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## Islamic Radicals Aim to Spark Riots in Maharashtra



- Campaign to Glorify the Assassin of Swami Shraddhanand
- Imran Govt Kneels Down before Radical Islamic Organisation
- Attempt to Kill Iraqi Prime Minister
- Iqbal's Association with Muslim University

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## Summary

As soon as the election bugle has been sounded in some states, a few extremist Islamic organisations have begun their efforts to spike communal tension to polarise Muslim votes. Urdu newspapers have launched a nationwide campaign against BJP on the pretext of some incidents in Tripura. These people have the support of Congress, Communists and other secularists for the campaign. A controversial Sunni organisation in Maharashtra, Raza Academy, recently called for a bandh in different cities of the state. The bandh later turned violent. Large mobs attacked police and targeted public property. Curfew had to be imposed in over half-a-dozen cities of the state and internet services had to be suspended. Condemning these incidents, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad demanded a ban on Raza Academy and other extremist Muslim organisations. The Tripura government has officially conveyed that not a single mosque has been damaged in the state during the protests. However, on the pretext of this alleged incident, Muslims across the country are being incited against the government.

Swami Shraddhanand was a great freedom fighter, Arya Samaj leader, academician and founder of the Shuddhi movement. During Khilafat movement, when Mahatma Gandhi launched a campaign for Hindu-Muslim unity, Swami Shraddhanand got an opportunity to address namazis at the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi. However, when he launched the 'Shuddhi' movement for the reconversion of Hindus who were forcibly converted to Islam during foreign invasions, he became an enemy of Muslims. One fanatic Muslim, Abdul Rashid, sneaked into the residence of Swami Shraddhanand and stabbed him to death. The court awarded him death sentence. However, in order to fight his case, prominent Muslims from Mohammad Ali Jinnah to Sir Iqbal appeared before the court. After Abdul Rashid was hanged to death in a jail in Delhi, his body was buried at the graveyard near Delhi Gate. Several decades passed and nobody cared to remember him. However, for the past six years, some extremist Muslim leaders have been describing him as an Islamic warrior and a martyr for the Prophet and his faith and started celebrating his Urs. Such glorification of an assassin in this manner raises several questions.

The Imran government in Pakistan had to kneel down before an extremist organisation, Tehreek-e-Labbaik. This organisation is said to be linked to the Barelvi sect. It wants Shariah rule to be imposed in Pakistan and seeks death sentence to anyone who insults Islam and the Prophet. A few years ago, a Christian woman, Asiya Bibi, was awarded death sentence under the infamous blasphemy law in Pakistan. When a huge row erupted against this decision across the world, the Pakistan government issued a pardon to Asiya Bibi and sent her to a European nation on a special aircraft. This organisation then declared a long march and threatened to encircle Islamabad against the decision. Initially, the Pakistan government tried to crush the extremist Islamic movement but was later forced to kneel down before the organisation due to the anger of the people.

## Islamic radicals aim to spark riots in Maharashtra



The bandh and protest marches organised in Maharashtra by controversial Muslim organisation Raza Academy over the alleged violence in Tripura took a violent turn with riots breaking out in five prominent cities of the state. The riots were marked by incidents of looting and burning properties. Curfew had to be imposed in several cities. Nearly 100 rioters were arrested. Vishwa Hindu Parishad general secretary Milind Parande demanded that the government impose a ban on Raza Academy which has sparked the riots. He also asked the activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad to file FIR at police stations against those who indulge in riots. The security set-up in several Muslim-majority cities of Maharashtra has been tightened even as the police conducted flag marches.

**Etemaad** (November 15) reports that Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil said the situation is under control in the violence-hit Amravati city. After two days of continuous violence, curfew was imposed in the city and internet services were suspended. He said the police will carry out a detailed inquiry into the rallies taken out in Maharashtra recently and collect information on the

damages occurred. He said that whether it was Raza Academy or any other organisation, the police will get into the background of the marches organised by them. On Friday, violence erupted in many cities in Maharashtra. The violence started during the bandh and protest marches organised against the alleged attack on mosques in Tripura.

The newspaper claimed that the situation was under control in Malegaon and in Nanded, but violence occurred during a bandh observed by BJP in Amravati. The police resorted to lathi-charge to bring the situation under control, during which several people were injured. The protesters also pelted stones in different places. The ruling alliance in Maharashtra comprising Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress has alleged that the BJP is conspiring to destabilise the Maharashtra government. In order to end violence, the state government deployed four DGP-rank officers in violence-hit regions. This decision was taken following a high-level meeting.

In response to a bandh organised by Muslim organisations over the alleged attacks in Tripura, the BJP called a bandh

the next day, during which several incidents of stone-pelting took place. On an appeal by Muslim organisations, protest marches were taken out in many cities like Amravati, Nanded, Malegaon and Yavatmal. Curfew was imposed in five other places in Amravati district as violence spread. The police arrested 50 people in connection with violence and stone-pelting in Amravati. According to a senior police officer, curfew had been imposed at many other places in the district. According to the Minister in-charge of Amravati, Yashomati Thakur, the situation remained peaceful on Sunday because apart from eight battalions of State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), security forces have also been deployed. The state government also imposed Section 144 of CrPC in Pune.

**Etemaad** (November 15) reports that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had demanded at a press conference that the Maharashtra government impose a ban on Raza Academy. A delegation of Vishwa Hindu Parishad will meet Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari with the demand. However, general secretary of Congress, Tariq Anwar, has demanded a ban on Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad along with Raza Academy.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 15) states that the armed police conducted flag march in many Muslim majority areas of Mumbai like Bhendi Bazar, Dongri, Null Bazar and JJ Marg and urged people to maintain peace and do not fall prey to rumours or lies spread on social media.

As per information received from Buldhana, cases have been registered against 350 people including the office-bearers of Raza Academy for violating the Corona protocol in the wake of an appeal by the Academy to hold dharna and bandh. The newspaper alleged that Hindu organisations have been posting anti-Muslim tweets and running a mischievous campaign on Facebook.

Yogi Devnath described the Maha Vikas Aghadi as Maha Vinash Aghadi and described it as responsible for the riots in Amravati. He said that on the pretext of the incidents in Tripura, the religious fanatics displayed their dreadful face in Nanded, Malegaon and Amravati. The jihadis sparked riots in Maharashtra for two days while the media remained silent. The Raza Academy is a terrorist organisation that has been indulging in violence in the region. Five cases have been registered in Malegaon on charges of spreading violence and in this connection 16 people have been taken into custody so far while a search is on for 10 more people. Five teams have been constituted to investigate the riots cases.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 15) states that Mufti Manzoor Ziyee appealed to the Muslims of Maharashtra that they should maintain peace at any cost. He urged parents that they keep a tab on their children so that they do not take part in any illegal activities.

Earlier, **Mumbai Urdu News** in its November 13 edition had published three news items on its front page related to the bandh, in which it was claimed that the bandh organised by Muslim organisations in Mumbai and in several districts of Maharashtra was a total success and that Raza Academy had sent a memorandum to the Governor and the President demanding that action be taken against those who sparked riots in Tripura. Meanwhile, violence erupted during the bandh in Nanded and stones were pelted on the rally in many places forcing the police to resort to lathi-charge and fire teargas shells. More than two dozen people were injured, including five police officers. Several shops located on Agra Road in Malegaon were destroyed. The protesters pelted stones on police, forcing them to fire teargas shells. Several people were injured in the clash between the police and the protesters. The protesters even thrashed media persons. The

newspaper claimed that some excited youths tried to break the law but due to the intervention of police and Muslim leaders, the violence was stopped.

**Aurangabad Times** (November 13) states that the bandh was a total success in Aurangabad. The shopkeepers who did not close their shops were presented with garland of flowers to close the shops. The youths tried to hold a massive protest at Champa Chowk. However, police foiled their attempts. The newspaper claimed that all Muslim organisations like Ahle Sunnat, Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim Personal Law Board, Maharashtra Muslim Awami Committee, Jamiat Ulema, Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen had announced their support to the bandh.

**Aurangabad Times** (November 15) has claimed that a bandh was organised in entire Maharashtra following an appeal by the Muslim Jamaat. However, violent incidents took place in Amravati, Nanded and in Malegaon. Some places were torched and stones were pelted. In Amravati, police lathicharged Muslims and rubber bullets were fired on protesters in Nanded. In Malegaon, the mob threw bottles at policemen, leaving many of them injured.

**Etemaad** (October 13) reports that Muslims staged a dharna on Hyderbagh Road in Nanded. The dharna had the support of Muslim Majlis, Nationalist Congress and Vanchit Bahunjan Aghadi. Thousands of Muslims took part in the dharna. On their way back, the protesters threw stones at the police, resulting in injuries to some policemen and damages to several vehicles.

**Etemaad** in its editorial on November 15 has alleged that since the BJP failed to form a government in Maharashtra, it is now making efforts to pull down the government on the pretext of the incidents in Tripura. This is the reason why the BJP organised a bandh in response to the bandh called by Muslim

jamaat next day itself during which violence erupted. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut alleged that the BJP is deliberately sparking violence in Maharashtra so that the ruling alliance could be destabilised. He said we would expose those who spread violence in the state.

**Hamara Samaj** (November 15) states that the head of Raza Academy, Mohammad Saeed Noori, has welcomed the inquiry into the recent riots by the state government and said the investigation should be conducted without any kind of political pressure and in an objective manner so that the truth would come to light and people get to know who is provoking riots in the state.

**Comment:** Following the riots that took place in Maharashtra recently, Raza Academy, an organisation of Barelvi Sunni Muslims, has become the topic of discussion. This organisation was founded in 1978 by a Muslim Ulema, Mohammad Saeed Noori, and he is its chief since 1986. This organisation publishes books written on different Islamic topics linked to Barelvi sect in Urdu, Arabic and English. The organisation came to the limelight in 2012 when it organised a massive protest at Azad Maidan in Mumbai against the alleged attacks on Rohingya Muslims in Assam. Soon, riots broke out in Mumbai. Many vehicles were set ablaze. Stones were pelted on buses and other vehicles. The police claimed that the mob misbehaved with at least five women police constables and attacked policemen and injured several of them. The Muslim mobs also damaged the Amar Jawan Jyoti that stands in memory of freedom fighters at Azad Maidan. Later, a man identified as Abdul Qadir Ansari was arrested from Bihar on these charges. The Mumbai Police arrested 80 more people for fanning the riots including the chief of Ulema Board, Maulana Athar, and Syed Noori of Raza Academy. In February 2021, they held a protest against the

release of a picture of Prophet Mohammad by the BBC, forcing the BBC to apologise. In 2016, the organisation protested against the action

taken against Zakir Naik. In 2006, two policemen were killed during a protest march organised by Raza Academy in Bhiwadi.

## Campaign to glorify the assassin of Swami Shraddhanand



For the past few years, a few fundamentalist Muslim leaders in Delhi have been trying to glorify the assassin of Arya Samaj leader and renowned freedom fighter Swami Shraddhanand.

In 1926, a fanatic Muslim, Abdul Rashid, had sneaked into the house of Swami Shraddhanand and murdered him. Later he was sent to gallows. His body was buried in a graveyard in Delhi. The interesting thing is that till the time of Partition, no Muslim leader had dared to glorify him. The effort to glorify him started nearly seven years ago. Muslim organisations started celebrating Urs on the day he was hanged to death. As per Islamic tradition, the Urs is celebrated in memory of great Muslim peers or Ulema.

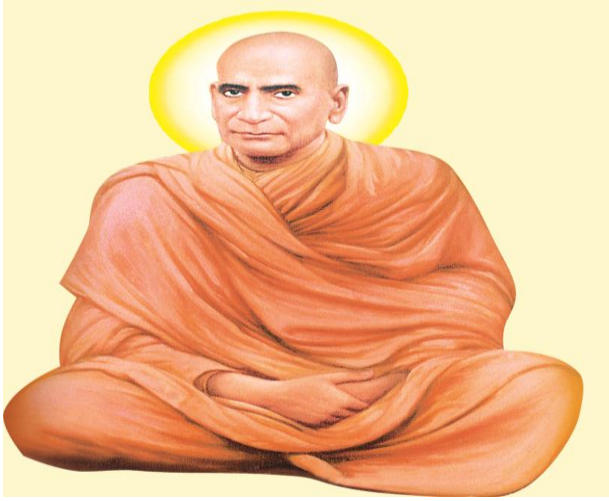
This year also the Urdu newspapers of the capital started a discussion on holding the Urs of Abdul Rashid some days ago. The weird thing is that he has been described as a Ghazi (soldier of Islam) who sacrificed his life for Islam.

**Inquilab** (November 15) carried the news of the Urs of Abdul Rashid as a three-column story along with a photo. In another newspaper, *Roznama Sahara*, the news appeared as a four-column story along with a photo. This apart, several other Urdu newspapers also published the report.

**Inquilab** has described him as an Ashiq-e-Rasool and a function was organised at Masjid Bhuli Bhatiyari to pay tributes to Abdul Rashid. Later some senior Muslims leaders went to his grave and collectively read Fatiha for peace to his soul. The manager of BhuliBhatiyari mosque, Haji Ameenuddin said, “Ghazi Abdul Rashid did not tolerate arrogance against the honour of Prophet. It is a sign of his unique, distinct love and respect towards the Prophet of Allah. Despite warning him several times, the Gustakh-e-Rasool (Swami Shraddhanand) did not take it seriously and then Rashid murdered him (Swami Shraddhanand) for the sake of Islam and the Prophet for which he was awarded death sentence and he attained martyrdom.” Member of Delhi Waqf board, Chaudhary Sharif Ahmad said the step taken by Ghazi Abdul Rashid for the sake of the Prophet would permanently be etched in the history of Islam. Among those who attended the function including Mufti Ishaq Qasmi, Shakil Rashin, Maulana Ijaz Ahmad Qasmi, Maulana Abubakar Mazahiri, Maulana Ahmad Ali Qasmi, Haji Muinuddin Ahmad, Hafiz Irfan, Abdul Hadi and Mohammad Kamran also paid tributes to Abdul Rashid. Later, they visited his Khabristan at Delhi Gate and read Fatiha at the grave of Rashid.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 15) states that a madrasa was established in the name of Ghazi Abdul Rashid at Delhi Gate in 1991 which still gives religious education to children. Jamiat Ulema’s general secretary in Delhi, Haji Mohammad Asad Miyan, Jamil Anjum and many other Muslim leaders participated in the Urs.

### Who was Swami Shraddhanand?



Swami Shraddhanand is counted among the greatest freedom fighters of the country, an AryaSamaj leader and the one who launched the Shuddhi movement. He was the founder of the renowned AryaSamaj educational institution, Gurukul Kangri. He was born in Jalandhar district in Punjab and his father was an inspector of police in Uttar Pradesh. His original name was Mahatma Munshi Ram. He left his home after getting inspired by Swami Dayanand Saraswati and became a sanyasi. He took the new name Swami Shraddhanand. He was the only Hindu leader who got an opportunity to deliver a speech at Juma Masjid in Delhi. Those days, he was very active with Khilafat movement and after coming under the influence of Gandhiji's secularism, he took active part in Khilafat movement and he successfully addressed the nazis at Juma Masjid in Delhi in an effort to improve the Hindu-Muslim unity. In 1923, he constituted the Bharatiya Hindu Shuddhi Sabha to bring those Hindus who converted to Islam back to Hinduism. Due to his efforts, 1.63 lakh Malkana Rajputs left Islam and reconverted to Hinduism. The fundamentalist Muslims started hating him after this incident.

In 1926, when Swami Shraddhanand fell ill, a 22-year-old fanatic Muslim,

Abdul Rashid, entered his house located at Naya Bazar in Delhi and killed him with a knife. Later, a court awarded this terrorist death sentence. Those who fought his case free of cost and tried to save him from the gallows included Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Sir Allama Iqbal.

The Tablighi Jamaat was born in response to the Shuddhi movement. The Tablighi Jamaat was launched by Mohammad Ilyas Kandhlawi. The slogan of this organisation is "Muslims, become (true) Muslims." Even today, the headquarters of this organisation is in a colony in Delhi, at the Banglawali Masjid in

Nizamuddin. Maulana Ilyas belonged to the Sunni Muslims of Deobandi sect which believes in the Wahabi and Salafi tradition. Later, different organisations of Muslims spent their entire energy to stop the Shuddhi movement of Arya Samaj and spread the Wahabi and Jihadi ideology among the Muslims. During the Corona pandemic, Tablighi Jamaat became a topic of discussion in the entire world. This organisation promotes Islam away from the limelight. Currently, its influence is spread to nearly 111 countries in the world and its followers are said to be in the range of 20 to 25 crore. According to American Federal Agency, it is a jihadi terrorist organisation.

In his book 'Muslim Separatism', Sitaram Goyal had blamed Tablighi Jamaat for the murder of Swami Shraddhanand. Writer of the book, 'Muslim Fundamentalism in South Asia,' Mumtaz Ahmad has opined that Tablighi Jamaat played a major role in spreading Islamic terrorism. Shail Mayaram in his book 'Resisting Regimes' had opined that the terror background of Tablighi Jamaat had its origins in the Wahabi movement of Syed Ahmad Barelvi and the Firaizi movement of Shariatullah. He had also alleged that the Tablighi movement in India gets huge funding from foreign sources.

## Taslim Rehmani resigns from Popular Front

Controversial Muslim leader from Delhi, Dr Taslim Ahmad Rehmani, has resigned from Popular Front and its political wing Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Earlier, he had contested the Lok Sabha by polls from Malappuram constituency in Kerala as a candidate of Popular Front but his security deposit was forfeited. On November 3, Dr Taslim Rehmani wrote a letter to the national president of SDPI, M K Faizi, and stated that he was resigning from the primary membership and also from all other positions in the party. In his letter, however, he stated that he sympathises with the political ideology of the party but does not agree with the way it is being implemented. Instead of running it as a political party, it is being run as a corporate party. "I had urged the high command of the party several times to adopt a political culture and openly present the party's programmes before the people. However, the party high command did not pay any attention to it. No publicity was done to spread the party's views and ideology through the media, and hence the party has totally failed to attract people. Hence I have decided to cut off my ties with the party after four years". Four years ago, Taslim Rehmani had announced merger of his party, Muslim Political Council of India, with Popular Front. Taslim Rehmani had contested municipal, assembly and Lok



Sabha elections but has failed to taste victory so far.

**Inquilab** (November 10) states that Taslim Rehmani has raised serious questions about the party leadership and its strategy. Talking to the representative of Inquilab, he alleged that there is no trace of democracy in the SDPI. Nobody knows where the decisions are taken in the party and there is no trace of the so-called movement. He claimed that he decided to join the party when it was in a difficult situation. He joined the party in the interest of the community. But now the party's leadership is not only frightened but they don't even have a strategy to find solution to any problem. The party thinks that holding a protest on any issue is more than enough. He alleged that he was not allowed to work in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The judgment of the Supreme Court in the Babri Masjid case could have been given for reconsideration in the court. However, despite urging them to do so, the party did not take any interest in it. He said that it is necessary for Muslims to work together in a faithful manner in Dalit and Adivasi regions so that a united front could be formed with these communities. In order to take on RSS, it is very important to adopt this strategy. He alleged that the Popular Front of India has no strategy at all. As far as Muslim Majlis is concerned, they take to the ground only when the election approaches.

## Meeting of security advisors on Afghanistan

**Inquilab** (November 1) states that a discussion on the situation in Afghanistan was held at a meeting of the National Security Advisors from eight countries in Delhi. This was the first time such a meeting was held in India. In this meeting it was decided that Afghanistan should not be allowed to become the centre of terrorism in the world. Terrorism,

extremism and activities bordering terrorism need to be stopped. The meeting also discussed drug production and trafficking, and the situation arising out of a large number of American arms and ammunition that fell into the hands of Taliban. India has stressed that an international strategy needs to be prepared to find a solution to the situation that has



arisen in Afghanistan. The meeting also stressed that help should be extended to all sections of the people of Afghanistan on humanitarian basis and without any discrimination. The meeting was presided over by National Security Advisor of India, Ajit Doval. In the meeting, the National Security Advisors and secretaries of Security Councils of Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan participated. In the meeting, convened on the initiative of India, Pakistan and China were also invited, but both of them refused to attend the meeting. The National Security Advisers from these eight countries announced their full support for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. This apart, while assuring to respect freedom, unity, regional security and not mutually interfering in the internal affairs of each country, they expressed serious concern on the difficulties being faced by the people of Afghanistan.

While condemning the terrorist attacks in different places in Afghanistan, the meeting also offered condolences on those who died in these attacks. The meeting admitted that the developments in Afghanistan would not only have serious consequences on the people of the country but also on the neighbouring and nearby countries as well. Presiding over the meeting, Ajit Doval said that NSAs have

gathered here to discuss the problems related to Afghanistan. Today it has become necessary that we need to cooperate more and more and remain united to find solutions to the problems of Afghanistan. It is a matter of pride for India that it has got an opportunity to hold talks with Central Asian countries and Russia. We are all keeping a close eye on the incidents taking place in Afghanistan. This is because whatever is happening in Afghanistan would affect this entire region. He expressed hope that our talks would be fruitful.

The chairman of the National Security Council of Kazakhstan, Karim Massimov said the increasing economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan had shaken him up. The social and financial situation there is turning from bad to worse on every passing day. We are deeply concerned about the current situation. Hence it is necessary to increase the aid being extended to Afghanistan. The secretary of Iran's National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, while expressing concern about the possible refugee crisis, said there is only one solution to stop it, and that is to form a government of grand alliance comprising people of all tribes and communities. Being the neighbours, we are ready to help the people of Afghanistan. Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Tajikistan Nasrullo

Mahmudzoda said that since the border of Tajikistan touches Afghanistan, the incidents taking place there would have a direct effect on us. Due to Afghanistan, there is likely to be an increase in terrorism and smuggling of drugs in our country. Hence we are closely monitoring our borders. The National Security Advisor of Kyrgyzstan said that due to the terrorist organisations of Afghanistan, a serious complex situation has arisen in the entire region. We need to jointly tackle this situation.

**Roznama Sahara** (November 12) in its editorial welcomed the meeting of National Security Advisors convened by India and said that after the fleeing of US soldiers and the escape of elected Ashraf Ghani government and the coming to power of Taliban, the concerns of India cannot be ignored. Being an important nation in the region, India has made significant contributions for the stability and reconstruction of the country. Hence it is not possible for us to keep ourselves away from the issues of Afghanistan and ignore the developments taking place there. This is the reason why the India's National Security Advisor took an important step in this direction and convened a meeting of the countries of the region. In the meeting, apart from the five nations of Central Asia, Iran and Russia also took part.

In the joint statement issued at the end of the meeting, a 12-point agenda has been mentioned for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. The statement suggests concrete steps to find a solution to the dangers arising out of the terror incidents and the political situation in the country. For this, humanitarian aid should be continued under any circumstances. The statement also expressed hope that peace and political stability will be established in Afghanistan. This apart, Afghanistan has also been assured that its sovereignty will be respected and there will be no interference in its internal matters. The meeting also stressed that Afghanistan's land would not be used to promote terrorism, to train terrorists and to extend

financial help to them. This apart, stress has also been laid on the need to form a national unity government in the country which has the support of all communities of Afghanistan.

However, China and Pakistan did not participate in this meeting. But Pakistan called a parallel meeting the next day in which it invited Russia, US and China and tried to disparage the efforts being made by India, though it did not succeed in its effort. This is because Taliban has welcomed the initiatives taken by India and described it as a major step in the interest of Afghanistan and expressed hope that it would help establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. After taking control of Afghanistan, the Taliban's stand on India has become liberal and it did not issue any statement against India. Even on Kashmir issue, it just tried to save its own face. Taliban has stated that it is an internal matter of India and that it would not say anything on it. Taliban has welcomed the Delhi agreement as it does not want a conflict with India. Taliban understands that India has made investments worth billions of dollars in Afghanistan. For various reconstruction projects in Afghanistan, India has invested 3 billion US dollars. Hence Afghanistan needs India's strong help. The Taliban also stressed that India keeps its reconstruction projects alive in Afghanistan.

**Etemaad** (November 11) in its editorial, while questioning the meeting convened by India on Afghanistan, said that no representative of Afghanistan took part in the meeting and neither Pakistan nor China participated. Only Russia and representatives of its former states participated in the meeting. Whereas, in the meeting convened by Pakistan, a delegation of Taliban too participated. As far as the issue of national security is concerned, India is concerned about the changes in Afghanistan and the references made by Afghan leaders about Kashmir. However, this is the first time that all Muslim nations of Central Asia took part in a meeting convened by India.

Pakistan had announced that since the Taliban was not participating in the meeting convened by India, it will also not participate in it. The interesting thing is that in the meeting convened by Pakistan, even the foreign minister of Taliban participated. However, the question here is that will Taliban be able to bring stability to the

country through their friendship with Pakistan and China alone? Till now, except Pakistan, no other country has given recognition to the government of Taliban. India wants Taliban government to give a guarantee that it would not permit Afghanistan's land to be used to spread terrorism in any other country. ■

## Nawab Malik in trouble over Waqf land scam

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 12) states that Nawab Malik, who has been targeting BJP and Samir Wankhede for the past few days, have landed in trouble. The Enforcement Directorate in Maharashtra has started an inquiry into the Waqf Board land scam in Aurangabad and seven places have been raided in this connection. Commenting on the raids, Nawab Malik said that he is not worried about questioning. But what happened to the cases where the ED had taken action against BJP leaders? The raids were conducted on the pretext of the land scam in Waqf board. Earlier, raids were conducted at seven places in Pune. According to Bund Garden police in Pune, there were a few trustees of the trust board who were among the arrested but later it has come to light that a few other members of the board also used its property for their personal benefits. As per latest reports, raids were conducted in several places in Aurangabad. The persons raided included two top industrialists.

Nawab Malik claimed at a press conference that the Enforcement Directorate team did not conduct any raid at the office of the Waqf board. The action that has been taken is against a trust in Pune. According to Nawab Malik, the Charity Commission has replaced the Waqf board with this trust in 2009. In 1995, when the Democratic Front government was formed in Maharashtra, the Waqf Act was implemented. Later, the Charity Commission decided to register the deeds of the trusts. Nawab Malik claimed that after he became the minister for minority affairs, he appointed 10 members to Waqf



Board. Had we received any complaint, we would have conducted an investigation. Waqf Board is still active against corruption. The Waqf Board has registered seven cases in the past one year. This included the case of the trust in Pune. In this connection, several people were arrested including a few senior officials. After I took over the department, I launched an initiative to clean the system. I am happy that the Enforcement Directorate is supporting our campaign, he said. Nawab Malik said that if some people say that the Enforcement Directorate has reached my house, when I will welcome them. I am not scared of questioning by Enforcement Directorate. We will fully cooperate with them. Those who think that they would be able to harass Nawab Malik by spreading such news are wrong. If the inquiry into Waqf Board is conducted in a proper manner, then several BJP men would be behind bars. Some people have gone to Haryana. They and a few people in Mumbai would be in trouble. He said that they would go to the office of ED to know the progress of the cases involving BJP leaders which were filed by the Enforcement Directorate. He alleged that the procedures in the cases registered against some people by Enforcement Directorate were closed as soon as these people joined the BJP. We will definitely

ask why these cases were closed? Why investigations are held on political angle? Nawab Malik also alleged that many BJP leaders have links with smuggling of drugs. Malik also tweeted a photo of Amrita Fadnavis with Jaideep Rana and claimed that he is a smuggler. However, Amrita Fadnavis has said that the allegation is wrong and if Nawab Malik doesn't withdraw his remarks and publicly apologise, a defamation case would be filed against him in the court.

**Sahafat** (November 12) states that Nilofer Malik Khan, daughter of Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik, has issued a legal notice seeking Rs 5 crore as damages from BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis alleging defamation and mental harassment. In the notice, it is mentioned that Fadnavis had accused Samir Khan of keeping narcotic drugs. However, the investigation into the issue is still pending and the chargesheet filed by Narcotics Control Bureau doesn't mention any such findings. The notice also states that when the Narcotics Control Bureau conducted a search in his house on January 14, 2021, it has been given in writing that no contraband has been seized from the house. Despite this, false allegations are being made against him. She said that if Fadnavis doesn't render a public apology and delete all the false tweets within 48 hours, then we would approach the court.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 10) states that for the past several days, the spokesperson of Nationalist Congress Party Nawab Malik has made several allegations against the zonal director of Narcotics Control Bureau Samir Wankhede and in this connection also targeted BJP, following which the BJP made several allegations against Nawab Malik. Former chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis accused Nawab Malik of maintaining links with the underworld and produced some documents as well in this connection. He alleged that Nawab Malik purchased property along with Shah Wali Khan, who has been given life-term in the

1993 bomb blasts in Mumbai. Shah Wali Khan and Salim Patel had the power of attorney on a 2.75 acre plot on LBS Road in Mumbai. Devendra Fadnavis claimed that the 3.5 crore property purchased by the company is related to Nawab Malik. He also claimed that Salim Patel is also involved in the land deal who is the driver of Dawood Ibrahim's sister Hasina Parkar. This land worth 3.5 crore was purchased by Nawab Malik for Rs 22 lakh. He said that five transactions have revealed Nawab Malik's connections with the underworld. I will send all these documents to investigating agencies, president of Nationalist Congress Party Sharad Pawar and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray so that they would come to know what their minister is doing.

**Hamara Samaj** in its editorial on November 12 said that when a robber is caught in any case, then his past history would come to surface and he has to face a barrage of allegations. People think the same with the official of Narcotics Control Bureau, Samir Wankhede. Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik has opened a front against Samir Wankhede and now Wankhede would find it difficult to get rid of these allegations. Now a senior leader of BJP and former chief minister too had to get involved in the controversy. Instead of replying to the allegations, he is trying to blackmail Nawab Malik. But Nawab Malik is not the kind who could be defeated easily and he has unleashed a slew of allegations. It is possible that these allegations are based on truth. Today all eyes are on the leaders involved in the war of words in Mumbai. What is surprising is that despite such serious allegations, the Central government is watching it in silence. Nawab Malik had accused Fadnavis that he was responsible for fake currency and bogus recovery. Hence it is necessary that Fadnavis himself brings out the truth to prove his innocence. The BJP also has to come clean on it. It is not possible that the allegations of Nawab Malik on Samir Wankhede are all baseless and he again and again calls press conferences to tell lies.

## Imran govt kneels down before radical Islamic organisation



**Inquilab** (November 1) states that the clash between the Imran government and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan, which is on for the past three years, has taken a new turn. Imran government had to kneel down before this extremist organisation. In a joint press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, chairman of National Assembly Asad Qaisar and TLP leader Mufti Ghulam Abbas Faizi announced the agreement reached between the two sides. He claimed that the agreement has also been confirmed by the head of TLP, Saad Hussain Rizvi. This agreement is not a win or a failure for any party but is a victory for Pakistan and Islam. The agreement will promote peace and stability in Pakistan. In order to implement the agreement, a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Ali Mohammad Khan and comprising of top officials of Pakistan and leaders of TLP.

**Hamara Samaj** (November 3) states that though an agreement has been reached between the Pakistan government and Tehreek-e-Labbaik, an atmosphere of mistrust still prevails. The TLP has not yet announced to stop the long march being

planned to lay siege to Islamabad and neither the government has removed the blockades set up in various places on G T Road to stop the protesters. However, one thing that has happened after the announcement of agreement is that the containers stationed on roads in different places by the Army has been removed and shifted to the sides of the roads. However, the road blocks established on three bridges on Darya Chenab in Gujrat have further been strengthened. No one is allowed to cross the bridge without their identity cards being checked. The thousands of activists of TLP stationed near Wazirabad are still holding fort in the area. However, TLP leader Mufti Amir claimed that nearly 5,000 of their activists who have been arrested by the government would soon be released. He said that his party has decided not to press further with the demand to withdraw the French Ambassador from the country and to shut down the French embassy. He also said that there is the possibility of the leader of his party being released from the jail. However, the ban imposed on this organisation by the Pakistan government has not been lifted but

it has been decided to allow them to participate in the elections. What is worth pondering is that the Pakistan government has imposed a ban on this party since April. The US has refused to comment on the agreement and said that in its opinion Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan is a terrorist organisation.

**Aurangabad Times** (November 4) reports that the banned organisation, TLP, has assured that it would not take part in any violent activities. In return for this, it has demanded that it should be allowed to contest elections.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (October 28) reports that in order to stop the long march of TLP, the government had dug a 30 – 30 foot trench on road near Gujranwala and cut off internet services throughout Pakistan. This apart, bus and rail services were also stopped. Earlier, paramilitary forces had encircled Islamabad and Rawalpindi from all the four sides.

**Comment:** Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (I am the present Pakistan) is a hardcore Islamic political organisation whose foundation was laid by Khadim Hussain Rizvi in August 2015. However, it could not register any win in the National Assembly and Punjab Assembly elections. But it has emerged as the fifth biggest party in Pakistan. It has got three seats in the Sindh Assembly elections. Majority of the leaders and cadre of this party are nourished by the fundamentalist ideology of Barelvis etc. Their demand is to impose Shariah in Pakistan and make a law to publicly hang those who commit blasphemy and insult the Prophet and Quran. The party's election symbol is 'crane'. On November 23, 2018, on the

directions of the Pakistan's cabinet, the paramilitary forces arrested its chief Khadim Hussain Rizvi along with hundreds of his followers. Along with it, the Pakistan government also put a ban on publishing any news related to the organisation. Cases were filed against leaders like Khadim Hussain Rizvi, Peer Afzal Qadri, Inayak Haq Shah and FarooqiHasan on charges of treason and participating in terror related activities. After the publication of cartoons of Prophet Mohammad in France, the organisation has been demanding shutting of French embassy in Pakistan and cutting off links with European Union. Later, the Pakistan government imposed a ban on the organisation. More than a dozen people were killed in clashes between police and supporters of this organisation. Later, violence erupted in several places in Pakistan. Government properties were burnt down. This organisation mostly came to limelight when a Christian woman named Asiya Bibi, who was arrested allegedly on charges of insulting Quran was released by a court. The demand of the organisation was to publicly cut off the head of Asiya Bibi and the Supreme Court judges, who released her, with a sword. Asiya Bibi had been given death sentence under the blasphemy law in Pakistan which was later converted to life-term in jail. When the entire world condemned Pakistan for the punishment awarded to her, the government in November 2018 released Asiya Bibi from Multan jail and secretly sent her to European nation Netherlands. The TLP held massive nation-wide protest against this incident. The TLP has the open support of India's Barelvi sect. ■

## Over 600 terrorists of Islamic State arrested in Afghanistan

**Aurangabad Times** (November 12) states that after coming to power in Afghanistan, the Taliban have arrested more than 600 terrorists of Islamic State who belong to ISIS Khorasan

organisation. A spokesperson of the intelligence wing of Afghanistan claimed that those arrested included some commanders of the Islamic State. The spokesperson said that these people were



arrested and kept in secret jails. So far, more than 200 people were killed in clashes between Taliban and Islamic State. A spokesperson of Taliban government claimed that the previous government in Afghanistan had released more than 2,000 people linked to Islamic State from the jail. He said that these people are now exploding bombs in different parts of the country and wreaking havoc. These people were behind the one dozen explosions that took place in the masjids in Kandahar and Kabul in which hundreds of innocent people were killed. White House spokesperson Thomas West claimed that Islamic State and Al Qaida are fast spreading their network in South Asian nations and it is a threat to world peace.

**Siasat** (November 3) states that hundreds of officials from the former Afghanistan government joined the Islamic State due to the fear of Taliban. This is because they fear that if they were caught by the Taliban, they would execute them. These people have brought with them huge quantities of weapons and ammunition belonging to former Afghan army. Recently, these elements have launched a new terrorist organisation 'Sahab Al Muhajir'. The leadership of this organisation is in the hands of an unidentified Arab. According to United Nations, between 2,000 and 5,000 armed men in Afghanistan belong to Islamic State who take part in terrorist activities and spread violence in the country.

## 20 killed in blast in Kabul hospital

**Etemaad** (November 3) states that at least 20 people were killed and more than 100 were injured in two bomb blasts that took place in Afghanistan capital Kabul. Afghanistan government spokesperson Qari Syed Khosti confirmed the blasts and said that Islamic State is behind these blasts and spreading violence in Afghanistan on behalf of US.

**Inquilab** (November 13) states that at least 10 people were killed in another blast in Kabul.

**Sahafat** (November 12) states that four women were shot dead in the Afghan city of Mazaar-e-Sharif. It is being said that these women belonged to a human rights protection group. Two persons were arrested in this connection. Spokesperson

of Afghanistan's interior ministry Qari Syed Khosti said that as per preliminary inquiry these women were invited in the name of a feast and were shot dead. As per media reports, these four women wanted to escape from Afghanistan and go to foreign countries. When Taliban came to know about this, they killed all the four women.



**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 4) states that the Afghanistan government has put a complete ban on the use of foreign currency in the country. Now, all transactions have to be done in Afghan currency only. Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said that

the decision has been taken considering the country's economic condition and national interest. This is because in many places in the country, US and Pakistani currencies are being used and it is very important to stop them.

## Separatists active in Balochistan

**Inquilab** (November 10) states that recently there is an increase in the activities of Baloch Liberation Army in Pakistan. According to Pakistani media, in the past one month, the suicide squads of Baloch Liberation Army and Independent Balochistan Organisation had carried out attacks on the outposts of Pakistan Army and paramilitary forces in which more than a dozen Pakistani soldiers were killed. According to Pakistan government, two dozen rebels of separatists Baloch organisation also became victims of Pakistani Army's operations.



**Hamara Samaj** (November 12) reports that two student leaders were forcibly abducted from the hostel of Baloch University. It is being said that these student leaders were kidnapped by the officials of the intelligence agency of Pakistan. The student organisation has been staging a dharna against the kidnap and it has also boycotted the examinations. The spokesperson of the student organisation of Balochistan University, Baloch Student Organisation (BSO), Balach Qadir told reporters that the abducted persons are

Faziullah and Suhail Ahmad. The two belong to Nuski district in Balochistan province. The students have demanded that the CCTV footage from the cameras on the premises of the university shall be handed over to them in order to identify the persons who kidnapped the students. However, due to the pressure from police, the university administration has refused to hand over the footage.

The disappearance of the two students was reported to the police by one of their brothers. A huge protest was held outside the Quetta Press Club under the leadership of the chairperson of Voice For Baloch Missing Persons, Nazarullah Baloch, in which it has been demanded that the way the Pakistani agencies have been

forcibly kidnapping Balochis should be stopped immediately and release the abducted persons forthwith. After holding talks with the representative of Voice of America, Nazarullah Baloch claimed that the Pakistani intelligence agencies are abducting Baloch people through illegal means due to their opposition to Pakistan government. In the past two weeks, 16 such people were kidnapped. He said that those

who are forcibly abducted, their bodies are found in different places later and no action is taken against those who abduct them. This is because they are linked to the government departments. The Balochistan Bar Council has condemned the incidents of disappearance of supporters of independent Balochistan and urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to intervene immediately to stop such illegal activities.

## **Military prepares to act against Islamic terrorists in Myanmar**



**Sahafat** (November 12) reports that the United Nations, while expressing concern over the violence in Myanmar, has urged the government there to take action to stop violence. The UN issued this statement when the news of large scale violence between the military and Rohingya Islamic militia in the Rakhine province was reported in the international media. As per this reports, the Myanmar government sent the forces in large number to Muslim majority Rakhine province where Islamic terrorists are fighting an armed struggle. A spokesperson of rebel groups confirmed that the ceasefire between the military and the rebels which has been continuing for the past few years have ended and now there is an armed fight between the military and the rebels in the entire region.

He said that in order to take on the Myanmar military, an organisation called

Arakan Army had to pick up arms once again to protect its own people. This is because the Myanmar military, carrying huge arms and ammunitions and riding battle tanks, have entered their territory and torturing the local residents. Apart from killing citizens, their properties and villages are burned down, and the women are gang raped. A decade ago, due to the military action conducted here, nearly 40 lakh Rohingya Muslims had to take refuge in Bangladesh and other countries to save their own lives. Even now 20 lakh Rohingya refugees stay in camps on Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Recently, with the cooperation of United Nations, the Bangladesh government had tried to rehabilitate them on some islands in the Bay of Bengal but these haven't become a success. This is because the Rohingya refugees are not ready to go there.

## Attempt to kill Iraqi prime minister



**Hamara Samaj** (November 8) reports that the spokesperson of Iraq's defence ministry has said that an attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mustafa Al Khatmi, using a drone has failed. The Prime Minister managed to escape from the attack, which took place at his residence. The spokesperson of the defence ministry also claimed that the attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister and the Army chief using another drone has also failed. The security agencies are trying to unravel the conspiracy behind the incident, he said.

According to a journalist of Al Arabia, the residence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al Khatmi has been targeted using a missile. The missile hit his residence and five persons were injured in the attack. However, the Prime Minister remained safe. Another drone was shot down by the soldiers.

**Etemaad** (November 10) reports that three persons were arrested on charges of conspiring to attack the residence of Iraqi Prime Minister. The three were linked to a Shia terrorist organisation. They would soon be

presented before the court. The spokesperson of Iraq government claimed that the conspiracy to kill the Iraq Prime Minister had been hatched in Iran and the drone used in the attack had been manufactured in Iran. Three drones were sent to kill the Iraqi Prime Minister, two of which were shot down on their path by the soldiers. But the third one managed to hit the residence of the Prime Minister. The building got damaged and the guards of the Prime Minister got injured in the attack.

Tension between Iran and Iraq increased following the attack. The strength of the soldiers deployed on the streets of Baghdad was increased and they were deployed in every corner. The Iraq government claimed that the attackers have taken the path of violence as the supporters of Iran suffered a crushing defeat in the recent elections. Iranian militia, Pasdaran-e-Inqilab, recently visited Iraq and the conspiracy for the attack was hatched at their behest.

The hands of Kataib Hezbollah and Asaib Al Haq were visible in the attack. The United Nations Security Council had

condemned the attack on Iraqi Prime Minister and demanded that stringent action be taken against those responsible for the attacks. According to sources, the explosives and drone used in this attack were made in Iran.

**Etemaad** (November 6) states that huge protests were held against the fraud committed in the recent elections in Baghdad. More than 100 people were injured in clashes between the soldiers and protesters. The protesters alleged that the Iranian supporters were deliberately defeated in these elections. The protesters claimed that several people who took part in the protests died

in firing by soldiers. However, a government spokesperson has refuted the allegations.

**Etemaad** (November 11) states that the US Defence Department has claimed that the hands of Iran-supported group were behind the attack on Iraqi Prime Minister. A spokesperson said the attack was an assault on the autonomy and stability of Iraq. Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, condemned the attack and said that the Saudi government fully stands with Iraq. He demanded that stringent action should be taken against those responsible for the attack.

## Rebellion in Ethiopia

**Etemaad** (October 7) reports that the Tigray rebels in Ethiopia have reached near the country's capital Addis Ababa. The rebels claimed that the government soldiers are surrendering.

The government has imposed Emergency in the country for six years and claimed that the situation is in its control. Whereas the rebels claimed that more than 1,200 government soldiers have surrendered. According to media reports, the situation is normal in capital Addis Ababa. Following the declaration of Emergency, the Prime Minister has got special powers under which he can forcibly enlist any citizen above the age of 18 years in the army. The US had asked all its citizens to immediately leave Ethiopia. Meanwhile, Ambassadors of other countries and citizens are also fleeing Ethiopia in large numbers. The United Nations Security Council has urged the government and the rebels to immediately stop the war. The appeal has the signature of all members of the Security Council. A civil war has been going on in Ethiopia for the past several years.



However, recently, it has picked up more pace. The rebels have captured several cities in the country. The Israeli government had told its citizens not to visit Ethiopia and those who are already there, to return immediately.

**Avadhnama** (November 7) states that nine opposition parties in Ethiopia have demanded that the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed shall be dismissed so that the civil war could come to an end. These opposition parties have also claimed that lakhs of people are fleeing the country due to the civil war and a famine-like situation has emerged in the country and there is a huge shortage of food and water. These parties have demanded the United Nations to intervene immediately to stop hunger deaths. In 2019, Nobel peace prize winner Abiy Ahmed had sent Army columns to end the rebellion of TPLF in the country. Ever since, a civil war has been going on in northern Ethiopia and an armed conflict is on between the government forces and the TPLF rebels. The civil war has spread to different parts of the country.

## US supplies arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia

**Etemaad** (November 5) states that the US Defence Department has confirmed that the US has decided to sell air-to-air missiles worth 65 crore dollars to Saudi Arabia. It is clear from this that US President Joe Biden, who had announced not to supply arms and ammunition to Arab countries, has changed his stand after coming to power. It has also been decided to supply missiles and weapon systems apart from F-15 fighter planes worth 650 million dollars to Saudi Arabia. The US has also decided to sell 280 AIM-120 missiles to Saudi Arabia. This apart, 596 LU-128 missiles will also be sold. These will be used in the fighter planes of Saudi Arabia.

The US Secretary of State had announced that it was very important for the US to ensure security of Saudi Arabia. Earlier, the Trump Administration had



adopted a policy to supply arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia but as soon as Biden came to power, he stopped the policy. It appears that the US has taken the decision in an effort to put pressure on Iran. The US decision would help Saudi Arabia to take action against Houthi rebels active in Yemen.

## Israel ready for war with Iran

The US has increased its efforts to form a united front against Iran with the cooperation of Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain. In order to put pressure on Iran, these countries recently held a military exercise in the sea near Iran.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 12) reports that the Chief of the General Staff of Israeli Defence Forces, Aviv Kochavi, had said that his force was getting ready to deal with any kind of attack from Iran. He claimed that recently Iran had allocated funds in its budget to attack Israel. Hence it has become necessary for Israel to take defensive steps. Recently, there is an increase in the activities of Irani militia near the Israeli border. The Chief of Israeli Defence Forces said that Israel would not tolerate this under any circumstances. For us it is most important to protect Israel.

As per a news report published in the same newspaper on November 11, US President Joe Biden has extended the



National Emergency against Iran by one more year. In a statement, White House said that a normal relationship has not yet been established between the US and Iran and hence the National Emergency order issued by then US President Jimmy Carter in 1979 will be extended further.

**Etemaad** (November 2) states that Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that his government would not support an independent Palestine state under any circumstance. "We will not allow any effort to form a separate state in this region under any circumstance." He said that the

peace agreement that Israel had signed with Jordan and Egypt has benefitted the people of the region. As far as the issue of Iran is concerned, his government is in a situation of war with Iran and the cold war between the countries is continuing. Recently, Iran has acquired more capability in Uranium enrichment, which has increased the threat to Israel. He said that Israel supports the sanctions imposed on Iran by the US. Recently, Hezbollah has launched a war exercise with the cooperation of Iran near Israel's border, which has increased the threat to Israel.

**Siasat** (November 7) states that the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran has claimed that there is a 20% increase in the stockpile of Uranium and we have 210 grams of enriched Uranium. In 2015, an agreement was signed between Iran and seven other countries as per which Iran would never build nuclear arms, nor would it increase the stockpile of Uranium. A spokesperson of Iran's nuclear energy, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said that the Uranium which is currently available with Iran is enough to make nuclear weapons if it becomes necessary for Iran to do so. He said that we want to acquire nuclear power not for war but to ensure peace.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 4) states that the defence minister of Israel has

claimed that they held talks with the US to deal with increasing threat from Iran. We want to ensure that Iran abides by the agreement that it signed to stop developing nuclear energy. In 2018, the then US President Donald Trump had distanced himself from the nuclear agreement signed with Iran and later imposed stringent sanctions on Iran. In response to this, Iran had announced to increase the Uranium enrichment programme.

**Etemaad** (November 4) states that the spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry said that we would not get frightened over the threats issued by US. Every step that the US had taken in this region had failed and their intentions would never succeed.

**Inqilab** (November 13) states that US, Israel, UAE and Bahrain had announced a joint military exercise at sea. According to a spokesperson, its aim is to tackle the increasing influence of Iran in the region. Last year, on the pressure of US, both UAE and Bahrain had established diplomatic relationship with Israel. It is named as Abraham Accord and its aim is to take on the increasing influence of Iran. As per a statement of US, the military exercise will continue for five days and warships of US will also take part in it. Its aim is to stop incidents like the Iranian attack on an Israeli boat near the Jordan coast.

## Campaign against corruption in Saudi Arabia

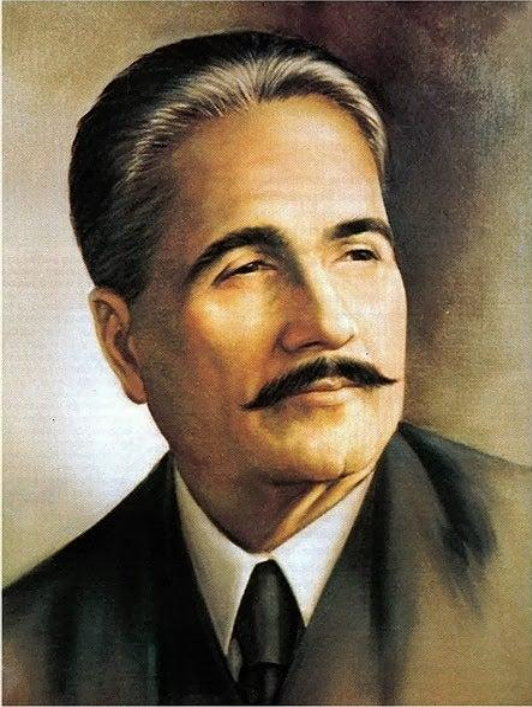
**Qaumi Tanzeem** (November 9) states that Saudi Arabia has increased its nation-wide campaign against corruption. So far 172 people have been arrested through the anti-corruption authority. As per a report published in 'Al Akbar,' in the past one month, the anti-corruption authority raided 6,061 places and conducted an investigation against 512 persons on complaints of corruption out of which 172 government officials were arrested on charges of nepotism, fraud and misuse of position. These officials were said to be linked to defence, health, home, foreign ministries and Saudi National Guard and



environment ministry. Evidence is being collected against those who have been arrested. Later, cases will be filed against them in the court. According to government sources, intelligence strategy has been strengthened to know about illegal and suspicious activities in government offices.

## Others

## Allama Iqbal's association with Muslim University



**Avadhnama** (November 11) states that according to the former director of Urdu Academy of Aligarh Muslim University, Dr Rahat Abrar, when the students of Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College

started an agitation against the British for the freedom of the country in 1906, Allama Iqbal had told them not to protest against the British and instead concentrate on their studies. Rahat Abrar said that when a campaign was launched to convert Mohammadan Oriental College into a university, Iqbal also took part in it. He collected Rs 30 lakh as fund in Lahore for the university with the help of Sir Agha Khan. Iqbal also visited many places with the purpose of collecting funds for the Muslim university. When this university was being set up, Iqbal was a member of its draft committee. On seeing the services of Iqbal, secretary of the university, Nawab Waqarul Malik, made him a trustee of MAO college. He also served as a member of the governing body of the university. Iqbal came to Aligarh four or five times. On April 29, 1929, he was given a life-time membership on behalf of the Aligarh Muslim University Students Union. Hence his photo is kept in the Union hall even today. In 1932, he was given honorary D.Litt. by the university.

## Notice over logo of Muslim University

**Etemaad** (November 11) states that the registrar of Aligarh Muslim University, Abdul Hamid, has issued a notice related to the logo of the university in which referring to the proposal number 15 of October 4, 2005, it is stated that the monogram of the university has a verse of Quran written on it. It is used on documents related to the university. However, Aligarh Students Union had launched a protest against removal of this logo from different places in AMU, certificates and books. Issuing a clarification on this, the registrar said that



in future the logo with the verse will not be used on notice, invitation letter, slip, exam paper, calendar etc. This decision of the university has been welcomed by the former vice-chairperson of Aligarh Muslim University Students Union, Hamza Sufiyan. This logo has not been used for some time now. So far, the university's logo has changed six times. The last change was in 1951 when Zakir Hussain was the vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. He removed the British crown from the old logo and put the verse of Quran on its place.

## Locals preferred for jobs in Saudi Arabia



**Siasat** (November 5) states that the Saudi government has intensified its efforts to appoint only Saudi citizens in government departments. The effect of this effort would majorly be felt among the citizens of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Currently, more than 60 lakh citizens of these countries work in Saudi Arabia. Earlier also the

Saudi Arabian government had taken a similar decision to provide jobs to local residents due to which nearly 15 lakh Indian citizens had to pack their bags and return to the country. People working in Saudi Arabia had made significant contributions to Indian economy. This is because every month they sent crores of Riyals to India. The new policy of the Saudi government would have its major effect on the economy of states like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. If residents of these states return to India due to unemployment, then their rehabilitation would be a major headache for these state governments.

## Madrasas responsible for increasing population

**Akbar-e-Mashriq** (November 12) reports that Yati Narsimhanand Giri, mahant of Dasnamandir, known for his controversial statements, arrived at Deoband and targeted madrasas for the increasing population in the country. He alleged that the Islamic madrasas are promoting population growth in the country. Their aim is to capture the democracy in the country. Hence the majority community need to be cautious of this conspiracy. He praised the government decision to open ATS centre at Deoband and said that until the Deoband Uloom and

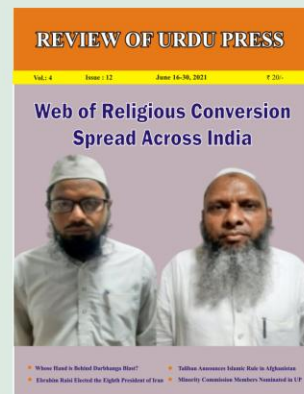
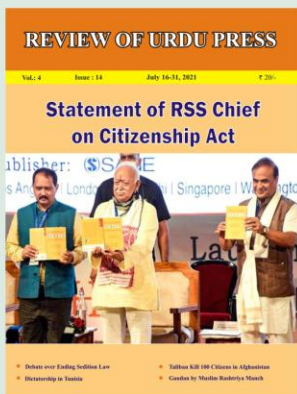
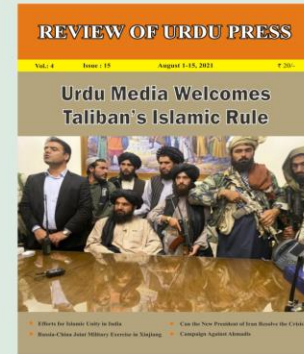
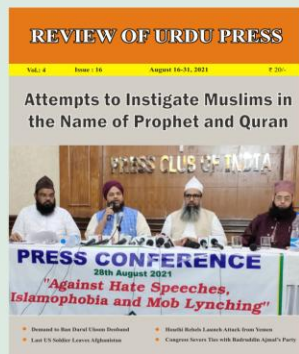
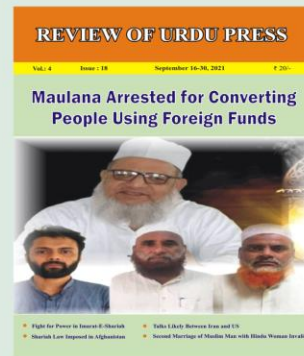
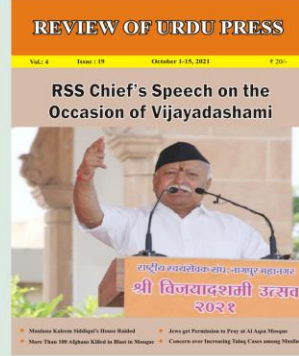
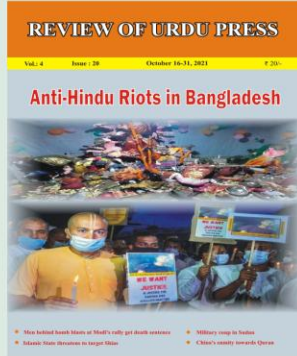
madrasas are closed down, this ATS centres will not be beneficial. When Swami Narsimhanand Giri reached Deoband, different organisations of the local Hindu community gave him a rousing welcome. On the issue of the member of Shia Personal Law Board, Waseem Rizvi, participating in a puja at Dasnamandir, he said that the book written by Waseem Rizvi on Hazrat Mohammad Saheb will be released at the temple. It is necessary for Muslims to read this book. He said that he is a pracharak of Sanatan Dharma and is propagating own dharma.

## Castration of rapists is against Islam

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (October 29) reports that the Council of Islamic Ideology of Pakistan has declared as anti-Islamic the Pakistan's Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 that allows castration of rapists. The head of the council, Dr Qibla Ayaz has



opined that some other punishment should be given in place of this one. This is because as per Islam, making somebody an impotent is against Shariah. The council, meanwhile, supported making Arabic mandatory for educational institutions in the country.



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