

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Corona Vaccine is Halal or Haram?



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*Editorial Advisor*  
**Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo**

*Editor*  
**Manmohan Sharma**

*Translation from Hindi Edition*  
**K.S. Kumar**

*Editorial Assistance*  
**Shiv Kumar Singh**

*Office*  
**D-51, First Floor,  
Hauz Khas,  
New Delhi-110016  
Tel : 011-26524018**

*E-mail:*  
**info@ipf.org.in  
indiapolicy@gmail.com**

*Website:*  
**www.ipf.org.in**

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## Summary

Nearly 104 retired bureaucrats have opposed the ordinance issued by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh to curb rising cases of Love Jihad. They have demanded that the ordinance should be withdrawn immediately because the administration is using it to harass young Muslim men. The interesting thing is that these ex-bureaucrats who have come out against the ordinance are known for their allegiance to Congress and Left parties. They used to be the darlings of Congress and Left parties when they were in power and used to be the beneficiaries of their largesse. The close relatives of some of these ex-bureaucrats are adorning the Parliament as Congress MPs.

There is truth in the claim of the state government spokesperson that the campaign against the ordinance is being sponsored by people opposed to the BJP government. Following the footsteps of Uttar Pradesh, the Madhya Pradesh government has also brought an ordinance against Love Jihad and also announced to implement it throughout the state immediately. Newspapers report that the Gujarat government is also planning to bring such a law in the state.

The speech delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University recently has been welcomed by majority of the Muslim newspapers. The Prime Minister has described Aligarh Muslim University as the carrier of Bharat's culture and tradition. This apart, he generously praised the activities of its founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Notably, when the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University invited the Prime Minister for its centenary celebrations, a number of Muslim fundamentalist organisations had opposed it. Some fundamentalist Urdu newspapers even tried to take a dig at the PM.

Pakistan has announced a new stringent law to stop increasing incidents of rape in the country. The President of Pakistan has issued an ordinance formulating a new anti-rape law that will ensure speedy trials and allow for chemical castration of convicted offenders. Special courts would be set up throughout the country to hear cases registered under the new law and the trial would be completed and the accused would be awarded punishment within four months of the commission of offence. The interesting thing is that if any police or government officer is found lax in investigating rape cases, then there is a provision in the same law to give them stringent punishment and a fine.

Even before the arrival of Corona vaccine in the market, some people have unleashed a controversy on whether the vaccine is haram or halal. Interestingly, the largest religious body of Muslims namely Darul Uloom Deoband has said that it has not issued any fatwa on the use of vaccine. This is because it has not got any information on the ingredients used in the making of the vaccine. What is intriguing is that a self-declared chief of Hindu Mahasabha too has jumped into this controversy. He has sent a memorandum to the President claiming that the blood of cow has been used in the preparation of some vaccine and hence it should not be used in the country. The question that arises here is that isn't it against the national interest to create a controversy on the usage of vaccine at a time when the pandemic has been spreading in the country and many have died due to the virus.

The piece of land that has been allotted to Sunni Waqf Board in Dhannipur village by the Uttar Pradesh government to construct a mosque as per the direction of the Supreme Court has generated another controversy. The Muslim Personal Law Board has claimed that if a mosque is built on the plot of the land, then that would be against Islam and Shariat and any namaz being offered there would have no validity.



## Corona vaccine is halal or haram?



**Hamara Samaj** (December 29) states that the entire world is in the grip of Corona pandemic and even before any vaccine arrived in the market, a controversy has erupted over its usage. The Darul Uloom Deoband has issued a clarification saying that it has not issued any fatwa or a statement describing the vaccine as either halal or haram. The chief of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani clarified that the vaccine that has been in news and made in a foreign country has not arrived in India and we do not have any information on the ingredients being used in its preparation. Hence it is not proper to take any decision at this point of time. He said that the fatwa being circulated in social media claiming that the Darul Uloom Deoband had described the vaccine as haram has no basis and no such fatwa or statement has been issued.

A discussion has been going on in social media that pig fat is used in the preparation of the vaccine. Another renowned Islamic scholar, Maulana Nadeem al Wajidi, said that we do not

know how the vaccine is being prepared. However, a few days ago there was a news that those who made the vaccine included a Muslim couple from Turkey. Hence there is no need to fear that pig fat was used in its preparation.

**Siasat** (December 22) has first raised the issue of whether the corona vaccine is halal or haram by mentioning that the Ulema Council of Indonesia described it as haram claiming pig fat had been used in its preparation. The report also claims that when the vaccine was being brought from China in a ship, the employees of Indonesian embassy and some Muslim scholars, who were supposed to travel in the same ship, refused to do so because they got information that pig fat had been used in making the vaccine. General secretary of British Islamic Council Dr Salman Waqar also said that it is natural that an issue being described as haram in Indonesia becomes a cause of concern in Islamic world. If pig fat is used in its preparation, then no Muslim in this world would accept the vaccine as pig is haram in



Islam. Since Indonesia has raised this issue, it has become a cause of concern for all Islamic nations and Muslim scholars and Muftis should clarify their stand on it.

**Avadhnama** (December 24) has claimed that the UAE Fatwa Council, which issues religious edicts in United Arab Emirates, has issued a fatwa saying that usage of corona vaccine is justified as per Shariat. The fatwa has come at a time when a debate is on in the entire Muslim world whether the vaccine is haram or halal. Till recently, the vaccine has been administered to people in US and European countries only but now Muslim nations have also started giving the jabs to people. The Islamic nations have stated that if there is pig meat in the vaccine, then it is haram. However, the Islamic Shariat Council of UAE has said that even if the vaccine has pig fat or pig meat in it, still its usage cannot be against Shariat. This is because protection of life is part of Shariat. The council has appealed to people to stand by the government on the issue. It is the duty of the government and organisations involved in healthcare to give clarity on the efficiency of the vaccine or the damages it can cause. There are no options regarding the vaccine at this point of time and as per Shariat, it should be used to protect the life of human beings.

**Inquilab** (December 29) reports that the president of Hindu Mahasabha, Swami Chakrapani, has claimed that cow blood is used in the manufacture of Corona vaccine and hence permission should not be given for its use in the country. He also sent a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind in which he has demanded that vaccination should not be administered in the country till it is clarified how the vaccine is manufactured. Or whether the vaccine is against any particular religion? He claimed that he got information that the vaccine being manufactured in America

contains the blood of cow. In Sanatan Dharma, cow is considered as the mother. In such a situation, if the blood of the mother reaches our veins, then it is against our religion. Hence it is necessary that whatever vaccine is being used in the country, its ingredients should be made known to all.

**Inquilab** (December 30) has titled its editorial as ‘After pig fat, it is cow blood now.’ The newspaper states that lakhs of people have been dying due to corona and scientists are spending day and night trying to find a solution to beat the pandemic. After an effort of nearly one year, scientists in different countries have come out with four vaccines. A few other vaccines are still in development stage. We expect at least two vaccines to be ready soon. One is made in Britain, the other is made in Bharat. But even before the arrival of the vaccines, those who want to oppose them in the name of religion have become very active. Initially, a section of Muslims had started opposing it and now the Hindu Mahasabha has joined them. The president of Hindu Mahasabha, Swami Chakrapani, has written a letter to the President demanding that the vaccine should not be given to Indians. Because the vaccine has been mixed with cow blood. We do not know from where Swamiji got this information. But there is this news that the vaccine has been prepared by a Muslim couple and hence he might be assuming that they used the blood of the cow or its fat. The scientists in Europe have clarified that there is no pig fat in the vaccines being prepared by them. Now this cow factor has made the issue more complicated. Have these religious leaders been left with this sole job of opposing any measure taken by the government for the welfare of the people? These people deliberately pick up such issues to gain some publicity.

## Prime Minister Modi and Aligarh Muslim University



**Inquillab** (December 23) reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had addressed the centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University via video conferencing. This is the first time in 56 years that a Prime Minister of the country has participated in a function of Aligarh Muslim University. Before this, in 1964, the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had addressed the convocation ceremony of the university. Prime Minister Modi has also released a stamp on the occasion. The Chancellor of the University, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, and Union minister for education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' were present at the function. Vice-chancellor of the University, Prof Tariq Mansoor described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as one such leader who has dedicated his entire life in service of the nation. Dr Saifuddin said that education was of utmost importance in Islam. It is the duty of Muslims to empower the community through their knowledge. He said the Prime Minister had done so much that all our praise would still be insufficient.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Aligarh Muslim University is a valuable heritage in the country's

educational history. The AMU is a 'mini India.' It is a source of strength for the entire country. The university has done tremendous service to the society during the pandemic. It has set up separate wards for Covid treatment and research and a substantial amount has been released from Prime Minister's Care Fund for the purpose. He expressed satisfaction that those associated with Aligarh University are committed to the advancement of the country. He said that the library of the university has the literature and books of Hindus, Muslims and other religions under one roof. The university is doing excellent work for religious goodwill. He said Syed Ahmad Khan had stated that once you complete your education and step into your field, then you have to work towards empowering everyone without any discrimination, caste, creed or religion. We should always subscribe to this way of thinking and even strengthen this path. We should come together and diligently work towards the goal of making the campus of Aligarh University a citadel of 'One Bharat, Shresht Bharat' concept.

Prime Minister Modi said that the university has given a new life to thousands of people. It has given them a modern

scientific outlook and given them the inspiration to sacrifice everything for the society and the community. He said that in the past 70 years, nearly 70% Muslim girls used to drop out of the school and this has come down to 30% due to the efforts of the government. He said that the research being done in Arabic and Parsi languages in the university is something unique. The research works being done in Islamic education in the university have helped India to hold its head high in the Islamic world. We have achieved greater strength in our relationship with Muslim countries. He said that wherever the students of Aligarh Muslim University go, they promote Bharat's Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb and its rich cultural heritage. He said that he had met many former students of the university during his visits abroad and they all had proudly told him that they received their education from Aligarh Muslim University. He assured the students that whoever rises above caste and religion will not fall behind in ensuring others' welfare and winning their trust.

Union minister for education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that the university had produced such jewels like Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Dr Zakir Hussain.

**Inquilab** in its December 23 editorial claimed that for the first time the news channels have telecast some truth and the one who spoke the truth was none other than the country's Prime Minister. The big 'bhakts' are surprised to hear what all Modiji said about the Aligarh Muslim University? Till yesterday, whichever news channel was describing Aligarh Muslim University as the centre of communalism, the section of media that used to spew venom against Aligarh, today morning they telecast the truth spoken by Modiji, something that every student who passes out from Aligarh Muslim University speaks about. Today Modiji is also saying that

Aligarh Muslim University is an institution that represents the Bharatiya civilisation. He said that a 'mini India' resides in every department of Aligarh University. This comment by Modiji is a slap on the face of those people who describe the Muslim University as 'mini Pakistan' and expose their anger. Modiji also said that the national unity and integrity that is visible on the campus is not just the strength of the university, but is of the entire country. It is praiseworthy that the Prime Minister has highlighted the golden history of the university before the world. Today whatever Modiji said at the ceremony is more than enough to shut the mouth of communal elements. However, it is another matter that these things do not affect those people who spew venom against Muslims.

**Roznama Sahara** in its editorial on December 23 said that the Aligarh Muslim University has a glorious history which has been highlighted to the world by the Prime Minister today. He said that the university is a 'mini India' and a proud heritage of the country. Those who want to see unity in diversity shall visit the premises of Aligarh university. He said that the university bears Bharat's natural identity. He also said that the university has come forward to extend help to the society during difficult times. The newspaper expressed hope that the Prime Minister's speech would give a new lesson to the people. The students of the university should themselves become the spokespersons of the Indian culture.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 24), analysing the speech made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Aligarh Muslim University, said he did not mention about the students who were protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Bill and were at the receiving end of Modi and Yogi's policemen. They were arrested in false cases and sent to jail. How can people forget the frightening night of December 15, 2019, the havoc unleashed by police

and the lies of Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath? Yogi had said that nearly 15,000 students of the university had come out on the streets to burn down Aligarh and hence the police had to enter the premises of the university and bring the situation under control. This means that the students of the Muslim university were a riotous mob. However, they were fighting for their own rights. They were demanding the restoration of the rights granted to them by the Constitution. However, as per the wish of the Prime Minister, Yogi and Amit Shah subjected them to the violent harassment unleashed by police. Modi's speech also does not mention the petition in which it was claimed that the Aligarh university is not a minority institution. Means, Aligarh Muslim University is not a Muslim institution. One can't understand what kind of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas' this is.

Modi has said that we have to work together. However, he did not say how to work together with those whom he once described as dog puppies. He can always see some Giriraj Singh, some Sadhvi Prachi or some Sakshi Maharaj asking people to go to Pakistan. He also did not mention that the university has been described as a citadel of anti-nationals. It was described by BJP's MP Satish Gautam who raised a hue and cry over the photo of Mohammad Ali Jinnah. This ruckus has given the police and the goons a free hand to unleash violence on the students. Has Modi forgotten that the BJP men had made a nefarious plot by launching an agitation on the pretext of celebrating the anniversary of Raja Mahendra Pratap and for building a temple?

In **Hamara Samaj** (December 25), columnist A Rehman has said that when the Vice-Chancellor had invited Prime Minister Modi for the centenary celebrations of the university, some adamant intellectuals opposed it. These

people have been using the name of Sir Syed Ahmad as a label for their selfish interests in the field of journalism and politics. The way the Prime Minister has described the greatness of Sir Syed Ahmad in his speech has no parallel. Those who have been describing this university as a centre of terrorism for the past few years, for them the speech of the Prime Minister is a slap on their face. Now we need to be sure that in future nobody should dare to tarnish the image of the Muslim university. The article also claims that no other university in the world has so many postal stamps issued in its name except Aligarh Muslim University. Apart from the fact that the speech of the Prime Minister has made the university more famous in the world, it is also a recognition for its greatness and pride. Now it is for those in the university to imbibe each and every word uttered by the Prime Minister in his speech.

**Avadhnama** (December 24) has published an article written by Dr Salim Khan analysing the speech by the Prime Minister in which he has asked whether there were no former students of Aligarh in the country that the Prime Minister had to go abroad to meet them. Why the Prime Minister hasn't got a chance to meet the lakhs of students from Aligarh who stay in this country? What is strange is that the Prime Minister has been in politics for more than 50 years but before this he has not got any opportunity to even peep into Aligarh. If he had been afraid of going there, then he should have at least gone to the library of the Parliament or even done a Google search to get some information about the university. Delivering a speech on the basis of hearsay is not good for the Prime Minister. If this country is really treading on the path of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabke Vishwas,' then why every country in the world is expressing concern over the infringement of the rights of the minorities in the country? Why the



reputable organisations of South East Asia have claimed in their reports that India has become a dangerous place for Muslims to stay? All this has happened after Modi came to power in 2014. In BJP, the elephant has two teeth—one for eating and the other for display. Modiji is the display teeth that goes around the world to build goodwill for the government. But along with the appearances, reality should be mentioned. Who will forget that nearly a year ago, during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, one leader of BJP namely Thakur Raghuraj Singh came to Aligarh and said that it is a citadel of enemies of the country and such people will be beaten to death like dogs. He was referring to the students of this university. The police have been asked to kill such anti-nationals in fake encounter.

Instead of rewarding such people with top positions in his party, the Prime Minister should keep them in jail. But if

such a policy is adopted, then every day one or the other saffron leader would be sent to the jail. Is Modi able to do it? In his speech, Modi also said that if the Muslim university extends help for the reform of the country, there is nothing greater than that. Even some people have given this opinion that the administration of the university is so overwhelmed due to fear. It is natural to have differences of opinion but when it comes to the interest of the country such things should be put on hold. This is quite interesting. However, all the policies of BJP are based on getting the vote out of Hindu-Muslim controversies. It is with this aim that differences and controversies are sown among the people. However, instead of stopping them, Modiji is silently watching them. The world cannot be run just by preaching and extolling the virtues and one would expect the rulers to have a strategy to implement their preaching.

## Owaisi plans to expand his party in UP and West Bengal



**Roznama Sahara** (December 17) claims that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen has started making inroads in Uttar Pradesh. The chief of Majlis, Asaduddin Owaisi, met the leader of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, Om Prakash

Rajbhar, at a hotel in Lucknow and announced his plan to bring several small parties of the state on one platform and thereby increase his party's strength in the state. Speaking to reporters, he said that they were together and would start

preparing for the next assembly elections under the leadership of Rajbhar. On this occasion, the chief of Peace Party, Dr Abdul Mannan, announced his decision to join the Majlis. Targeting the West Bengal chief minister, Owaisi said that Mamata Banerjee and her party have become nervous due to our presence and she has started making baseless allegations against our party. Taking a swipe at Mamata, he said that they never had any understanding with BJP, but Mamata herself was a member of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's cabinet. When the riots took place in Gujarat, did she remember the minorities? On the allegation of TMC that he has been preparing ground for BJP in West Bengal, Owaisi said that TMC's relationship with BJP is an old one. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP won 17 seats due to the help of TMC. He said that nobody can purchase him using money. Mamata should at least set her house in order because a number of her own party leaders have already joined BJP.

The same newspaper has carried another news report in which Mamata Banerjee has alleged that the BJP, with an aim to win the elections, is spending crores of rupees and bringing a political party from Hyderabad to cut into Muslim votes. Owaisi has already announced his decision to participate in the Assembly elections in West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee has alleged that due to the communal colour given to West Bengal politics, a new threat has arisen for every secular party in the state.

She claimed that since Owaisi has entered the fray, it has become easy for BJP to polarise Hindu votes. There are 110 seats in West Bengal where the Muslim voters play the decisive role in deciding the winner. In the 2016 election, the Muslims had supported the Trinamool Congress and 32 Muslim MLAs got elected on Trinamool tickets. Also, 18 Muslim MLAs got elected on Congress ticket, 8 were elected on CPM ticket and one got elected on Forward Bloc ticket.

**Inquilab** (December 17) reports that Owaisi has claimed that the Muslims in Bengal are not the property of Mamata Banerjee. Those Muslims who think about their community are not with Mamata Banerjee. He said that till now she has achieved success by purchasing leaders of Muslims. In another rally, Mamata Banerjee alleged that BJP had been trying to purchase her leaders through allurement and blackmail. The people of West Bengal will give vote on the basis of the work done. Not on the number of money bags.

**Inquilab** (December 25) reports that Owaisi has announced his decision to bring all small parties of UP on one platform. Om Prakash Rajbhar has indicated that Shivpal Yadav's party will also join the front being formed by Owaisi. The Ansari Party and the Quami Ekta Dal are also likely to join the front. Rajbhar also claimed that his front would defeat BJP in at least 20 assembly seats. He said that they were making efforts to unite minorities and the small parties of the state. ■

## Controversy over Love Jihad law

**Roznama Sahara** (December 31) has claimed that at least 54 people were arrested in the past one month in Uttar Pradesh under the new law against Love Jihad. News agency IANS, quoting government sources, said the Uttar Pradesh

government had filed 16 cases under the anti-Love Jihad law in which at least 86 people have been named as accused. Out of them, nearly 54 have already been arrested. Efforts are on to arrest the rest 31 accused. All the 54 who have been arrested are

Muslims. Those Hindu boys who had married Muslim girls have been given police protection. The biggest case under the new law has been filed in Etah district in which an FIR has been filed against 14 people in a single case. One senior police officer has claimed that in majority of the cases, the FIR has been filed on the basis of complaints filed by the relatives of the girl. In the past one month, two cases each were filed in Bijnor and Shahjahanpur, one case each was filed in Firozabad, Etah, Bareilly, Moradabad, Kannauj, Hardoi, Sitapur, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Gautam Budh Nagar. In Etah district, a local trader has filed a case against one Mohammad Javed for kidnapping and illegal conversion of a girl, on the basis of which the police have arrested 14 members of Javed's family. A search is on to nab 12 other accused. An FIR has been registered against 16 of them at Chiraiyakot police station. In the FIR, Shabab Khan aka Rahul and his 13 accomplices have been named for kidnapping. The police have claimed that Shabab Khan was already a married man. He and his accomplices kidnapped a 27-year-old woman.

**Inquilab** (December 31) has published a news item and highlighting it as an important one, claimed that more than 100 retired bureaucrats have come out against the anti-Love Jihad law. They claimed that the government machinery is working on communal lines. Hence the ordinance shall be withdrawn immediately. The BJP sources, meanwhile, claimed that most of these bureaucrats who have written the letter are related to Congress or are leftists. Those who signed the letter included the former security advisor to Dr Manmohan Singh, Shiv Shankar Menon, former foreign secretary Nirupama Rao, former adviser to Manmohan Singh T K A Nair and Wajahat Habibullah.

Chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, meanwhile, has announced that the ordinance against Love Jihad has been drafted and has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

**Inquilab** (December 30) reports that once the ordinance is signed by the Governor, it would be immediately implemented in the state. He said that the freedom of religion ordinance is also part of it. According to the ordinance nobody would be allowed to convert the religion of another person through inducement, threat or pressure and nobody shall participate in any such campaign for religious conversion. As per the ordinance, anybody who tries to break this rule would get a punishment ranging from one year to five years in jail and a fine of Rs 25,000. In cases of religious conversion of members of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and minors, a provision has been made for imprisonment of three to 10 years and a fine of Rs50,000. In case of mass conversions (of two or more persons), a provision of five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs1 lakh has been made.

Religious conversion in violation of the Love Jihad law would be considered null and void. A child born to the victim women will be entitled to inherit the father's properties too.

**Sahafat** (December 30) reports that Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen had said that the law being formulated against Love Jihad is against the Constitution of the country and the Supreme Court needs to intervene in this issue. He said that wherever there is love, there will not be any jihad there. Nobody has the right to interfere in love affairs. It is interference in the fundamental rights of human beings. Anybody can change his or her religion at own will. The provisions of the Constitution allow this. The chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee said that

it is an attack on Indian culture and an insult to it and hence not acceptable.

**Inquilab** (December 19) reports that the Allahabad High Court has stayed the arrest warrants issued on the basis of the new anti-Love Jihad law and issued a notice to the state government seeking an affidavit on its behalf by January 4. The high court has stayed the arrest of one Nadeem who was arrested on the basis of a case filed under the anti-Love Jihad law. Justices Pankaj and Vivek Agarwal had directed the police not to arrest the petitioner. The judges stated that the police had not produced any documents in the court that mandated the arrest of the petitioner. The police also could not produce any documents that could confirm the allegations that Nadeem had put pressure on his wife, illegally entered into a relationship and compelled her to change her religion. Senior advocate Syed Farman Naqvi, appearing for the petitioner, claimed before the court that all the allegations against Nadeem are baseless. Nadeem owed some money to Akshay Kumar and hence he trapped him in a false case. He also raised the objection that the ordinance is being misused against Muslims and if any Muslim man marries a Hindu woman, then he is arrested immediately. He also cited the case in Bareilly and said that the ordinance is also against the Special Marriages Act which states that one can marry as per his or her wishes. This apart, the ordinance is also against Article 25 of the Constitution which guarantees freedom to follow and practice one's own religion. The court has issued notice to three respondents on the issue. The court, however, has refused to put a stay on the matter.

**Siasat** (December 20) reports that one Rashid and Salim in Moradabad have been sent to jail in a case of Love Jihad. The police filed this case on the basis of a complaint by Bajrang Dal activists and also

on the basis of a written complaint by the mother of the victim woman, Pinki. The woman, Pinki, had told police that she married as per her wish and Rashid did not put pressure on her. Even then the police sent her to a shelter home and sent Rashid and his brother Salim to jail. However, intervening in the case, the court has permitted Pinki to go to her in-laws' house and ordered the release of Rashid and Salim from the jail. It is being alleged that Pinki was assaulted in Nari Niketan and she was given an injection resulting in her abortion.

**Siasat** (December 29) reports that Gujarat has also announced that it would bring a law to stop Love Jihad. The state president of BJP C R Patil said that if anybody marries via deceptive means, then there should be a stringent law to stop it. Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani said that the state government is examining the ways to stop such incidents. Recently, a 23-year-old Hindu woman in Vadodara had a love marriage with a Muslim youth. Now she has been pressured to withdraw from the marriage. Legislator Shailesh Mehta has asked the state government to bring a law in the state on the lines of the one in Uttar Pradesh so that the exploitation of women ends. The demand of the BJP has invited sharp reaction from the minorities. Convenor of minorities coordination committee, Mujahid Nafeez has demanded that those who are seeking a law against Love Jihad should be arrested immediately as 50 to 60 lakh Muslims are staying in Gujarat and they are being targeted. Muslim leader Jahid Qadrisaid that if Rupani government brings any law against Love Jihad, then we would question it in a court of law. Senior Congress leader Arjun Modhwadia said that the Indian Constitution allows any citizen to marry as per his wishes. If any law is brought in this respect, it would be against the Constitution. Senior journalist Kalim



Siddiqui said that Sangh is deliberately trying to establish Hindu Rashtra.

**Hamara Samaj** (December 21) in its editorial has condemned the Yogi government for bringing an ordinance against Love Jihad. The newspaper has headlined its editorial as “Enemy of Love, Uttar Pradesh government.” The newspaper, while condemning the arrest of Rashid and Salim in Moradabad, expressed satisfaction that the court has overturned the arbitrary decision of the police and handed over Pinky to her in-laws and also ordered the release of the brother of the accused from jail. The newspaper has complained that the communal government of the BJP is deliberately trying to destroy the lives of Muslim youths by using this law. At one level, the chief minister claims that his government takes every community along and at another level, the Muslims are selectively targeted.

**Hamara Samaj** too has complained in its editorial on December 29 that the Uttar Pradesh government has become a puppet in the hands of anti-Muslim organisations like Bajrang Dal. Due to the pressure exerted by these organisations, a couple in Moradabad was arrested immediately while they were trying to register their marriage in a court. It is clear that the BJP is deliberately interfering in

the religious freedom of one community and harassing them, which is against the Constitution.

**Sahafat** (December 30), criticising the BJP in its editorial, said that the state governments run by the BJP, in their campaign to create a Hindu Rashtra, are taking a beating from the courts. The police have filed several false reports in different parts of the state under the black law created against Love Jihad. These reports are all baseless and have been filed due to the communal approach.

**Inquilab** (December 23) reports that a 21-year-old woman from Etah town in Uttar Pradesh had a love marriage with a man from Delhi nearly a month ago. The police have now filed an FIR against the woman’s husband and his entire family and sent six of them to jail. Those who were sent to jail include 25-year-old Mohammad Javed and three women members of his family. The police said that these people had kidnapped the Hindu girl from her house and changed her religion. The case was filed on the basis of a complaint filed by the girl’s father. Five more people are likely to be arrested in the case. The police have also announced a reward of Rs 25,000 to those who help to trace the missing accused. ■

## Mosque being built near Ayodhya lands in a row

**Inquilab** (December 24) reports that the controversy has aggravated over the mosque being built in Dhannipur village near Ayodhya as an alternative for Babri Masjid. The lawyer for Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board in the Babri Masjid case and a member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Zafaryab Jilani said that the land being given for the construction of the alternative masjid is invalid as per Shariat and Waqf Act. Hence if any masjid is built on the said land, that

also would be against Shariat. However, the general secretary of the board has refused to comment on the issue. But the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation has asked if the land is an alternative for Babri Masjid, then how could it be against the Shariat. If anybody has any objection, then they should approach the court for the same.

Nearly a year has passed after the Supreme Court verdict on the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case but



the controversy on the issue has not subsided. The Uttar Pradesh government has allotted 5 acres of land in Dhannipur village, nearly 30 kilometres away from Ayodhya, to the Sunni Waqf Board for the construction of the mosque as per the directions of the Supreme Court. However, a controversy over the land has been continuing for some time. According to Zafaryab Jilani, the Shariat doesn't permit any arbitration over the lost property of Waqf Board. Accepting land as an alternative for the Waqf property itself is against Islam. The Waqf Act clearly states that such a thing cannot be done. Hence the acceptance of the land being given to Uttar Pradesh Waqf Board in Dhannipur as an alternative to Babri Masjid is a violation of both Shariat and the Waqf Act. This means it is a violation of the law of the land as well. The construction of mosque on this land cannot be justified. Any building can be constructed on this land, but namaz cannot be undertaken in the masjid being built here. The Muslim Personal Law Board also has the same opinion, said Jilani. In a meeting of the board held on November 17, 2019, it was decided not to accept any land in lieu of Babri Masjid. Later in a meeting in October 2020, it was again agreed that if any masjid is built in

the alternative land, then it would be a violation of the Shariat and Waqf Act.

**Siasat** (December 24) reports that the issue was raised at the executive committee meeting of Muslim Personal Law Board by Majlis MP Asaduddin Owaisi and another member SQR Ilyas had said that an alternative land for a masjid property is not acceptable as per the Waqf law. That is the reason why the Board had opposed the Supreme Court's proposal to accept an alternative land for Babri Masjid at any other place and said that we should not accept this land. The Supreme Court had stated in its verdict that Babri Masjid was not built after destroying any temple. The Sunni Central Waqf Board acts on the pressures of the government. The masjid trust was formed by the board and the trust was formed only for the construction of the masjid. Hence it has no importance beyond that. The second thing is that the secretary of Dannipur Masjid Trust Athar Hussain had said that the land has been allotted by the Supreme Court and how can it become illegal. Now everyone has come out for his own vested interests. Masjid is where the namaz takes place. If we construct one masjid what is wrong with it? If it is a masjid, then what is wrong in doing namaz there?

## Sanctions imposed over purchase of Russian missile system



**Roznama Sahara** (December 17) reports that the Trump administration has imposed a series of restrictions on NATO alliance member Turkey because it went ahead with a deal to purchase a missile defence system from Russia despite strong objections from the United States. The foreign minister of Turkey, Mevlut Cavusoglu, in a statement condemned the decision of United States and expressed hope that the US would try to correct its wrong step.

Turkey had purchased the S-400 missile defence system from Russia in 2017. The US claimed that the Russian missile system would be a threat to the NATO's defence mechanism. However, Turkey has refused to buy this argument. Media reports claim that the Russian missile system is capable of downing US' most modern F-25 fighter jets. The US had refused to supply modern fighter planes to Turkey. In fact, the US has refused to supply any kind of weapon systems to Turkey. It has also stopped its export licence and loans extended to it. Turkey said that it is within its rights to take decisions as per its national interest and

others do not have any right to interfere in it.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 16) reports that Greece has welcomed the decision of US to impose sanctions on Turkey and said that Turkey is staking claim on the lands of Greece and Cyprus. Recently, Turkey has started exploration of oil and gas on the borders of Greece and Cyprus which is a physical interference in the internal affairs of the two countries and it cannot be tolerated. According to Greece, the latest decision of the US would help increase the sense of security among NATO countries.

**Inquilab** (December 18) states that the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while condemning the sanctions imposed by US, said that it is an attack on the freedom of the country and it would not be tolerated at any cost. He said that the sanctions were imposed with the aim of stopping the development of the country's defence system and leave Turkey crippled. The US wants Turkey to eternally depend on it for military imports. He claimed that whatever rules the US have used to impose

sanctions on Turkey have never been used against any NATO nations in the past. In such circumstances, there is no reason for Turkey to remain in the NATO alliance. He said that his country would continue to make efforts to improve the country's

defence mechanism and if the US imposes any economic sanctions on Turkey, then we would not care much about it. We do not want any other country to put pressure on us, he said.

## Indonesia and Tunisia refuse to recognise Israel

**Inquilab** (December 17) reports that Indonesia and Tunisia have clarified that neither they have plans to recognise Israel nor there is any move to establish diplomatic relationship with that country. The Prime Minister of Tunisia said that it is not in its agenda to improve relationship with Israel and whatever speculations are being made have no basis.

A few Arab countries have recently recognised Israel due to the pressure exerted by US and some have even entered into a tie-up with Israel. They include UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. Israel had claimed that it would soon establish a



relationship with Saudi Arabia. Secondly, a few Israeli authorities have pointed out that in order to end the increasing influence of Iran in the region, Israel and a few Arab countries could establish a common defence strategy.

## Bomb explosion during Quran recitation event in Afghanistan

**Roznama Sahara** (December 19) reports that at least 30 people were killed and 22 injured when a bomb exploded at a Quran recitation ceremony in Ghazni region in Afghanistan. It is being



claimed that a bomb kept on a motorcycle exploded at the spot. There were more than 100 people at the function when the blast took place. Majority of them were women and children. Till date no organisation has claimed responsibility for the explosion. Though reports about a peace deal between Taliban and the Afghan government have been pouring in for several months, such

explosions have also become a regular affair.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 30) reports that Taliban had targeted the Afghan army in four places, resulting in the death of at least 14 soldiers and injury to several others.

The first suicide attack took place at the police headquarters, the second one at Ghazni and the third one took place at Khost. In an explosion that took place in Kabul, the deputy governor and his bodyguards were killed. Recently, the Islamic State had announced that it would continue to target Afghan soldiers.



## Children kidnapped by Boko Haram released



**Inquilab** (December 19) reports that the military campaign against Islamic terrorist organisation Boko Haram in Nigeria has been a success and the army has secured the release of 344 children out of the over 400 kidnapped by the Islamic terrorists. These children were taken hostage nearly a week ago. According to sources, even now a few children are in the custody of the terrorists of Boko Haram against whom a military campaign is still on. In Nigeria, the terrorists of Boko Haram are active for the past ten years. They have massacred thousands of people so far. In April 2013, they attacked a school and took away 246 students. These students are still missing. President of Nigeria Mohammad Buhari has congratulated the army for its successful campaign. It is being said that the school was attacked by nearly 100 armed Islamic terrorists. It is alleged that the students who were kidnapped in 2014 were sold to other African countries as slaves.

**Comment:** Boko Haram is the most dreadful jihadi organisation in Africa. Its full name is Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awatiwal-Jihad. However, it is

notoriously known throughout the world as Boko Haram. Its terror activities are spread in over a dozen African countries like Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon. This organisation was established by a man called Mohammad Yusuf in 2002. The aim of the organisation is to establish Islam throughout the world. It is involved in bloodshed from 2009 and so far it has massacred more than 2.5 lakh innocent people. Due to the bloody movement unleashed by the organisation, nearly 23 lakh people were forced to flee their houses. In 2014 alone, it allegedly massacred more than 10,000 people. This apart, it has taken several Africans as hostages and sold them as slaves to different countries. In 2015, it had established a friendly relationship with jihadi organisation ISIS of Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi. This organisation is dead against Western education and also against establishing relationship of any kind with Christians. The organisation seeks to establish Shariat and Islamic rule throughout the world. It is also said to have a relationship with banned Islamic organisation Ikhwanul Muslimeen. ■

## Law to castrate rapists in Pakistan



**Siasat** (December 16) reports that Pakistan President Arif Alvi has approved an anti-rape ordinance, which called for the chemical castration of rapists with the consent of the convict. The government was forced to bring this stringent law to stop increasing incidents of rape in the country. It is claimed that Pakistan cabinet had given its nod for the draft law last month. As per the ordinance, special

courts will be set up across the country to hear rape cases. The courts have to complete the trial and deliver the final verdict within four months in all rape cases. If any police officer or government employee is found negligent in dealing with rape cases, then he would be liable to pay a fine of Rs 10 lakh along with an imprisonment of 3 years. ■

## Lives of 20 Pakistani politicians in danger

**Etemaad** (December 23) reports that Pakistan's home minister Sheikh Rashid has revealed that the lives of at least 20 Pakistani politicians are in danger and they could be assassinated at any point of time. The politicians who are in danger are closely related to opposition and they are trying to overthrow the current government. He said that the government had asked all security agencies to keep a close watch on these people who are trying to assassinate the opposition leaders. He said that the leader of Pakistan Democratic Movement, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, has been asked to be careful about threat to his



life. He admitted that 11 opposition parties have formed an alliance to overthrow the Imran Khan government. The spokesperson of this front, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, said that the current Pakistan government has failed on all fronts. In Pakistan, anarchy, corruption and price rise are shooting up. Rallies are being organised in different places to create awareness among people. Till now, such rallies have been held in at least 11 places. He said that the government wants to suppress the opposition protests in the guise of containing corona but we would ensure the overthrow of Imran government. ■

## Iran accused of spreading terrorism



**Siasat** (December 25) reports that the US has accused Iran of recruiting Afghan refugees and others to flare up the civil war in Syria. The Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has claimed in an interview to a news channel that the US allegations about Afghan refugees being trained for war are concocted and baseless. In reply to this, the US foreign affairs ministry said that terrorists fighting in Syria have their links extended to Iran and they are being provided with arms and ammunition by Iran only. They were recruited in Iran and then pushed into the war in Syria. Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inqilab is using their Afghan recruits to escalate the war in Syria.

Later, Iran accepted that nearly 2,000 Afghan jihadis were fighting in Syria under the banner of Fatimi militia, but Iran had no links with them and they were sent from Afghanistan. The Western media allege that this jihadi organisation was created by Iran and their aim is to overthrow the regime of Basher-al-Assad in Syria. The US foreign affairs ministry has also claimed that Iran is recruiting

Afghan jihadis from the border areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. In an interview to Human Rights Watch channel, 12 Afghan refugees have claimed that they were recruited by the Iran government to fight the civil war in Syria but they escaped from there and reached Greece. They said that they are pushed into the war as per a plan because of which there has been a constant increase in the number of casualties.

Iran has denied the US government allegation that it had a role in the recent bomb explosion that took place in the green belt of Baghdad. Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa Al Khadhimi has alleged that more than two dozen high ranking Iraqi officials died in the recent rocket attack that took place in the green zone in Baghdad. He claimed that they had arrested a dozen members of the suspected group who organised the attack. He claimed that Iran is deliberately launching rocket attacks targeting the foreign embassies situated in Baghdad. He also said that some senior officials of Iraq were also arrested on charges of negligence because they did not

maintain proper security system and Irani terrorists took advantage of their negligence and fired rockets at the embassy.

The foreign ministry of US has claimed that eight rockets were fired at the US embassy in Baghdad, resulting in the death of a few Iraqi soldiers and damage to the embassy building. The US embassy in

Baghdad claimed that all their staff members were safe. In future, a missile defence system would be set up at the embassy to stop such attacks. The US also claimed that the attack was revenge against the killing of Iranian general Qasim Suleimani. The US said that it would protect itself and its allies at any cost and would ensure the defeat of jihadis.

## Effort to divide the Arab world

**Inqilab** (December 30) reports that Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas has expressed concern over Muslim countries' increasing relationship with Israel and warned that it was a conspiracy by the US to divide the Arab countries. Leader of the political wing of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said that the US is deliberately trying to ensure that maximum number of Arab countries give recognition to Israel so that the Arab and Islamic unity fall apart. If this conspiracy is not stopped, then there will be tension between Muslim countries resulting in a number of people fleeing the region to save their lives. The Muslim countries that are recognising Israel are extending their support to its expansionist activities which are against the interests of Islam. Due to the policies of US, the Arab countries are getting divided either as a friend or enemy of US.

The US conspiracy is to weaken Islam and make Muslim countries fight against each other. This is the reason why many Arab countries have established a relationship with Israel under US pressure while other countries are opposing it. He said that we would not support any move to



give recognition to Israel under any circumstance. Our enmity and war are not against any Muslim country. However, we would oppose any country that establishes friendly relationship with Israel.

The US is trying to set up a group of Muslim countries that would help Israel establish itself as a strong military and economic power. Israel is harassing Palestinians for a long time. They had imposed an economic blockade in Gaza. They are trying to get Arab nations on their side and take away the rights of Palestinians. Hamas is not willing to accept this at any cost. We would oppose it till the last moment.

## Extremist Imams dismissed in Saudi Arabia

**Inqilab** (December 17) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has started a nationwide campaign against the supporters

of extremist Islamic organisations. Imams and khatibs in over 100 masjids were dismissed from service on the allegation of



being in touch with Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood). Saudi Arabia's minister for Islamic affairs Abdul Latif Al Sheikh has ordered the dismissal of over 100 imams and khatibs on the request of local authorities. The ministry in charge of Islamic affairs has asked all imams and khatibs in the country to deliver their sermon against extremist organisation Ikhwanul Muslimeen in masjids. However, these imams and khatibs had refused to deliver sermons against Ikhwanul Muslimeen. Hence these imams were put under house arrest. As per reports, Saudi Arabia has declared Ikhwanul Muslimeen as a terrorist organisation.

**Inquilab** (December 25) reports that the minister in charge of Islamic affairs has confirmed that those imams who are involved in extremist activities have been removed in large numbers and the

cleansing process would continue. He said that the government did not want to remove them but they were not ready to cut off their ties with extremist and jihadi organisations and hence they were constrained to remove them from their posts. Many countries in the Arab world have started targeting the supporters of Ikhwanul Muslimeen. Over 150 professors serving in universities in different countries have been dismissed from their posts. This apart, a number of doctors and lawyers were also arrested. It is known that the Egyptian army had cracked down on Ikhwanul Muslimeen in that country following which it was declared as a terrorist organisation in 2012. Over 10,000 people associated with the organisation have been sent to jail. Over 2,000 people were hanged to death for their relationship with this organisation. ■

## Iran and Pakistan vow to keep themselves away from Israel



**Inquilab** (December 25) reports that the chief of the Senate committee on foreign affairs in Pakistan, Mushahid Hussain had said that his country would neither give

recognition to Israel nor maintain any kind of relationship with that country. On this occasion, Iran's chief of the committee on foreign relations said that it was their clear policy that it would neither give recognition to Israel, nor it would maintain any kind of relationship with it. He said that even if the entire Arab world or Muslim nations give recognition to Israel, we would stick to our policy and would make no change to it. This is because we consider Israel as number one enemy of Islam. ■

## Over 50,000 Jews visit Dubai as tourists

**Siasat** (December 21) reports that Arab countries are improving their relationship with Israel. According to government sources, over 50,000 Jews had visited Dubai as tourists in the past 15 days. US

newspaper Washington Post said that the credit for the inflow of tourists between the two countries should be given to the recent treaty between Israel and UAE. For the first time Jews visited the markets in UAE and



did large scale shopping in the malls. The Israeli tourists visited Dubai braving the Corona pandemic. For the first time in Arab history, a Jewish religious school was inaugurated in Dubai which would impart religious education and would also disseminate and publicise Jewish religion. This is the first such institution in a Muslim country. According to Israeli sources, more than 70,000 Jewish tourists are likely to visit Dubai now.

For the first time in the history of Arab nations, a special light show was organised at Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in UAE, on the occasion of the religious festival of Jews. The Sheikh of Dubai and the ruling family would be making huge investments in Israeli Football Club and other associate clubs. Recently, they made an investment worth 9 crore dollars. The interesting thing is that those opposed to the investments include the strongest anti-Arab group in Israel, La Familia, a group of Beitar Jerusalem football club fans.

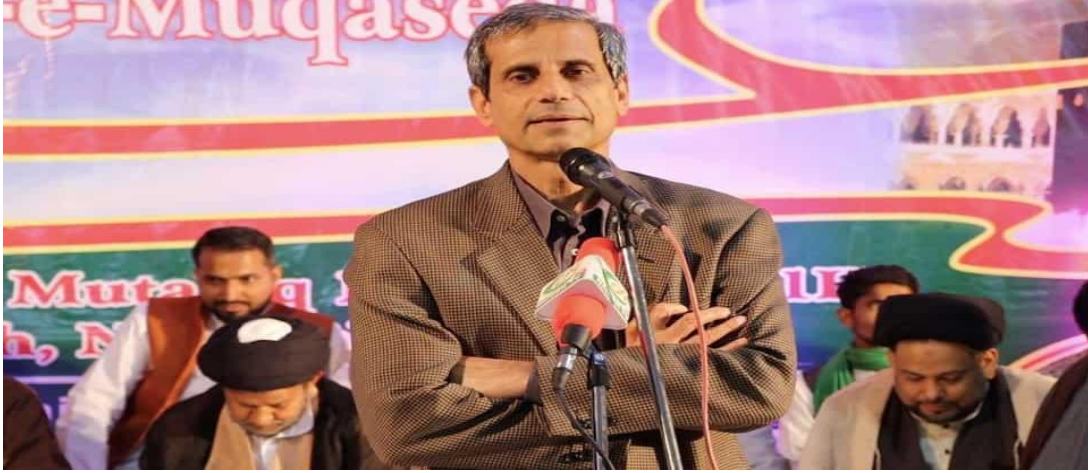
**Siasat** (December 26) in its editorial says that Israel is spreading its roots in Muslim countries very fast and the US hands are visible behind this effort. However, common people would not get any benefit out of it. The newspaper alleged that the Muslim countries are deliberately hiding their increasing relationship with Israel. Recently, Israel established diplomatic relationship with four Muslim countries and there is a likelihood of it establishing relationship

with a major Arab country very soon. The countries that recently established diplomatic tie-up with Israel are United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. A high-level Israeli delegation recently visited Morocco. While at one level Israel is fully engaged in normalising relationship with Arab countries, at another level its policy on the issue of Palestine is getting harder. Besides, Israel is making efforts to convert the lands that it illegally occupied in Palestine following the war into its own territory.

The newspaper states that it looks like the newly elected President of United States would follow the same policy adopted by the Trump administration towards the Arab countries. Hence it is sure that Israel would strengthen its own position and would tighten its stranglehold on the land that it occupied in Palestine after the war. It is sad that the Arab countries are giving importance to monetary benefits rather than Islam. It is dangerous for Muslim countries to throw cold water on the issue of Palestine and they would end up paying a heavy price for the same. The Muslim countries are becoming weaker every day due to the new policies adopted by Israel and US. The Islamic world is almost tottering. Hence the powers of anti-Islamic forces have grown. In such a situation it is necessary that the Muslim countries of Arab world come out of the clutches of Israel and US and keep a distance with them for the sake of Islam.



## Police raid offices of lawyer Mehmood Paracha



**Inquilab** (December 25) reports that the special wing of Delhi Police raided the offices of controversial lawyer Mehmood Paracha and searched his premises for over 15 hours. Mehmood Paracha alleged that since he had some concrete evidence on the basis of which he had succeeded in sending some people associated with RSS to the jail following the riots in Delhi, the Delhi Police is deliberately harassing him on the instructions of home ministry so that he stops arguing on behalf of the victims of the communal riots that took place in North-East Delhi in the beginning of 2020. He told reporters that he is being harassed on a cue from an influential minister in the Union government. When people got to know about the raid at the house of Paracha, his clients and those associated with Bhim Army reached his office but the police did not allow anybody to enter his house. He said that he has been fighting the case of Bhim Army leader Chandrashekar Ravan who was arrested in the anti-CAA protest last year. Mehmood Paracha has secured him bail later. Paracha claimed that his life is in danger and he is facing threats. As per the information, the Delhi Police has filed an FIR against Paracha at Nizamuddhin police station on charges of

beating and allegedly obstructing the duties of government servants.

**Inquilab** (December 29) reports that the Supreme Court Bar Association has opposed the raid at the offices of Mehmood Paracha and described it as against the law. The office-bearers of Delhi Bar Association have written a letter to home minister Amit Shah demanding action against police officials for the raid. The Supreme Court Bar Association has asserted that the raid at the offices of Mehmood Paracha was aimed at frightening him as he has taken up the cases of those who were active in the anti-CAA protest in Delhi and also of the accused in the Delhi riots. The Bar Association said that as per law, the communication between the client and the lawyer is protected from being compelled into evidence. President of Bar Association, Rohit Pandey, said that due to the raid, the accused in the Delhi riots will find it difficult to get justice.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 21) reports that due to the efforts of Jamiat-e-Ulema Hind, 24 Muslim accused in the riots got bail. The Jamiat-e-Ulema has filed the surety bonds on behalf of the accused to secure their release in at least a dozen FIRs.



The Jamiat-e-Ulema's campaign to secure the release of all Muslims accused in the riots in Delhi is still on. So far, it has secured the release of 30 accused. While the high court has granted bail to 12 accused, the Sessions Court in Karkardooma has granted bail to six others. According to Arshad Madani, his organisation would continue with its efforts to secure legal rights to the riots accused. He condemned the police raid at the office of Mehmood Paracha and said that the ruling party is putting pressure on police to trap several people in false cases. Now the Central government wants to ensure that

these people should not get justice and hence the office of their lawyer Mehmood Paracha has been raided by police.

It is known that Mehmood Paracha indulges in various activities to ensure publicity. A few months ago, he had conspired to start a campaign in Lucknow to provide arms training to Muslims. When it became a controversy, he clarified that he had only asked Muslims to secure licence for weapons for their self-defence because Muslims are currently not safe in the country.

## Four held for religious conversion in Noida

**Inquilab** (December 21) reports that the police have arrested four persons including a foreign woman from Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh allegedly for religious conversion. It is alleged that these people had reached Surajpur village with the aim of converting a Hindu family. When the police got information, they questioned them and it came to light that they have

already converted a few people. They lure people of weaker sections by offering money and other tactics and convert them to Christianity. The police claim that these people have been active in the national capital region. The woman gives 5,000 to 10,000 rupees to those who convert to Christianity.

## Controversy over cremation of Muslims in Sri Lanka



**Inquilab** (December 17) reports that a controversy has erupted in Sri Lanka over cremation of 15 Muslim men who died of Corona instead of burying them. They

claim that the government is deliberately violating the rules of Islam. However, the health ministry of Sri Lanka said that the decision was taken due to the spread of



pandemic. They claim that if those who died of Covid-19 were buried, then it could result in spreading of the virus and the pandemic may aggravate further. It is understood that the Sri Lankan government had taken a decision in April that the bodies of people who die of coronavirus

shall be consigned to flames in crematoriums. A few countries have also come out in support of Muslims in Sri Lanka. Maldives has offered to bury the bodies of Muslims who die in Sri Lanka due to coronavirus. ■

## Teacher killed for giving low marks

**Inqilab** (December 30) reports that a 13-year-old boy in Saudi Arabia has shot dead his teacher as he had given him only few marks for English exam after examining the paper. The student and the teacher had a fight over the issue. Next day, the student

took his elder brother to the school and the moment the teacher stepped out of the school, they shot at him. The teacher was nearly 37 years old and the bullets pierced his head. The student and his brother escaped from the spot. ■

## Mandatory to mention 'halal' or 'jhatka' for eateries: SDMC



**Inqilab** (December 27) reports that the South Delhi Municipal Corporation is planning to make it mandatory for eateries and hotels selling meat to mention whether it is 'halal' or 'jhatka.' Muslims throughout the world eat only 'halal' meat. As per Islamic tradition, when an animal is killed, its neck is slowly cut using a knife while reciting 'kalama.' Sikhs, on the other hand, do not eat 'halal' food and they eat only 'jhatka' meat where the animal is killed instantaneously, such as by a single stroke of a sword or axe to sever the head. According to municipal corporation sources, there are thousands of eateries in

South Delhi area which sell items made of meat. Nearly 90% of the restaurants in the area sell meat items. Hence the health committee of the municipal corporation has decided to ask all the eateries to display properly whether the meat items they sell are 'halal' or 'jhatka.' The president of Okhla assembly market welfare association, Khatim Tahami, said that jhatka is haram in Islam. No Muslim will eat jhatka meat even in the face of death. However, Hindus and Sikhs buy chicken, biryani and kabab from shops selling 'halal' meat. ■