. These days, leader of Samajwadi Party and MP from Rampur, Azam Khan, is also not in good terms with Akhilesh Yadav. If Mukhtar Ansari and Azam Khan take shelter in Majlis, then the Muslim politics in Uttar Pradesh would definitely take a new turn.

In Afghanistan, though Taliban have taken the reins of power, serious differences surfaced among different groups after the formation of the government. It is being said that a serious clash took place between Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and chief of Haqqani network, Khalilur Rahman Haqqani recently.

The increasing tie-up between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban could become a headache for India. Recently, the chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, visited Kabul and held lengthy talks with Taliban leaders. The real intentions of Pakistan could also be understood from the fact that the spokesperson of the political wing of Taliban, Suhail Shaheen, has announced that wherever Muslims are harassed in the world, Taliban would raise their voice against it. In this connection, he also raised the issue of alleged Muslim harassment in Kashmir.

Debate over RSS chief's talks with Muslim leaders



The efforts launched by RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat to remove the deep-rooted misunderstandings about RSS among Muslims have started receiving strong positive signals in Muslim areas.

Inquilab (September 7) reports that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat held a meeting with representatives of Muslim community in a hotel in Mumbai. The meeting was organised by a Pune-based institution, Global Strategic Policy Foundation. Similar meetings are being organised in different parts of the country for the past several months to remove the deep-rooted misunderstandings in the minds of Muslims about RSS. Addressing the meeting, Mohan Bhagwat said that those who stay in this country should get along well and our efforts are in this direction. Bharat have always encouraged national unity and coexistence. That is why you are treated with respect in whichever part of the world you visit. In our country, one should not fear another individual. He also said that in Hindustan, Muslims should strive for excellence and reach any post on the basis of their

eligibility and not on the basis of being a minority.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said that unity in diversity is the identity of the country and it is also the nation's culture. We need to dedicate our lives to keep this identity alive. Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd) said that India needs to be careful over what has happened in Afghanistan.

Inquilab's (September 8) special representative, after participating in the meeting held in Mumbai, said that Mohan Bhagwat has stressed that if there is any shortcoming in the vision of the RSS, and if anybody points out it to us, then we are willing to consider it. He said that Hindutva is an ancient tradition, and linked to it is the amazing past of Hindus and Muslims in this country. This nation's future is also dependent on the friendly coexistence between the two communities. The British made the Hindus and Muslims fight among themselves for their own benefits and such conspiracies are hatched even today. We are not aiming for any Hindu-Muslim domination but our aim is Bharat's domination. Shri Mohan Bhagwat said that the British fed in the

minds of Muslims that if they trust Hindus, then Islam would be finished in the country. However, everyone can see that Islam is fully entrenched in the country. Hence the enlightened leadership of Muslims should oppose the fundamentalist and extremist ideology of their religion. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said that it is not necessary that RSS has to support everything. If there is any difference of opinion on anything, there should be a discussion on it. People have lot of misunderstandings about Hindutva and it is necessary to remove them.

Giving information about the activities and aims of Global Strategic Policy Foundation, coordinator of the conference, Dr Anant Bhagwat, said the foundation had organised a function at the memorial of Kargil martyr Mohammad Hanif in Delhi in 2018. Chief of Anjuman Islam, Dr Zahir Kazi said that 1.1 lakh students receive education from our institution every day and they include a number of women. The meeting was also attended by founder of Al-Quran Academy, Kairana, Mufti Athar Shamsi, Islamic scholar Maulana Kalim Siddiqui, chairperson of Islamic Cultural Centre Sirajuddin Qureshi, Dr Nadim Kirmani, Nafiz Qureshi, Maulana Salman Mohammad, Mohammad Asif Shamsi, Tahir Shamsi and Adil Farooq.

Inquilab (September 9) reports that after participating in the meeting, Maulana Kalim Siddiqui said that the discussions started by Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat with Muslim leaders would be quite useful. He said that open discussions were held with Mohan Bhagwatji on several issues and the speeches made in the meeting make it clear that the distance between Hindus and Muslims would be bridged, the misunderstandings would end and there would be more closeness. Commenting on the statement of Mohan Bhagwat on the common DNA of Hindus and Muslims, he said that even Quran mentioned thousands of years ago that the God, who gives birth to all, is one. What is

required is that we need to trust the words of Quran and make efforts to understand each other. This would change the situation and our nation would once again be described as a nation of peace and brotherhood. Founder of Kairana-based Al Quran Academy, Mufti Athar Shamsi said that the cultivation of hate has increased so much that it would take some time to end it. The entire team of the Academy had come to attend this meeting and our sole aim is to begin talks. The only aim of talking to Mohan Bhagwat is to pull down the wall of hate and create an atmosphere of friendship. He said that some people expect immediate results on everything. My request to them is to maintain patience. In order to end the hate and starts loving, one needs to make constant efforts.

Inquilab (September 9) reports that Maulana Mehdi Hasan of Darul Uloom Deoband has criticised the statement of Mohan Bhagwat where he said that Islam came to Bharat through invaders. He said that Mohan Bhagwat has no knowledge of the right history. Instead of depending on the history written by the British he should study the real history.

In Bharat, it's the Sufis who spread Islam and they reached here before Islamic rulers. No Islamic ruler has ever tried to spread Islam. The nation's first masjid was built in Kerala which was not built by any Islamic invader but by Arab traders and Sufis who built it during the period of Prophet itself. He criticised the statement of Bhagwat that the ancestors of Hindus and Muslims are the same. He said that this false propaganda is done in a systematic manner to establish that Muslims are essentially Hindus.

Inquilab (September 11) reports that the chairman of Islamic Cultural Centre, Sirajuddin Qureshi, had said that the efforts being made by Mohan Bhagwat for Hindu-Muslim amity are in the interests of the country. This will help the country emerge stronger.

Avadhnama (September 8) reports that Mohan Bhagwat had appealed to Muslim intellectuals to stand firmly

against fundamentalists. He said that everyone should work together for the progress of the nation. He said that history shows that Islam came through invaders and it should be mentioned in that manner. The earliest the Muslim community stands against fundamentalists, the better. He said that Bharat as a super power is not in favour of scaring off anyone. The term Hindu represents our motherland, ancestors and Bharatiya culture and every Hindustani is a Hindu. The ancestors of Hindus and Muslims are same.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (September 9) reports that Amir-ul-Hind and renowned Muslim leader Maulana Arshad Madani said that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is changing its old views and now it is on the right path. In an interview to 'Dainik Bhaskar,' he supported the stand that the ancestors of Hindus and Muslims are the same. There is nothing wrong with it. Because the castes of Gurjars, Jats and Rajputs are there in both the religions. He said that Muslims love this country and the majority of Muslims caught in the so-called terrorist cases are trapped in fake cases. That is why they are often released by the appeal courts. The Maulana said the Muslim Ulema had made significant contribution in the country's freedom struggle. In 1857, the British hanged 33,000 Muslim Ulema from Lal Qila to Jama Masjid in Delhi. Hence Maulana Qasim Nanautavi, Fazal Rahman Usmani and Mohammad Abid laid the foundation of Darul Uloom Deoband. Their aim was to create religious war. There was no proposal to make women as mujahids neither in the beginning nor now. He said he is in favour of keeping women in purdah and Islam is against co-education.

Siasat (September 8) reports that the former chairperson of Delhi Minorities Commission Zafarul Islam Khan said that in view of the current situation, it would be appropriate for Mohan Bhagwat to give his advice to Hindus, instead of Muslims, who subject Muslims to mob-lynching. Muslims remain peaceful and they are patiently doing their work. The terrorism

of Hindus is well-known. But the government, which is duty-bound to bring them to the book, is giving them a free run. Hence Mohan Bhagwat should first advise Hindu organisations to keep themselves away from terrorism and extremism.

Siasat in its September 8 editorial, while discussing about the speech delivered by Mohan Bhagwat in Mumbai, said that it looks like Mohan Bhagwat often speaks by deviating from the ideology of his predecessors in RSS. He tries to convince Muslims from time to time that they are getting equal rights in the country. Hence they need not become victims of their own doubts. For once they can also divert from their favourite issues and say that those who are settled in Hindustan are Hindus. This is because in our eyes, Hindu is not a religion but it represents the nation's culture. He sometimes takes efforts to warn those who make inappropriate remarks against Muslims but he himself doesn't mind making controversial remarks against Muslims once in a while. The latest situation is that Hindus and Muslims are on different sides as two different religions. Some say that this is a HinduRashtra. Muslims have no right to stay in this country. Some say that Muslims need to go to Pakistan and they all get the full support of RSS. Mohan Bhagwat doesn't take any initiative to rein in such people and the RSS also encourages such elements.

In any case, Mohan Bhagwat continuously keeps issuing such statements. He also said that Hindu Rashtra doesn't mean that there is no space for Muslims in the country and the day there is no space left for Muslims in this country, that day the Hindutva will come to an end. But these are all just rhetoric. Today the situation in the country is just the opposite of all such rhetoric. Venom is spewed against Muslims everywhere. They are even refused to be accepted as citizens. Discussions are held even to refuse them electoral franchise.

They are being asked to go to Pakistan. But Mohan Bhagwat also says that there is space for Muslims in Hindustan. It is actually a ploy to make Muslims fools. At one level there is an effort to please Muslims using sweet words. At another level, they are openly beaten up and killed under one pretext or another. Such crazy attackers not only get support from organisations linked to the RSS but are also encouraged. They get released by courts and are received even by Union ministers. As far as the question of Hindu Rashtra is concerned, it is not possible for anyone to change the secular nature of the country. What is required now is to follow the Constitution of the country.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 12), while criticising the statement of Mohan Bhagwat in Mumbai, Shakeel Rashid in an editorial asked, “Why should a Muslim describe himself as a Hindu? My question is to RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, who told some Muslims present at a meeting in Mumbai on September 6 that everyone who stays in this country is a Hindu. The surprising thing is that not a single Muslim who was sitting in front of him mustered courage to tell him that they were not Hindus but Muslims. I am not against holding such discussions. When there was a meeting between the chief of Jamiat Ulema Arshad Madani and Mohan Bhagwat, I had welcomed it. When Arshad Madani went to Keshav Kunj to meet Mohan Bhagwat on the efforts of Ramlal, Sajid Rashid criticised it saying it was quite stupid to hope that despite whatever the RSS does against Muslim youths, they would accept our words and work for peace and Muslims would get their Constitutional rights. If a party’s foundation is based on Muslim enmity, what else can you expect from them.”

The writer further said that Mohan Bhagwat had called Maulana Arshad Madani only to tell him that he starts describing himself as a Hindu and being a wise Muslim should condemn the fundamentalism of Muslims. Now, with

this aim Mohan Bhagwat has called a meeting of Muslim scholars, intellectuals and industrialists who are considered as the creamy layer of Muslim community. By inviting them, Bhagwat has closed his doors for ordinary Muslims. Recently, I read a book written by Mohan Bhagwat titled ‘Bhavishyaka Bharat’ where at one place, while mentioning about Gau Raksha, they are being described as not someone involved in mob lynching but someone who want to improve the society and belong to the higher strata of society. In another place, he writes, “As per our old tradition, nationalism and in the views of our ancestors, we are all Hindus. This is what we say and we would continue to say it. The conclusion of all this is that in order to prove themselves as nationalists, Muslims should start describing themselves as Hindus. The Muslim in Hindustan, Bharat or India could be a Hindustani, Bharatiya or an Indian but he is not at all a Hindu because the word Hindu denotes a particular religion and that religion is not the religion of Muslims. It is clear that no Muslim would accept the things said by Bhagwat. This is because a Muslim in this country cannot describe himself as a Hindu. Because Muslims and Hindus are from two different religions. There is a huge difference between the two. Now if any Muslim accepts Bhagwat’s stand and starts describing himself as a Hindu then it clearly means that he is not a Muslim. It is clear that the intention of Bhagwat is to make every Muslim a Hindu.”

Commenting on the meeting of Mohan Bhagwat in Mumbai, **Mumbai Urdu News** in its August 8 edition stated that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met a handful of people at a five-star hotel in the city, including a few Muslims. Those present there included a few saffron Muslims like Arif Mohammad Khan. The meeting was promoted by Muslim intellectuals as a meeting of Mohan Bhagwat. However, no interaction with each other took place at the meeting. Everyone had to listen to the speech of

Mohan Bhagwat. The increasing incidents of Hindutva extremism, violence and terrorism, the bad name that the Modi government has earned across the world and the criticism faced by RSS and its allied organisations within the country and outside over the attacks on minorities, all these things have forced the RSS chief to launch a public relations exercise. The meeting that took place in Mumbai is a step in that direction.

In his speech in Mumbai, Mohan Bhagwat did not mention about the increasing violent incidents against Muslims in the country and instead he spoke about Afghanistan and Taliban. One thing that we couldn't understand from his speech is that whether he is healing the wounds of Muslims or sprinkling salt on it or whether he himself is confused. The RSS-supported Modi government has created a new ministry for the welfare of minorities. As per the claims of this new cabinet, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Jews are not Hindus. This apart, there are many sections of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs who consider themselves as non-Hindus. Then why Mohan Bhagwat is teaching all that everyone is a Hindu? There is an attempt to spread hate by linking Islam with foreign invaders. That is why the RSS chief's meeting with Muslims and his speech can't be given more importance than a public relations campaign.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 13) reports that Mohan Bhagwat, while delivering a speech at a valedictory function in Jharkhand, stressed that the world has to find a way to deal with dangers like Taliban.

Mumbai Urdu News in its editorial on September 7 said that the meeting held by Mohan Bhagwat with Muslim intellectuals in Mumbai was part of a strategy prepared at the RSS headquarters to fight the forthcoming elections in five states. What is surprising is that at one level RSS wants every Muslim to issue a statement against Taliban and at another

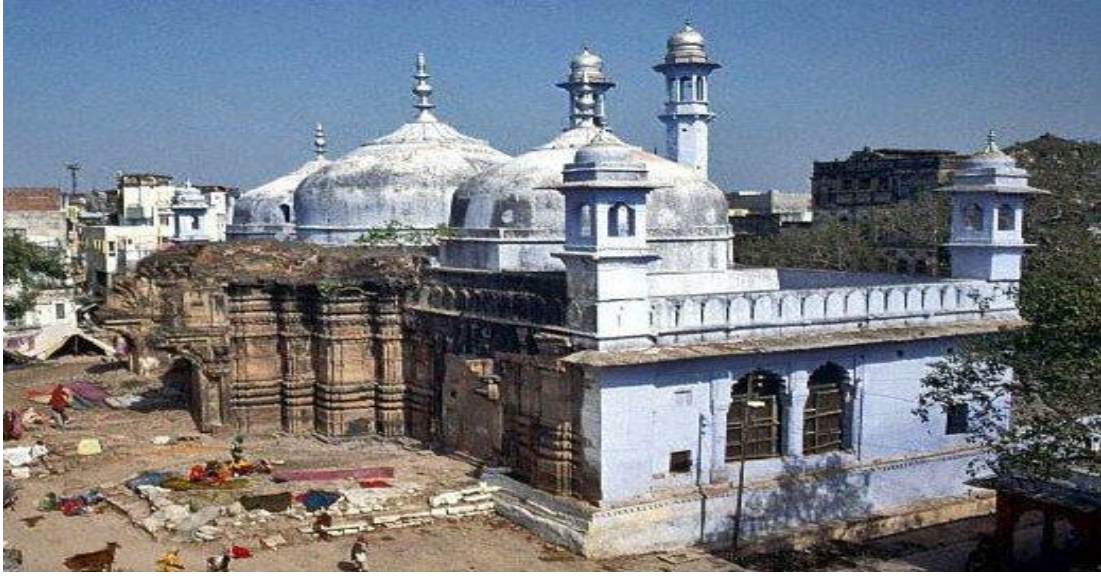
level the Indian government itself is holding talks with Taliban. Actually, Assembly elections are scheduled in many states and hence the Sangh Parivar wants to polarise votes in the name of Taliban.

Avadhnama (September 14) in its editorial said that for the past few days, the chief of the organisation that detests and considers Muslims as untouchables is making efforts to establish contact and sympathise with them here. For some reason or the other, some Muslims are won over and they are being lectured upon. But the so-called Muslims who participate in these meetings have nothing much to do with Muslim community. It is not that there should not be any talks between the RSS and Muslims. That should definitely be done. But it should not be a one-sided affair, instead responsible and senior Muslim leaders should sit in front of Mohan Bhagwat and talk to him on issues before the Muslims, in which the organisations linked to RSS had a role in creating them. Today, Muslims have become the target of mob violence in different parts of the country and along with it they are also told that they have to raise their voice against extremism. In the past few days, Mohan Bhagwat offered the same lessons to a group of Muslims who gathered at a five-star hotel in Mumbai. Earlier, at a function organised in Ghaziabad, Mohan Bhagwat told members of Muslim Rashtriya Manch the same things. What is surprising is that at the meeting in Mumbai, not a single Muslim had mustered courage to ask Mohan Bhagwat what he has been doing to stop the growing extremism among Hindus. As far as the question of Islam is concerned, it has reached Bharat during the time of Prophet himself. An associate of the Prophet, Malik bin Dinar is the first Muslim to reach Bharat and it was he who constructed the first mosque in Hindustan which stands even today. Muslim rulers came 500 years later. It is a fact that Muslim rulers have ruled this country for almost 800 years. However, there is no proof that they forcefully spread Islam in

the country. The truth is that it is due to untouchability among Hindus that they converted to Islam. Islam was spread by the Sufis who believe in unity and brotherhood. That is the reason why even today there are more Hindus than Muslims

who visit their dargahs. Muslims love Hindustan as their own country and doing so is part of the Islamic teaching. However, considering the nation as holy and doing puja is not justified as per Islam.

Survey at Gyanvapi masjid stopped



Inquilab (September 10) reports that the controversy over the Gyanvapi masjid in Varanasi has taken a new turn. The Allahabad high court has issued a stay on the survey at masjid premises and also stayed the hearing being held in the lower court on the issue. The high court has sought a reply from all Hindu parties including the Union government within three weeks and fixed the next date of hearing as October 8. The high court decision came on a petition filed by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Intezamia Committee of the masjid questioning the decision of the civil court. Commenting on the decision of the high court, the Waqf board and masjid management committee described it as a victory of justice.

The civil court judge of Varanasi, Ashutosh Tiwari, had issued an order on April 8, 2021, directing that the Archaeological department of the government shall conduct a survey on the premises of the masjid and form a

committee for the purpose. The court also ordered photography and videography of the entire survey. The high court, however, said that the civil judge has no power to hear matters on which the high court, Supreme Court or Parliament had created a law. The two Muslim organisations questioned the decision of the civil judge on the basis of the 1991 Act of Parliament which prohibits claims on a place of worship by another religion except the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This means that the status of a place of worship as existed on August 15, 1947 cannot be changed. As per this law, the claims of Muslims on Gyanvapi masjid cannot be questioned.

On October 15, 1991, Hindus filed a petition before the civil court in Varanasi claiming that the place where the namaz is held in Gyanvapi belongs to Hindus. This is because Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the temple and constructed a masjid on its place. Hindus claim that it is the mandir of Swayambhu Vishweshwarnath and the entire place

belongs to them. Muslims claim that they have been offering namaz at this place even hundreds of years before Independence.

Commentary: Muslim historian Firishta had claimed that Mahmud of Ghazni had destroyed hundreds of temples in Bharat and stolen their immense treasures and took away lakhs of people as slaves. Every Muslim invader had targeted temples. They were looted, idols were destroyed and the temples were turned into masjids. San Martin had in his book presented archaeological evidence to establish that Aurangzeb destroyed hundreds of temples in the country and converted them to masjids. This includes the world-famous Kashi Vishwanath mandir in Varanasi. In 1664, Aurangzeb launched his first attack on this mandir, which was foiled by the Naga Sadhus who sacrificed their lives in thousands while protecting it. In 1669, on the directions of Aurangzeb, the sacred temple of Kashi Vishwanath was destroyed and Gyanvapi masjid was constructed on its place. Varanasi is one of the ancient cities of the world. Kashi Vishwanath is one the most sacred 12 jyotirlingas of Hindus.

Many foreign historians have confirmed that the ruins of ancient Kashi

Vishwanath mandir are found near the Gyanvapi masjid. According to historians, Qutubdhin Aibak had destroyed the original Kashi Vishwanath mandir in 1194. However, it was reconstructed in the 13th century by some traders from Gujarat which was once again destroyed by the Sharqi sultans of Jaunpur. In the 15th century, the army of Sikander Lodhi again destroyed the Kashi Vishwanath mandir and it was reconstructed during the regime of Akbar by Raja Todarmal. This temple was later destroyed by Aurangzeb.

The current temple, which is located a few distance away from the original temple, was constructed by the Maharani of Indore, Ahilyabai Holkar. It is being said that in 1742, her father-in-law Malhar Rao Holkar had tried to raze Gyanvapi masjid and rebuild the mandir on its place. However, he could not fulfil it due to the intervention of the nawabs of Awadh. Ahilyabai Holkar constructed the present temple in 1780. This mandir is located at a few distance from the original Kashi Vishwanath mandir and the Gyanvapi mosque. The Maharaja of Punjab Ranjit Singh had donated 1 tonne gold for plating the dome of Kashi Vishwanath temple which adorns the temple even today.

Owaisi enter selection fray in Uttar Pradesh

In order to participate in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, chief of Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has started an election tour of the state.

Inquilab (September 8) reports that Asaduddin Owaisi has targeted both Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party at a press conference in Lucknow and said that both want Muslim votes but when it comes to sharing power, they fear it would lead to the tearing apart of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood. On the occasion, it was announced that UP strongman and former MP Atique Ahmad's wife Shaista Parveen would join the party. He said they would make Atique Ahmad also a member of the

party. When the journalists asked why he is adding criminal elements into his party, he said that 17% MLAs of BJP have criminal records and cases are still pending against them. Targeting Akhilesh Yadav, he said that the Muzaffarnagar riots took place during his regime and had he taken action against those rioters, the BJP would not have dared to withdraw the cases against 77 accused registered in the case after they came to power. He said that Muslims in Uttar Pradesh had voted for Mulayam and Mayawati in large numbers but what did they get in return. When Azam Khan was booked in fake case, did Samajwadi Party raise voice in his favour? He said that he



stepped into politics only to give Muslims their rightful place.

Inquilab (September 6) reports that Owaisi has announced his decision to field 100 candidates in the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. State unit president of Majlis, Shaukat Ali, has claimed that Akhilesh Yadav did not give permission to Owaisi to hold even one programme in the state when he was in power. This is the first time that Uttar Pradesh had given permission to Owaisi to start election campaign in the state. He alleged that many a times the permission given to him to hold rallies were cancelled at the last moment.

Inquilab (September 14) reports that Owaisi, while mentioning about the 'Abba Jaan' statement of Yogi Adityanath in Kushinagar, said that had Babaji done something for the Muslims, then there was no need for them to shout 'Abba Abba'. He said that the truth is that the Central government had handed over Rs 162 crore to Uttar Pradesh government for the development of minorities out of which Yogi government utilised only Rs 16 crore. He claimed that only eight Muslims in Uttar Pradesh got houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Inquilab (September 11) reports that in the forthcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh, both Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party may face serious setback. This is because Majlis chief

Asaduddin Owaisi has started efforts to induct BSP MP Mukhtar Ansari and Samajwadi Party MP Mohammad Azam Khan into his party after inducting former MP Atique Ahmad and his wife. Recently Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati had announced that she would not give her party's ticket to Mukhtar Ansari. This is because he is a mafia. After this announcement, Majlis established contact with Mukhtar Ansari. In this connection, a few leaders of Majlis also held talks with MP from Rampur, Azam Khan, recently. These days, Azam Khan is not in good terms with Samajwadi Party. Hence both Congress and Majlis are making efforts to induct Azam Khan and his wife Tazeen Fatima into their fold. In this connection, a senior leader of Congress Aziz Qureshi and chairman of minorities wing of Congress Imran Pratapgarhi went to Rampur and held talks with the family members of Azam Khan. Knowledgeable sources say that if Mukhtar Ansari, Azam Khan and other big Muslim faces join Majlis, then it would change the shape of politics in Uttar Pradesh. Muslim voters constitute 20% of the total voters and out of the total 403 seats, Muslims decide the fate of winner in at least 145 seats. Owaisi is also trying to induct a few Dalit and Backward class non-Muslim leaders into Majlis.

Etemaad (September 1) reports that while addressing a press conference in

Gulbarga, Owaisi said that his aim is to provide Muslims their appropriate role in the country's politics and he has been making efforts for the same throughout the country. He said that it is necessary for Muslims and Dalits to unite in order to pull down BJP from power. He said that BJP and Congress are pairs like Ram-Shyam. They both do not wish the wellness of Muslims. Hence our aim is to remove both from power.

Hindustan Express (September 14) has alleged that Owaisi is playing in the hands of BJP and they have made a plan to divide Muslim votes with the aim of bringing BJP back to power in Uttar Pradesh. It is with this purpose that he has decided to field 100 candidates in the elections. As per our understanding, the Uttar Pradesh government has registered a case against Majlis chief Asaduddin Owaisi in Barabanki allegedly for stirring up communal passion. He has been accused of stirring up the religious emotions of people on the issue of the masjid at Ram SnehiGhat in Barabanki and also for making undesirable comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. The city police in Barabanki registered a case against Owaisi for violating the Corona protocol and for illegally organising a rally. Dhariyabad MLA Satish Chandra Sharma met the state's additional chief secretary and demanded that a case be registered against Owaisi. He alleged that the administration had allowed Owaisi to address a gathering of only 50 people.

However, he gathered a huge crowd of hundreds of people. On the basis of the direction of the state's home secretary, a case has been registered against Owaisi.

Avadhnama in its September 11 editorial has said that Owaisi has been trying to get the votes of Uttar Pradesh Muslims by raking up their religious feelings. Ever since his party got five seats in Bihar and also emerged victorious in local bodies elections in some other states, he has got a moral boosting. The newspaper wrote that the decision taken by Owaisi to field 100 candidates in the Assembly elections would definitely benefit BJP. This is because the Majlis candidates would eat into the votes of other opposition candidates by splitting Muslim votes resulting in their defeat and would thereby definitely help BJP. It is not clear with whom Owaisi would form an alliance in Uttar Pradesh. This is because in case SP, BSP and Congress enter into a tie-up with Owaisi, they fear that whatever Hindu votes these parties get that would also evade them and would reach nowhere. Now if they don't enter into a tie-up with Owaisi, the votes on which the non-BJP candidates are hoping to win would get divided as Owaisi would spoil their chances. If the families of Mukhtar Ansari, Azam Khan and Atique Ahmad strengthen the hands of Majlis, then the colour of Uttar Pradesh politics is going to change.

Inquilab (September 8) reports that the leader of Rashtriya Lok Dal Shahid Siddiqui said that Owaisi is a ray of hope for BJP. ■

Room for namaz in Jharkhand Assembly

Inquilab (September 7) reports that the BJP MLAs created a huge uproar over allotment of a room for namaz at the new Jharkhand Assembly building and started bhajan-keertan in Vidhan Sabha itself. The BJP legislators demanded that the allotment should be cancelled immediately. As soon as the session started, the BJP legislators started chanting 'Hare Ram, Hare Krishna, Har Har Mahadeva' and

raised 'Jai Sri Ram' slogans. The MLA from Deoghar reached the Assembly dressed as a pujari. He started blowing the conch in the Assembly. The BJP MLAs said that their protest would continue till the allotment of the room for namaz is cancelled.

Earlier, the Jharkhand Assembly secretariat had allotted a room in the new Assembly building for namaz. In this



connection, Vidhan Sabha speaker Ravendra Nath Mahato said that even during the period of undivided Bihar, there was a provision to allot room for namaz in the Assembly building and Jharkhand is just following this tradition. Hence there is no need to create a ruckus in the Assembly on the issue. Minister for minority affairs Hafizul Hasan said that since there is no facility to offer namaz in the Assembly, the MLAs had to go to their houses to offer namaz and this led to disturbances in the functioning of the Assembly. He asked who doesn't know about the roles played by BJP. That is why they play politics by raising trivial issues. Another minister Mithilesh Thakur said that there was a room to offer namaz in the old Jharkhand Assembly building as well and this facility was there even during the time of BJP government. Hence there is no base for BJP's opposition. Former MP Furqan

Ansari claimed that in the year 2000, on the advice of the then chief minister Babulal Marandi, the then Assembly Speaker Inder Singh Namdhari had allotted a room in the Assembly building to offer namaz. Furqan Ansari said that just because a place is used for namaz doesn't mean that it would become a place of worship.

Former speaker of Jharkhand Assembly, Inder Singh Namdhari said that there was a facility for Muslim MLAs to offer namaz in a room in the erstwhile Bihar Assembly. If the same facility is extended to the Jharkhand Assembly, what is wrong with it? Jharkhand Congress Committee chief Rajesh Thakur said that the provision for a separate room in the Assembly to offer namaz has been a provision right from the time of undivided Bihar. BJP is in power in that state. Why don't they first cancel the allotted room in that Vidhan Sabha? ■

Secularists target Sangh Parivar

A new controversy has erupted in the country's politics after a few Leftist intellectuals compared Sangh Parivar with Taliban.

Inquilab (September 4) reports that renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar, while participating in a debate on an English news channel, said that the aim of organisations like RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and

Bajrang Dal is the same as that of Taliban. However, the Indian Constitution has been a hurdle in the path of Sangh Parivar but if they get an opportunity, they would not hesitate to overcome it. Commenting on some Muslims celebrating the capture of power by the Taliban in Afghanistan, Javed Akhtar said that the right wingers throughout the world are same. Discussing the issue of mob attacks

and killing of Muslims in India, he said that it is a full dress rehearsal before becoming Taliban. They are adopting the same stand of Taliban. These people are same. The difference is only in the name. He said that those people who support organisations like SanghParivar should do a rethink. In Hindustan only a handful of Muslims are fans of Taliban. Majority of Muslims are opposed to Taliban.

Inquilab (December 6) reports that a complaint has been filed with Mumbai Police against the statement of Javed Akhtar stating that he has deliberately insulted Sangh Parivar. Later, organisations linked to SanghParivar also held a demonstration outside the residence of Javed Akhtar in Mumbai.

Inquilab (September 6) reports that BJP leader Ram Kadam had threatened that unless Javed Akhtar apologises, none of his films would be allowed to release.

Inquilab (September 9) states that more than 100 prominent citizens of the country condemned the campaign against Naseeruddin Shah and Javed Akhtar and announced their support to them. Those who signed the statement included people like Teesta Setalvad, Anand Patwardan, Javed Anand, Shabnam Hashmi and Zafar Agha.

Inquilab (September 11) states that former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Digvijay Singh has compared Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh with Taliban that captured power in Afghanistan and said that the thinking of RSS and Taliban about women are similar. Just like Taliban wants an Islamic State, some people are demanding a Hindu Rashtra. The mentality of both is same. Whatever we condemn won't be enough. Commenting on the statement of Digvijay Singh, home minister of Madhya Pradesh Narottam Mishra said that he has a habit of defaming nationalists and he has allergy towards Sangh. Hence his statement should not be given any importance.

Hamara Samaj (September 10) states that Congress leader from Bihar Tariq Anwar

too got entangled in the controversy. In a press conference in New Delhi, he stated that the thinking of Taliban in Afghanistan and the RSS in our country is same. Later, a resident of Shivapuri Mohalla in Bihar capital Patna, Sobir Kumar, filed a complaint in police station, which states that the statement of Tariq Anwar is irresponsible and it has hurt the sentiments of BJP and the Hindus. When Tariq Anwar was asked to comment about the FIR filed against him he said that now efforts are being made to silence the voice of Gandhians through FIRs. But we will not get threatened by this. We are the followers of Gandhi and Nehru and we are ready to sacrifice everything to save the country and the Constitution and also save the country from fascism.

Etemaad (September 7) reports that a case for treason has been filed in Rampur against the former Congress minister in Madhya Pradesh and former Governor Aziz Qureshi. The police registered the case on the basis of a complaint by BJP leader Akash Saxena. Eighty one-year-old Aziz Qureshi had arrived in Rampur to meet Azam Khan and his wife and family members. Later he compared chief minister Yogi Adityanath to 'Shaitan'. Complainant Akash Saxena said that the comment of Qureshi had gone viral on social media and it may lead to communal tension. Confirming the registration of the case, additional director general of police Avinash Chandra said that Dr Qureshi went to Rampur to meet the family members of Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan and he made this comment while talking to media persons on the alleged torture meted out to Azam Khan in Sitapur jail. On this, BJP leader Akash Saxena has filed an FIR against him. Dr Qureshi, while talking to correspondents, said that it is a battle between humans and devils. At one side is humans and the other side is evil. In such a situation one can only pray. He urged the residents of Rampur to take to the streets against this torture.

Differences within Taliban government in Afghanistan



The differences between various factions in the new Taliban government in Afghanistan have come to light.

Roznama Sahara (September 16) reports that recently there was a tiff between two prominent leaders of Taliban, Abdul Ghani Baradar and Khalilur Rahman Haqqani. The BBC has mentioned the matter at its Pashto service. It is being said that a heated debate took place at the palace in Kabul between the Deputy Prime Minister of Taliban government and another minister. It is being debated in political circles that the reason for Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar becoming inactive is due to the internal strife among Taliban leaders. However, Taliban has denied this. It is being said that this quarrel took place last week and the rift occurred during the formation of the new Taliban government. Abdul Ghani Baradar is not happy about the present system. Later he clashed with another senior leader, Khalilur Rahman Haqqani. It is believed that the two groups are angry over each other taking credit for the success of Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Mullah Baradar says that the Taliban victory was due to the diplomatic initiatives taken by leaders like him.

Whereas the Haqqani group says that the Taliban won because of its success in the war. Mullah Baradar is the first such Taliban leader who held direct talks with the then US President Donald Trump in 2020 and one who signed the agreement on behalf of Taliban for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. Secondly, the Haqqani Network had been concentrating on the war in Afghanistan. Chief of Haqqani Network, Sirajuddin Haqqani is the home minister in the interim government of Taliban. It is suspected that he played a major role in the attack on Indian embassy in Kabul. This apart, he is also believed to be behind the terrorist activities against India in Kashmir. Taliban said that Mullah Baradar had left for Kandahar to hold discussions with Taliban chief. However, he has told BBC that he is tired and hence wanted to take rest for a few days. Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada is also yet to be seen in Kabul.

Hamara Samaj (September 8) reports that Taliban has announced its new government in Afghanistan which is headed by Mohammad Hasan Akhund. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar would be the

deputy prime minister. The formation of the new government was announced by Taliban spokesman Jabiullah Mujahid. Maulavi Mohammad Yakooob Mujahid has been made the defence minister and Sirajuddin Haqqani has been made the interior minister. Mullah Hidayatullah has been made finance minister and Mullah Khairullah has been made information minister. Maulavi Amir Khan Mutaqi has been made foreign affairs minister and Qari Din Mohammad minister for economic affairs. According to the spokesperson, Maulavi Noor Mohammad Saqib will be the minister for Haj and Waqf. Maulavi Abdul Hakim will be the law minister and Noorullah Noori will be minister for border areas. Yunus Akhundzada has been made the chief of intelligence department. Mullah Muhammad Essa Akhund has been made minister for minerals and petroleum. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Maulana Abdul Salam both would be aides to Maulana Mohammad Hasan Akhund. Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai is the deputy minister for foreign affairs. He said that Qari Fasihuddin has been made chief of the Afghanistan army. The spokesperson said that the current interim government would complete its term approximately in six months. There could be shuffle in the ministry depending on the changing situation. Every group will get representation in the permanent government. Jabiullah Mujahid said there is currently peace in the country. Hence no one would be allowed to hold protest against the government. He said that it is being publicised through media that we have relationship with Pakistan. However, Pakistan is not interfering on issues related to us in any manner. For our struggle, we had sought world-wide cooperation. He said that the entire Panjshir region is currently under the control of Taliban. We do not represent any particular caste or clan and no particular clan has been given representation in the government.

Siasat (September 8) states that Taliban has announced that the new Constitution of Afghanistan would be

based on Quran and Hadith and the nation's administration would be done on Sharia principles. He said that the army of the former government supports us. We would not tolerate any kind of dissent under any circumstances and those who take arms against us would be our biggest enemy. The war in Afghanistan has ended. The time is for peace and reconstruction. For this, we need the cooperation of the people. He admitted that the chief of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, General Faiz Hamid had recently visited Kabul and held discussions with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. He said that Pakistan is concerned over certain issues which we would try to remove. He admitted that they had got a huge cache of arms and ammunition from Panjshir, which the foreigners had transported there. We don't want any more war in Afghanistan.

Siasat (September 3) reports that the chief of Doha-based political office of Taliban, Suhail Saheen said that Taliban are entitled to raise the voice for the rights of Muslims anywhere in the world. Hence we would raise voice on behalf of Kashmiri Muslims as well and take steps to stop their harassment. He said that it is not our policy to wage an armed struggle against any nation. But being Muslims, it is our duty and right to raise our voice for the right of Muslims and liberate them from harassment. He alleged that whenever Pakistan made efforts to solve Kashmir issue on the basis of the United Nations declaration, India spoiled the efforts. He said that Muslims in Indian Kashmir are



being pressured and atrocities are committed against them. In the occupied Kashmir, while announcing the removal of Article 370 on August 2019, all political activists were put under house arrest and the people there were denied basic rights. All schools, colleges and universities are closed and the entire life has come to a standstill. The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi implemented the controversial Citizenship Act against which the Muslims of the country staged a strong protest. The Indian government has made them the target of their harassment and many people were killed. The newspaper also claimed that one leader of Pakistan's ruling party, Tehreek-e-Insaf, had issued a statement that Taliban is with them and they would cooperate with Pakistan to liberate Kashmir.

Avadhnama (September 14) states the Taliban government in Afghanistan has imposed a ban on co-education in the country. Female students have to receive education separately in universities and they cannot be taught by any male teacher.

Earlier, during 1996-2000 also Taliban had imposed a total ban on girl's education in the country. The girls who go for education have to wear hijab and cover their face. Women cannot visit public places without burqa and they have to wear Islamic costumes.

Inquilab (September 10) reports that Taliban has imposed a ban on protests throughout the country. Women held a protest in different places over Taliban curbing their freedom. Taliban had to use force to disperse them.

Inquilab (September 16) reports that women are opposing these restrictions on social media and say that they would not obey them but would wear the traditional costume of Afghanistan. One woman professor, Bahar Jalali, said that Taliban have no right to impose restrictions on their personal freedom. We will oppose it. The classes have started in Kabul University but in order to attend them, every woman has been wearing a burqa. In whichever room the classes for women are held, dark purdahs are hanged outside such classes.

Attack on Pakistani soldiers in Balochistan



Roznama Sahara (September 12) reports that in Balochistan, supporters of 'Free Balochistan' are active nowadays. The Pakistan government has admitted that a group of armed men had attacked a convoy

of Pakistan Army's Frontier Corps in which two soldiers died in Balada region in Kech district in Balochistan. Though Pakistani soldiers returned the fire, they managed to escape from the spot. In Kalat,

some motorcycle riders threw bomb on a vehicle of Pakistan police in which two policemen were killed and two were injured. Balochistan interior minister Mir Ziaullah Langau condemned the attacks and said that rebel elements will be crushed. Recently, there was a spike in the activities of Balochistan supporters. Last week, four soldiers were killed in a suicide attack near Sona Khan checkpost on Mastunga road in Quetta. Tehreek Taliban, a banned organisation, claimed responsibility for the attack.

In another attack, a Captain of Pakistan Army was killed and two others were injured. Last month, two persons were killed and several injured in an attack on a bus carrying Chinese citizens in Gwadar district in Balochistan. On August 15, one soldier was killed and two others including a major were injured in an attack on Pakistan Army near Loralai in Balochistan. On August 8, in an explosion that took place on Jinnah Road in Quetta, two policemen were killed and 12 others were injured.

European Union extends financial aid to Afghanistan



Inquilab (September 16) reports that the European Union has announced a financial assistance of 10 crore Euros to Afghanistan in order to deal with famine. The chief of European Union said that 27 countries of the world are with Afghanistan citizens and we would continue to extend help to Afghan citizens on humanitarian basis. Earlier, the European Union had announced that it would not recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan and stop the aid being given to the country. This apart,

former US Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and George Bush have formed an organisation that would extend help for the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees who have landed in America. George Bush said that they were with Afghan citizens and would extend all help for their rehabilitation in America.

Inquilab (September 15) reports that China has announced an aid of 1.5 crore dollars to Afghanistan. In this connection, the government spokesperson of Afghanistan held a meeting with the special envoy of China. Earlier also China had announced an aid worth 3.10 crore dollars to Afghanistan.

As per another report, China has announced more than 3,000 doses of Corona vaccine to Afghanistan and along with this, they would be supplied medicines worth 20 crore Yuan.

Masjid bomber gets 53 years in jail

Inquilab (September 15) reports that militia leader Emily Claire, accused of bombing a mosque in America, has been sentenced to 53 years in jail. The blast took

place in 2017. The incident took place in Darul Farooq Islamic Centre in Minnesota city. When the blast occurred, Muslims were offering namaz in the mosque.

However, nobody was killed or injured in the blast. The government counsel told the court that Emily Claire had initially formed a group called 'White Rabbits.' He added a few others as members of his group. On August 5, 2017, they travelled 800 kilometre on a truck and reached Islamic Centre and triggered a blast using a pipe. The blast was



aimed at creating fear among Muslims and to create an insecurity feeling among them which is against the policy in US. Hence stringent action should be taken against such people. Following the blast, the FBI arrested the accused along with two others in 2018 and the charges against him were confirmed in 2020.

Teachers in Pakistan banned from wearing jeans & T-shirts



Inquilab (September 10) reports that the Pakistan government has prohibited male and female teachers from wearing jeans and T-shirts across the country. All teaching staff must wear teaching gowns inside the class and lab coats while in laboratories. The order recommends salwar kameez with dupatta/shawl for female teachers. This apart, they have to wear a hijab. No female teacher would be allowed to wear jeans and tight dress. Women

teachers will be allowed to wear either formal shoes (pumps, loafers) but no sandals and slippers. During the winter season, women teachers can wear coats, blazers, sweaters, jerseys, cardigans and shawls. As far as men are concerned, they have to wear salwar kameez. They would not be allowed to wear jeans and pants under any circumstances. During summer, they can wear half-sleeve shirt. But they will not be allowed to wear T-shirt.

Israeli Prime Minister's visit to Egypt



Roznama Sahara (September 15) reports that for the first time in the history of Israel an elected Prime Minister has visited Egypt. According to the newspaper, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet held talks with Egypt President Abdul Fatah al-Sisi. Spokesperson of the president said that the meeting between the two leaders took place in Sharm al-Sheikh where discussions were held on various aspects to restore peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This apart, the chief of intelligence wing of Egypt Abbas Kamal and the National

Security Advisor of Israel Eyal Hulta also took part. In the Arab world, after decades of enmity, Egypt signed a peace agreement with Israel in 1979. Egypt has financial, diplomatic and security relationship with Israel. But along with this, they have also developed relationship with Muslim terrorist organisation Hamas and Palestine Authority chairman Mahmood Abbas. Israel has urged Egypt to hold talks with Palestinians to establish peace in Gaza. In return, Israel is willing to give an alternative place to Palestinians. ■

Heavy damage to Saudi port in Houthi shelling

Hamara Samaj (September 13) reports that the Houthi rebels active in Yemen have attacked several ports in Saudi Arabia and Yemen with missiles. The attack was targeted at stopping the supply of arms and ammunition imported from other countries in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Houthis are supported by Iran. The government spokesperson has admitted that the Al-Makha port in Yemen suffered huge damage in the attack. He said that the

rebels wanted to target the headquarters of the government forces in Yemen. But they failed in their attempt. The government forces downed the two helicopters of Houthis. The attack took place on September 11. The government spokesperson said that Houthis are like a terrorist organisation hardly different from Islamic State or Al Qaida. Iran has propped up these rebels against Saudi Arabia. He said that Yemen is currently facing a huge

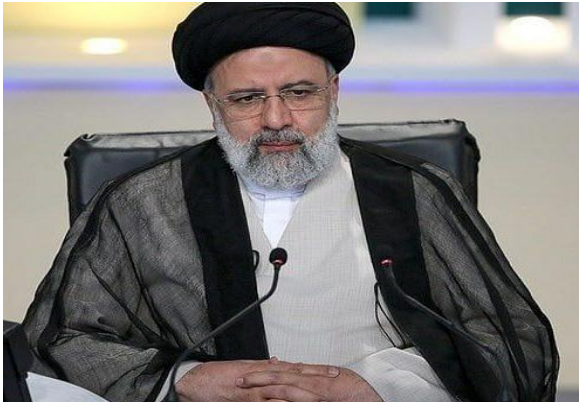


crisis. Lakhs of Yemenis have become homeless. The United Nations has warned of a severe famine in Yemen this year.

UN has appealed to countries across the world to extend 4 billion dollars as help to Yemen but only 1.75 billion dollars could be collected. Saudi Arabia has shot down a drone that took off from Yemen. The Houthis had attempted to target Khamis, a southern city of Saudi Arabia. A

spokesperson of Saudi Arabia said that Houthis are targeting several places in southern parts of Saudi Arabia for the past several months. The spokesperson said that the Houthis have increased their attacks on Saudi Arabia at the behest of Iran. However, they haven't succeeded in their efforts. This is because the protective shield foiled the attack using missiles and drones.

Iran ready for talks



Etemaad (December 6) reports that Iran has expressed its willingness to hold talks on nuclear agreement. But it also said that it would not be held under the pressure of sanctions imposed on it by the Western countries. Iran President Syed Ebrahim Raisi said that he had said in the beginning itself that our government would definitely

hold talks. But this should not be due to some pressure. If Western countries continue to put pressure on us then the talks would not succeed. Iran had signed a nuclear agreement with US, China, France, Britain, Germany and European Union in 2015. As per this agreement, Iran is supposed to curtail its nuclear programme and cut down its Uranium enrichment. In return, the Western countries were supposed to lift the sanctions imposed by them on Iran.

New President Raisi said that they are conscious about their security and at the same time are also concerned about the security of neighbouring countries as well. So far we have held discussions with more than 50 heads of government on the issue. Discussing the issue of Afghanistan, he said that the solution to the problems in

Afghanistan should be done as per the wishes of its citizens and the government there should be elected by the people. Iran was keen on peace and stability in Afghanistan right from the beginning. For the past several decades, the people of

Afghanistan are facing situations like war. Raisi said that we would not bend under any pressure. The Western countries are constantly pressuring us to find results. Whatever stand we have taken, we will not take even one step back on it.

Cinema halls in Saudi Arabia

Inquilab (September 13) reports that 44 cinema halls have opened in Saudi Arabia in the past four years. As per the information received by Urdu News, the Saudi Arabian government has accepted that the country's first cinema hall was opened in Riyadh on April 18, 2018. Recently two cinema halls were opened in Riyadh and Taif. According to government sources, 10 cinema halls were opened every year in Saudi Arabia between 2018 and 2021. There were restrictions on opening cinema halls in Saudi Arabia for almost 100 years which have now been removed by the present Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman as part of his liberalization policy. As per government sources, out of the 13 regions in the country, cinema halls have been



opened in nine regions. While 21 of them are in Riyadh, nine are in Mecca and eight others are in Western region. These cinema halls have been opened by nine companies. In 2019, the number of cinema halls was 12, which has increased to 44 now. The first cinema hall in Saudi Arabia was opened by an American company.

13 Iraqi policemen killed in Islamic State attack

Inquilab (September 6) reports that at least 13 policemen were killed in an attack on a police outpost by Islamic State militants in the northern region of Iraq. A spokesperson of Iraqi government said that a group of armed men attacked a police outpost in northern Iraq. Soon, clashes broke out in the entire region. Terrorist organization Islamic State took responsibility for the attack. The incident started with an attack on an outpost in Kirkuk Nagar in which five government employees were injured. The spokesperson has claimed that the terrorists of Islamic State suffered several damages in this attack. Later the Islamic State launched an attack on a police outpost

near Rashid village in which three vehicles of police were destroyed. In 2017, the region was liberated from the hands of Islamic State by America. The next four years peace prevailed in the region. But now Islamic State has become active again. In July this year, Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa Ali Qadmi had announced that his country doesn't need the help of Americans to fight Islamic State. Hence they can go back from Iraq. It is after this statement that Islamic State started launching more attacks. As per latest reports, the US has launched air strikes on Syrian border in order to stop the attacks by Islamic State.

Appointments made in minority institutions



Roznama Sahara (September 10) states that the Union government has appointed former IPS officer and a spokesperson of BJP Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the chairman of National Commission for Minorities. He has replaced former chairperson Syed Ghayorul Hasan who completed his term in May 2020. Till now, the commission's vice-chairperson Atif Rasheed has been officiating as its chairperson. The Delhi High Court had directed the Union government to nominate members of the commission by July 31 but even now five posts are lying vacant. Minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that the members would be appointed soon. He said the delay in appointments was due to the lockdown to contain pandemic and the ongoing Parliament session.

In another report published in the same newspaper, the Uttar Pradesh government has announced the nomination of chairpersons and members of various institutions linked to minority welfare. The institutions include Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad Memorial Committee, Uttar Pradesh Haj Committee, Uttar Pradesh Shia Central

Waqf Board and Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Talimi Board. The posts in these institutions have been lying vacant for many years. Chaudhary Kaif-ul-Wara of Gorakhpur has been nominated as the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy. Mohsin Raza has been made chairman of Haj Committee. Syed Athar Zahir Zaidi is the new chairman of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad Memorial Committee. Dr Iftikhar Ahmad has been made the chairman of Madarsa Talimi Board.

This apart, four members have been nominated to Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board. In Urdu Academy, apart from the chairman, Syed Nadeem Akhtar (Bulandshahr), Syed Itharat Hussain (Varanasi), Mohmmad Azad Ansari (Saharanpur), Dr Talat Siddiqui (Kanpur), Saleem Beg (Kanpur), Raza Qasim (Barabanki), Dr Shadab Alam (Lucknow), Nawab Qambar Qaiser (Lucknow), Dr Rizwana (Lucknow), Meesm Zaidi (Noida), Haji Zahir Ahmad (Moradabad) and Mohammad Islam Sultani (Bareilly) have been nominated as members.

In Haj Committee, apart from chairman Mohsin Raza, Aslam Raini

(Meerut), Shaukat Ali (Meerut), Faizal Ali and Sayed Kalbe Hussain (Lucknow), Maulana Hafiz Mohammad Javed (Jhansi), Maulana Waqr Haider (Azamgarh), Sarfaraz Ali (Noida), Mohammad Iftikhar Hussain (Gorakhpur), Syed Ehtesham Al Huda (Bareilly), Sarwar Siddiqui (Bhadohi), Amanullah (Mirzapur), Haji Abdul Rahim (Varanasi), Wasim Ahmad (Prayagraj), Mohammad Anwar (Saharanpur), Tariq Siddiqui (Kasganj), Dr Shams Pervez (Deoria) have been nominated. In Madrasa Talimi Board, Qamar Ali (Lucknow), Tanvir Rizvi (Siddharth Nagar), Dr Imran Ahmad (Bijnor) and Asad Hussain (Hardoi) are included.

Those included in Shia board are Mohammad Zaryab Jamal (Amroha), Syed Shabahat Hussain Rizvi (Siddharth Nagar), Syed Hasan Kausar and Maulana Raza Hussain (Lucknow).

Commenting on the appointment of office-bearers in institutions linked to minorities, **Inquilab** (September 11) in its editorial said that those who have been made members of all these committees are considered as supporters of either RSS or BJP. But a Bahujan Samaj Party legislator has also been made a member of Haj Committee. Even now majority of Muslims do not trust BJP. Hence those who have been made chairmen till now have no familiarity with minorities or politics. As

per the rules of Haj Committee, there should be at least three Muslim Ulema in the committee out of which two should be Sunni and one Shia. But till now even this condition is not met. Similarly, not a single woman has been nominated. However, it was necessary to nominate a woman member who could look into the problems of women Haj pilgrims. In the case of Shia Waqf Board, the post of chairman and members were lying vacant for a long time now. Looks like four members have been nominated. But three seats are vacant even now.

What is most shocking is that those who have been nominated as chairmen of Urdu Academy and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad Memorial Committee have nothing much to do with Urdu literature. Hence it would be futile to think that they would be able to handle their responsibilities in a proper manner. In any case, these appointments are made keeping in mind the forthcoming Assembly elections. Hence there is no point in hoping that the government has any interest in the welfare of minorities. The newspapers discuss about BJP and RSS adopting a strategy to connect Muslims with the party before the 2022 elections. But if the government has been sleeping for over four years and forms such committees as elections approach, then such questions will arise. ■

Questions over aid to madrasas

Avadhnama (September 3) reports that the Allahabad high court has raised a question over the secular government extending financial aid to religious institutions. The high court asked can a secular government provide financial help to a madrasa? Can the madrasa provide religious education as per the Constitution? The high court also asked whether women are permitted in madrasas? If not, is it not a discrimination? Then it will be against the

Constitution of India. The high court also asked whether there is any system to provide education of all religions in the madrasas. The high court raised these questions on a petition filed by Anjuman Islamia. They have been recognized by the madrasa board and the state government provides financial aid. The management committee has complained that they are not getting the aid from the state government for the past two years. ■

Demand to make Nikah easier

Siasat (September 9) reports that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has appealed to Muslims in the country that they should not waste money on rituals like wedding as display of wealth against the basic principles of Islam. Hence the marriage should be held as per Sharia in masjids. Chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Rabbe Hasani Nadvi, while addressing an online meeting of committee on social reforms, said that the money being wasted by Muslims on dowry and feast is wrong as per Sharia. This should be stopped immediately. Because it

creates a wrong image about Muslims in the society. Spokesperson of the board, Maulana Sajjad Nomani said that instead of spending indiscriminately on ceremonies like this, money should be spent on things like education and for empowering the poor. Zafar Mahmood of Zakat Foundation said that it should be ensured before the wedding that only minimum people are invited as guests for Baraat. Member of the board, S Q Ilyas said that the Ulema should not solemnize the nikah of those Muslims who behave in an arbitrary manner. ■

Petition filed against Wasim Rizvi dismissed

Mumbai Urdu News (September 9) reports that the Lucknow bench of the high court has dismissed a public interest petition filed against controversial Shia leader Wasim Rizvi by Raza Academy. The judge said that no discussion has been held with the general public on the issue. Dozens of FIRs have been filed against Wasim Razvi in different cities of the country. Wasim Rizvi had demanded removal of 26 controversial verses from Quran. The Supreme Court, however, rejected his petition for the same and

imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him. Earlier, he had announced a decision to make a film on the wife of Hazrat Mohammad, Hazrat Ayesha, which was strongly opposed by Muslims. Commenting on the public interest litigation filed in the high court against Wasim Rizvi, general secretary of Raza Academy Mohammad Sayed Noori said that we are not happy about the decision of the high court. Hence we will take the matter to the Supreme Court. We are hopeful that we would definitely get justice there. ■

Tablighi Markaz to remain closed

Mumbai Urdu News (September 14) reports that the Central government has filed an affidavit before the Delhi high court and described the closing down of the headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat as a right decision and said that due to the stay of foreigners in the Hazrat Nizamuddin-located building, many problems may arise at the international level. The government had closed the centre on March 31, 2020 in the wake of Corona outbreak and restricted the entry of people on its premises. When it was closed, nearly 1,300 foreigners were staying on its premises. Hence it was closed under Section 310 of India Penal

Code. The affidavit says that as far as the question of religious freedom is concerned, the government has allowed people to offer namaz on limited numbers and hence there is no violation of Article 25 of Constitution. Earlier, the Delhi high court had directed Delhi Police that the residential area of the centre to be handed over to the mother of the chief of Tablighi Jamaat, Maulana Saad. However, the place from where the activities of Tablighi Jamat were being held, that remains closed. The mother of Maulana Saad has been given the direction that if she wants she can stay in the residential area of the property. ■

