

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Row over Four Mosques Due to Central Vista Project



- 88 Muslims Get Selected in BPSK Exams
- Naftali Bennett is New PM of Israel

- Taliban Captures 9 Districts in Afghanistan
- Demand to Recall Lakshadweep Administrator

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## Summary

Every time an election is announced, a few miscreants would come up with some novel issues to target Modi government. The chairman of Delhi Waqf Board, Amanatullah Khan, has dashed off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that the Central Vista Project would pose a threat to the existence of four historical mosques in the area. Soon, a few other Muslim leaders also joined the choir against the project. They have threatened to approach the court on the issue. Earlier in Uttar Pradesh, the same elements had described illegal buildings as masjids and created a hue and cry after the administration demolished such buildings. The ultimate aim of these elements is to flare up communal passion and reap electoral benefits out of it.

Some Muslim organisations have been claiming for some time now that Muslims are not getting justice under Modi government and that the community has been ignored. However, if we take a look at the outcome of competitive examinations held by Bihar Public Service Commission recently, we would realise the absolute hollowness of this claim. A total of 88 Muslim candidates have cleared these exams. If we analyse the data of Union Public Service Commission, then also we would realise that the number of Muslim candidates selected for government jobs have more than doubled after the Modi government came to power.

The situation in Afghanistan is getting complicated day by day. The US government has already decided to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan. The hopes of people who believe that the situation in Afghanistan would improve after the departure of foreign troops have dashed. The world's two most dreaded Jihadi terrorist organisations--Islamic State and Taliban--are rapidly increasing their foothold in Afghanistan. Initially, the US hoped that the Taliban would be ready to keep Turkish soldiers in Afghanistan as they are Muslims. However, Taliban said that since Turkey is a member of Nato alliance, its soldiers also have to leave the country along with other foreign troops. It is to be seen how the latest developments in Afghanistan would affect India.

There is a change of government in Israel. Power has slipped from the hands of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after 15 years. The new Prime Minister of Israel, Naftali Bennett, is considered a Jewish hardliner. He was once defence minister in Netanyahu's cabinet. The interesting thing is that a new alliance in power is comprised of eight political parties. For the first time, an Arab party has also become a member of the ruling alliance. The critical fact is that Naftali Bennett has won the majority by just one vote. Hence it is difficult to predict how long his government would last.

Due to Corona pandemic, Saudi Arabia has imposed restrictions on foreign Haj pilgrims this year also. The decision has disappointed nearly 45,000 Indian Haj pilgrims who had made all preparations for Haj this year. As per the latest policy announced by the Saudi government, only its own citizens or those foreign-origin people currently residing in Saudi would be allowed to undertake Haj or Umrah this year. However, the decision has put a huge strain on the economy of Saudi Arabia. This is because every year, 20 lakh Muslims from different parts of the world visit Saudi for Haj and the country earns huge revenues from their visit.

## Row over four mosques due to Central Vista Project



**Inquilab** (June 4) has written that four masjids under the Delhi Waqf Board are facing a threat to their existence as they have fallen in the way of Central Vista Project. Chairman of Delhi Waqf Board, Amanatullah Khan, has sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and sought clarity on the issue. He warned that if the government doesn't give a clarification then he would knock the doors of the high court after ten days. In another development, a team of Delhi Waqf Board conducted a survey of these masjids and submitted a report to the board. The construction work for Central Vista Project is taking place at India Gate and its surroundings and there are four masjids in the region where namaz takes places five times a day. These include Masjid Zabta Ganj near India Gate, another masjid located on the premises of Vice-President's House and one masjid each near Krishi Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan. All these four masjids are claimed to be of historical importance. According to Amanatullah Khan, the existence of three of them are in danger. That is why he had sought a clarification from the Prime Minister and the Union minister, he said.

The newspaper claimed that the masjid near Krishi Bhawan is likely to be demolished. This is because it is located in the middle of the road. Amanatullah said the Central government has to clarify whether these four masjids fall under the Central Vista Project or not. However, he said they would not allow anyone to touch these masjids under any circumstances. A member of the board, Mohammad Imran, said they have completed the survey and would soon submit the report to the board. He said the imam of Zabta Masjid near India Gate had said that there was no danger to the masjid. According to him, it is the duty of the board to protect the masjid and the board would do its duty.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 10) reports that president of Jamiat Ulema, Mahmood Madani, expressing concern on the fate of these masjids, wrote a letter to Union housing minister Hardeep Puri, demanding that these historical masjids should be protected under any circumstance. Recently, general secretary of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Hakimuddin Qasmi, visited the place and collected information regarding the masjids.

**Inquilab** (June 5) reports that the Delhi Waqf Board has swiftly removed the

imam of Masjid Zabta Ganj near India Gate, Maulana Asadullah Falahi, and claimed that he is thwarting the campaign of the board and issuing arbitrary statements. However, Maulana said he had just given a statement to a journalist after which the Waqf Board banned him from issuing any statements. I did not give any statements after that, he said. However, the Waqf Board later removed me from the post of imam without citing any reason, which is illegal, he said.

**Inqilab** (June 12) reports that following the publication of news about the mosques in Delhi on social media and newspapers, there were swift responses from Muslims across the country. In a meeting of imams held in Kanpur, it was stated that if these masjids face any threat, then the entire Muslims of the country would protect them at any cost. This is because these masjids are part of our ancient heritage.

**Comment:** Among the four masjids that are caught in the controversy, at least three of them are quite old. As far as Zabta Ganj masjid is concerned, there was a village called Zabta Ganj located in the

same area before New Delhi became the country's national capital and this masjid was a part of that village. Instead of demolishing this masjid, the British retained it on the same spot and it became a part of the water channels built on either sides of India Gate. The masjid is 300 years old and it is a two-storied one. It is being said that it was built by Zabta Khan, son of Nawab Najibud-Daulah during the reign of Shah Alam. As far as the Bangla Masjid located at the roundabout near Krishi Bhawan is concerned, it is also nearly 350 years old. The speciality of this masjid is that its roof is flat. Such types of masjids were constructed mostly in Bengal. There are three masjids in Delhi that falls in this category. As far as the two other masjids are concerned, these were built after 1911. One of them is in Udyog Bhawan, where namaz is still offered. The fourth masjid is at Vice-President's House and it was built by the country's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He used to stay in this bungalow at that time. Currently, no namaz is offered in this masjid. ■

## 88 Muslims get selected in Bihar Public Service Commission exams



**Inqilab** (June 8) reports that the results of examinations conducted by Bihar Public Service Commission has been announced and 1,454 candidates have cleared them. Among the successful candidates, 88 are Muslims. These candidates include 49 students who had attended the coaching and guidance offered by an institute run by Bihar government's minorities' commission. One of these candidates is Asama Khatun. She has been selected for Bihar Administrative Service. This year, the institute had given free coaching to 106 Muslim candidates and prepared them to attend competitive examinations for which the government had roped in several experts. Till 2013, the institute used to train candidates for Bihar Police Service

examination only. Since the results were promising, the Bihar minorities welfare department decided to extend the facility to other services as well. Students who attend the coaching are provided free accommodation, food and books by the Bihar government.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 7) reports that among the successful Muslim candidates in these exams, 13 got their education from Aligarh Muslim University and 17 graduated from Jamia Milia Islamia. The newspaper reports that among the candidates this year, 7% are Muslims. However, the population of Muslims in Bihar is 14%.

On this occasion, it is pertinent to mention that more than a dozen Muslim organisations are providing free coaching, food and accommodation to Muslim students to appear in competitive examinations conducted for Central and state government services with the aim of bringing more and more Muslims in to the administrative set-up of the country. Zakat Foundation is running such institutions in more than a dozen places in different parts of the country. This is the reason why there is a constant increase in the number of Muslim candidates being selected by Union Public Service Commission.

## Controversy over offerings at Ajmer dargah



**Inqilab** (June 8) reports that the khadims at Ajmer dargah in Rajasthan are divided into two groups over receiving offerings at the dargah. Now the dargah committee has sought police intervention on the issue. As per information, some khadims have sought offerings from pilgrims even during the lockdown imposed due to Corona pandemic. The dargah committee, meanwhile, has sought a written clarification from the members of khadim community at the dargah. However, none among them has so far given a reply. According to the manager of dargah committee, Ashfaq Hussain, only the dargah committee has the right to accept

offerings from the pilgrims. He sent a letter to the police chief asking when the dargah was closed during the lockdown and police personnel were deployed outside the shrine, how come the pilgrims went inside the dargah? The dargah committee had issued a notice to Anjuman Sayed Jadgan and Anjuman Sheikh Jadgan along with a viral video being circulated. The video shows khadims accepting offerings from the pilgrims. However, the khadims said they had the right to accept offerings from pilgrims who come inside the dargah. The dargah committee is wrongly accusing them of misdeeds, they said.

## Mafia don Mukhtar Ansari's property worth Rs 24 crore sealed

**Inquilab** (June 10) reports that Uttar Pradesh government has started a massive operation against mafia don Mukhtar Ansari. The Mau police has sealed property worth Rs 24 crore belonging to Mukhtar



Ansari at Dasai Pokhara locality under Dakshin Tola police station. However, the police have not seized the masjid built on the property. The police action has shaken Mukhtar Ansari and his supporters. According to the administration, the land belongs to Ram Janaki Trust and Mukhtar Ansari and his goons had illegally occupied it. The temple of Ram-Janaki is situated in Dasai Pokhara in Mau town.

According to police sources, Mukhtar Ansari had grabbed 1.5 hectares of land and created a fake registry in the name of his mother and started construction of a university on the land. In 2016, the illegal grabbing of temple land was brought to the notice of the district magistrate by a man named Chhotelal. The district magistrate then started an inquiry into it. According to police, a case has been registered against MLA Mukhtar Ansari under Gangster Act. He is a notorious character of the crime world since 1988. There are 49 criminal cases pending against him. He purchased the land using the income from illegal activities. He has two buildings on the property and they are together valued at Rs 2 crore. Another

house is still under construction. The district magistrate issued an order under UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act in June 2021 directing attachment of his property to the government. His property was soon attached on the basis of this order.

**Inquilab** (June 9) reports that police have confiscated property worth Rs 2.5 crore belonging to a notorious liquor don and Samajwadi Party leader in Hardoi district, Subhash Pal. There are several cases against Subhash Pal under Goonda Act and for selling illegal liquor. On the basis of an order issued by the district magistrate, police seized a gas agency owned by Subhash Pal. Superintendent of Police, Ajay Kumar, told reporters that Subhash Pal is a history-sheeter and there are more than 100 cases against him. He started his crime life by committing murder and kidnap. Later he amassed crores of rupees by selling adulterated liquor. The SP said that an investigation is on into the properties owned by other members of his gang. He contested assembly elections two times on Samajwadi Party ticket.

In a related report, the police also seized property worth Rs 50 crore of a gangster in Gorakhpur, Pradeep Singh. There are more than 10 serious criminal cases pending against him. The properties seized from him include shops, hotel and a three-storied house built on the land. ■

## RSS launches campaign for Hindu-Muslim amity

**Inquilab** (June 6) reports that the patron of Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Indresh Kumar, while handing over a book, 'Vaicharik Samanvaya – Ek Vyavaharik Pahal' written by Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad, to the coordinator of Muslim Rashtriya Manch (Delhi), Hafiz Muhammad Sabrin, said that it is one such book that would help resolve

Hindu-Muslim differences and act as a bridge to bring them together.

He expressed happiness that there are great men like Dr Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad who are not only trying to eradicate the maladies of the society but are also uniting and bringing people together. He said that a few copies of the book would be

distributed among Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members.

On this occasion, Hafiz Mohammad Sabrin said the book has been released at a time when there is a dire need for such books. The material provided in the book is a sincere effort to understand the hidden realities of the current political and economic atmosphere in the country. Sabrin said that a reading of the book would clear many doubts and people would realise that they have become victims of deliberate misunderstandings. Hence it is important to clear such misunderstandings. The writer has painted a picture of the



future Bharat in the book. The book would be officially released by RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat.

## Ayodhya mosque named after freedom fighter Ahmadullah Shah

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 7) reports that the masjid being built in Dhannipur, in lieu of Babri Masjid land, will be named after freedom fighter Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah Faizabadi who was martyred 164 years ago. Secretary of Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, Athar Hussain said that on the martyrdom day of Maulavi Ahmad Shah, we have decided to name all the projects of the masjid in his name. He said that Maulavi Ahmad Shah was a leader of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood. However, Maulavi Saheb never got the recognition that he deserved in the history of the country. During the 1857 war of independence, Masjid Sarai was his headquarters. This locality in Faizabad still reminds his memory. He was murdered by a traitor during the freedom struggle. The British buried his head and torso at two different places to ensure that people do not turn his grave into a tomb.

According to historian Afzal Ahmad Khan, many British writers had paid their tributes to Maulana Ahmadullah Shah through their books and had described him as the biggest rebel in Awadh region. However, despite this, one would not find any mention of him in Indian history. According to writer Ramshankar Tripathi, though he was a Muslim, he was a symbol



of Ganga-Jamuni culture and religious unity in Faizabad. In the 1857 war of independence, he fought along Nana Saheb and Kunwar Singh of Arrah. In the battle of Chinhat, Ahmadullah Shah proved to be a hard nut to crack for the British and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment jumped into the freedom struggle on his inspiration. Shah wanted a zamindar in Shahjahanpur district to join him in the freedom movement. When Shah reached the bungalow of the zamindar to hold talks with him, the latter killed him at the behest of the British and his head was cut off and handed over to the British commander in return for huge property and reward.

**Inquilab** (June 9) reports that the Shaheed Research Institute has expressed gratitude to Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation for naming the Dhannipur masjid after Shaheed Ahmadullah Shah.



## Taliban captures 9 districts in Afghanistan



**Inqilab** (June 7) reports that Taliban has claimed that it had captured five important districts in Afghanistan. Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid claimed that Taliban fighters have seized Jabul, Arkhanj, Khawa and Nuristan and driven out government forces from these places. It also claimed that it has established its authority in four districts of Tala Wa Barfak region. Government spokesperson Tariq Aryan said the government forces withdrew from these five districts as part of a policy. Afghan media has claimed that Taliban has seized all government security posts in the region and a number of people from both the sides were killed in the attacks.

**Inqilab** (June 3) quotes a spokesperson of US army as saying that the US troops would vacate its biggest military station Bagram in 20 days and hand over

the station to Afghanistan government. Bagram is the biggest airbase of US in Afghanistan. The airbase was constructed in 1980 by Soviet Union. A defence spokesperson said in Washington that the US has speeded up the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. Till now, six military stations have been vacated and handed over to Afghanistan government. Half of US troops and equipment have been sent back to the US while a number of other things that could not be brought back have been destroyed. Recently, the US vacated Kandahar airfield and handed it over to Afghanistan soldiers. He said the troops of US and its allies would no longer remain in Afghanistan but the 30-nation alliance would continue to extend all kinds of support to Afghanistan army for the country's security. ■

## Head of Islamic terror organisation Boko Haram dies in bomb blast

**Inqilab** (June 8) reports that Abubakar Shekau, chief of Boko Haram, was killed following a clash between the militants of Islamic State and Boko Haram. News agency Reuters managed to get a video in this connection. Islamic State has claimed

that Shekau had died in their attack. However, knowledgeable sources said he committed suicide. The spokesperson of Boko Haram said their leader died in a bomb blast. He was killed in the jungles of Nigeria on May 18. It is being said that



when the militants of Islamic State tried to apprehend him, he detonated his jacket filled with explosives. Boko Haram is active in at least a dozen African countries since 2009. The organisation is linked to terrorist organisation Al Qaida. It is being said that Boko Haram had kidnapped at least 10,000 people and sold them as slaves to different countries and also killed more than 30,000 people. Initially, the organisation was linked to Islamic State. Later they broke off their ties with it and established a relationship with other terrorist organisations namely Al Qaida and Al Ansaar.

Boko Haram has claimed that when their leader was at their own stronghold, another militant organisation called ISWAP sent their militants to attack him. The entire team of Boko Haram got eliminated in this attack. However, Abubakar Shekau somehow managed to escape from there. Later, when the attackers got a clue about his location and when they tried to capture him, he detonated himself and committed suicide. The Nigerian government said they were investigating the entire issue at their own level. ■

## Pakistan govt takes over ancestral houses of Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor

**Inquilab** (June 3) reports that the archaeological department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan has taken over the maintenance of the ancestral houses of Indian film stars Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor. The Pakistan government would be developing them as museums. Dilip Kumar's original name is Yusuf Khan and he was a native of Peshawar. The Kapoor family, including Prithviraj Kapoor and his son Raj Kapoor, also belong to Peshawar. Earlier, the deputy commissioner of

Peshawar had issued a notification handing over the two buildings to the archaeological department. Director of archaeological department, Dr Abdul Samad said the families of Dilip Kumar and Prithviraj Kapoor have a special place in the film industry of the sub-continent. Both the houses have been in a dilapidated condition due to lack of maintenance. Hence the government has decided to protect this heritage. He said they were in touch with the successors of Prithviraj Kapoor and



Dilip Kumar and the family members of both the stars have assured to donate various items related to them for the museum. Our aim is to connect Peshawar with Bollywood. He also said that those who had been occupying the two buildings were given compensation.

Yusuf Khan's house is in Mohalla Khudadad. The house was built by his father and grandfather. Nearly 72 lakh rupees has been paid for it. However, the Kapoor family's haveli has been valued at 1.15 crore. Both the havelis are located at Qissa Khawani Bazaar in Peshawar. In 2016, when the current owner of Kapoor family's haveli tried to demolish the structure and construct a new building in its

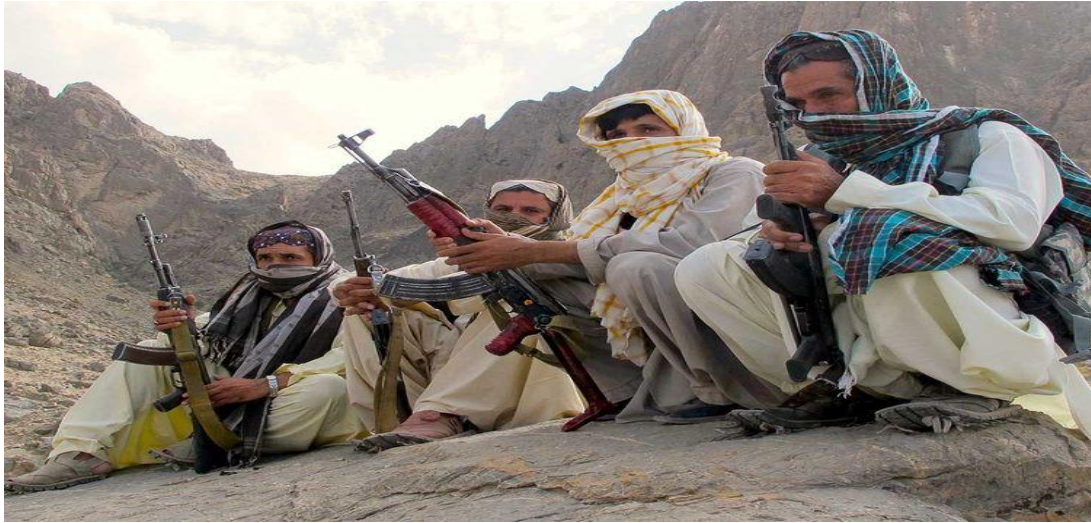
place, Pakistani newspapers created a furore over the issue. Finally, the demolition was abandoned mid-way. Even then a huge portion of the building got demolished. An effort to acquire this property was made when Awami National Party was in power but it did not materialise as a controversy erupted over value of the property. In 2015, the government had informed the Peshawar high court that it had abandoned the plan to convert the houses of these film stars into museums. However, when newspapers published this report, there was a huge opposition to it in entire Pakistan and the government was forced to retract its steps.

## Attack on Pakistani Army in Balochistan

**Avadhnama** (June 3) reports that a banned separatist organisation, Baloch Liberation Army, had carried out an attack on the outposts of Frontier Corps of Pakistani Army in two towns, Turbat and Marwar, in Balochistan province in which four soldiers were killed. Eight others were injured in this attack. The Baloch Liberation Army has been fighting an armed struggle for an Independent Balochistan for quite some time now. The Pakistani Army had killed many of its top leaders including Akbar Khan Bugti.

According to a press release issued by the Pakistani Army's public information wing, the separatists had launched an attack on Pakistani Army. The first attack took place in Marwar near Ismail Dargah when they targeted the personnel of Frontier Corps. Four military personnel were killed and six others injured in this attack. Later the separatists attacked another outpost. The encounter continued for almost ten hours in which five separatists were killed and eight others injured.

In yet another incident, two soldiers were killed when their vehicle was targeted



using a remote control bomb. Spokesperson of banned organisation Balochistan Liberation Army, Junaid Baloch, has claimed that the Balochis would continue their fight till their liberation from the clutches of Pakistan and till their last breath. He claimed that six Pakistani

soldiers were killed and more than a dozen others were injured in the attack. Last month, clashes took place between Pakistani Army and separatist organisations in at least three places in which four officers of Pakistani Army were killed while six others were injured. ■

## Army helicopter destroyed in Afghanistan



**Etemaad** (June 10) reports that 10 US soldiers were killed and 16 others injured when they were trying to remove landmines in Afghanistan. This apart, three US officials were killed when an air force helicopter crashed. It is claimed that the helicopter was fired upon by the Taliban.

**Inquilab** (June 23) reports that at least 30 people were killed in bomb explosions in national capital Kabul and in cities including Jalalabad. Afghan media claimed that the jihadis had targeted two

buses as well, in which at least 20 passengers were killed and 10 others injured. However, hospital sources said that the number of people killed in the incident is around 32. In the bomb explosions that took place in Jalalabad, two persons were killed and 10 others were injured. The Taliban also attacked the police headquarters in which at least four police officers were killed and five others were injured. ■

## Naftali Bennett is new Prime Minister of Israel



**Hamara Samaj** (June 15) reports that there is a new turning point in Israel politics. The Israeli parliament has removed Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been in power for the past 12 years, after which a 49-year-old Jewish hardliner, Naftali Bennett, has assumed power with the support of an Arab party. While 60 members of the Israeli Parliament have voted in favour of the new cabinet, 59 have voted against the government. However, one member has abstained from voting. There are eight political parties in the new ruling alliance. This ruling alliance includes United Arab List, a party that represents the 21% Arab population in Israel. There are 27 members in Naftali Bennett's cabinet that also includes nine women ministers. It is the first time in the history of Israel that so many women got representation in the cabinet. Five of the women ministers are of Arab origin. Among them, two are of Moroccan origin while the other three are of Iraqi origin. As per the formula agreed upon during the formation of the new government, Naftali Bennett would resign from his post in 2023 and 57-year-old Yair Lapid would replace him as the Prime Minister.

Earlier, the 120-member Knesset (Israeli Parliament) elected Mickey Levy as

the speaker with the support of 67 lawmakers. Past week, after the formation of the new alliance, it became clear that Benjamin Netanyahu would not be able to become the Prime Minister for the fourth term. He was the Prime Minister of Israel since 2009. Earlier, he was the Prime Minister during 1996-1999 as well. In total, he was Prime Minister for 15 years. The new Prime Minister is Israel's first Jewish hardliner PM who favours settling more Jews in the occupied West Bank and wants to permanently merge the Palestinian territory with Israel. However, the United Arab List, a part of his coalition, is opposed to it.

In the parliamentary elections held in Israel on March 23, no party got a clear majority. Now the new government has been formed with a majority of just one vote. Leader of United Arab List, Mansoor Abbas, expressed hope that the new Prime Minister would deliver justice to Palestinians and would make efforts to improve the relationship between Arabs and Jews. Now the Israeli cabinet has got an Arab political leader, Issavi Faraj, as its member. His party seeks same rights to the Arabs settled in Israel as given to other citizens.

**Siasat** (June 1) claims that the opposition parties in Israel had formed a front to pull down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from his post. Former defence minister and leader of Yamina Party, Naftali Bennett has announced formation of a new government in alliance with Yesh Atid party. Naftali said that if he fails to form a government, then there would be a fifth election in the country. In the 120-member Israeli Parliament, Naftali's party has just six members and he emerged as the kingmaker. Commenting on the opposition alliance, Netanyahu said it was the biggest cheat on the people of Israel in a decade. He said Naftali had promised people that he would not enter into a deal with Lapid. Now he himself has broken this promise.

**Siasat** (June 2) reports that the Israel President has invited the opposition alliance to form the government.

**Siasat** (June 15) in an editorial on the new Prime Minister of Israel, said that hardliner Naftali Bennett has become the new PM of the country. He is totally

opposed to the formation of a Palestinian government. He formed his government with a majority of just one vote. In such a situation, it would not be easy for him to maintain the stability of his government. The new Prime Minister of Israel was born in US and he migrated from there to Israel. He had served the Israeli Army for several years. In 1999, he set up an American start-up, an anti-fraud software company. In 2005, he sold this company to US for 145 million dollars. After this, he left the world of business and entered politics. That time Benjamin Netanyahu was an opposition leader and Naftali became his main assistant. Then he became the chief of Yesha Council. This council was working to extend Jewish colonies in Palestine occupied territories. When Netanyahu became Prime Minister, he entered into a deal with him and Naftali became minister for education and defence.

In December 2018, he left the Jewish Home party and established New Right party. In the 2019 elections, he did not get even a single seat. ■

## US resumes efforts to improve Israel's relations with Arabs

**Siasat** (June 12) reports that US President Joe Biden and his Democratic Party is following the policies of former President Donald Trump on matters related to Israel. Biden's effort is to ensure that maximum number of Arab nations recognise Israel and enter into a friendly relationship with it. That is the reason why the US has started adopting every trick to implement its policy. Ever since Israel was formed in the Middle East, the Arab nations never cooperated with it and instead always opposed it. Last year, apart from putting

pressure on Israel and four Arab nations to establish relationship, the Trump administration had also offered them various incentives. In the beginning, Biden's strategy was to remain neutral between Israel and Arab nations. Later, after watching the situation, it changed its strategy and now it has adopted Trump's policy. The Biden administration's strategy is to divide the Arab world and increase the number of Arab countries that support Israel.



According to sources in US, there is a possibility of few more Muslim nations establishing diplomatic relationship with Israel. Recently, Sudan, on US pressure, has entered into a peace deal with Israel. However, it has not established a diplomatic relationship with Israel. Hence the US has offered Sudan huge financial aid so that the country establishes diplomatic relationship with Israel. Jordan is also making efforts to establish relationship with Israel. However, due to the 11-day war between Israel and Hamas recently, it is unlikely that the US policy would have any takers in the Arab world. This is because the Muslim world is now opposed to Israel. Last month, 245 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza Strip. This included 66 children. There were strong reactions in Arab countries against the Israeli attacks and the current public mood in Arab world is against Israel. In such a situation, it would be difficult for US to implement its pro-Israel policy. So far, UAE, Bahrain and

Morocco have established diplomatic relationship with Israel. However, the people of Sudan are opposed to their country establishing diplomatic relationship with Israel and several massive protests were held there against such a move. The Trump administration had offered Sudan government to lift the sanctions it had imposed on Sudan in return for recognising Israel.

Recently, the Biden administration has handed over the responsibility to improve the relationship between Israel and Arab nations to its former Ambassador in Israel, Daniel Shapiro. He said that four more Arab nations had indicated that they were interested in improving relationship with Israel. This is the reason why the US, which was hesitant to supply defence equipment to some Arab nations, has now asked them to improve their relationship with Israel and assured that the US would lift the restrictions imposed on them by the Biden administration on supplying defence equipment.

## Ban on foreign Haj pilgrims

**Etemaad** (June 13) reports that the Saudi government has announced that only Saudi citizens and the foreign-origin people currently residing in Saudi Arabia would be allowed to do Haj this year. This apart, the total number of Haj pilgrims will be limited to 60,000 this year. Government sources

said the decision has been taken in view of Corona virus and the spread of its various mutants. A spokesperson said that only those between the ages of 18 and 65 and who have taken both the doses of vaccine would be allowed to do Haj. The spokesperson said the decision has been



taken as per Islamic law. This is because the basic aim of Islamic law is to ensure that there is no threat to the life of a human being. Hence a decision has been taken to limit the number of Haj pilgrims. Those interested in doing Haj have to file online application and only those who are totally healthy and taken both doses of vaccine would be allowed to do Haj.

Saudi Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Abdul Fattah Mashat, said that all Islamic nations have been informed of this decision and they have all welcomed them. He said that this year, foreigners would not be able to do Umrah as well.

**Inquilab** (June 14) reports that nearly 45,000 Indians, who had registered their names with the Haj committee, are

totally disappointed on the decision of Saudi Arabia. Union minister for Haj, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, was confident till late that the Saudi government would give permission for pilgrims from India to do Haj. Hence he had advised those interested in doing Haj to be ready.

**Hamara Samaj** (June 15) in an editorial has welcomed the decision of the Saudi Arabian government and said that nearly 20 lakh Muslims from across the world used to do Haj. If the pandemic spreads further during the Haj, it would be a threat to the lives of lakhs of people. The newspaper expressed hope that Saudi government would make special arrangements to keep Mecca and Medina safe from the pandemic. ■

## Israeli planes bomb Syrian targets

**Etemaad** (June 10) reports that Israeli aircrafts have bombed military posts in Syria in which at least 10 people were killed. The Syrian government has alleged that Israeli planes took off from Lebanese airports and bombed targets in Damascus. The Israeli planes fled as soon as they came within the range of Syrian defence system. The spokesperson of Syrian human rights organisation claimed that five soldiers each from Syrian army and Malaysian army were killed in the attack. However, Israel

has not provided any information regarding this operation.

The Syrian government also claimed that they shot down a few missiles fired from Israel and hence they could not create any damage. However, several explosions were heard in Damascus which were believed to be of missile attacks. Media sources also claimed that anti-aircraft guns in Syria opened fire on the intruding Israeli aircraft. They also said that many people were killed and buildings destroyed as





Israeli aircraft bombed Homs region in Syria. The Israeli aircraft also targeted the arms and ammunition depots of Syrian military and many aircrafts of Syria were

also destroyed. Syria also declared a high alert following the attack by Israeli war planes. ■

## Islamic terrorist attack in Burkina Faso



**Inquilab** (June 6) reports that after a gap of few years, at least 100 people were killed in an Islamic terrorist attack in the western African nation of Burkina Faso. The terrorists launched an attack in a town named Solhan. The dead included men and women. The first attack took place at a station belonging to a militia that supports government. This militia was formed nearly two years ago to extend help to army. A government spokesperson has indicated that the number of those who were killed in the attack could rise further. Two Islamic terrorist organisations namely,

Al Shabab and Al Ansar, are active in this region. The attackers had set fire to the entire town in which hundreds of shops and buildings were destroyed. In the past week also, the terrorists had carried out a mass murder of 12 people. Since 2015, the Islamic state of Burkina Faso is facing regular attacks launched by Islamic terrorist organisations like Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM) and the Islamic State. Till now, 13,000 people were killed and more than 20 lakh people were rendered homeless in such attacks. ■

## Demand to recall Lakshadweep Administrator

**Etemaad** (June 4) reports that the Kerala assembly has passed a unanimous resolution asking Centre to recall the administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful Khoda Patel. Lakshadweep is a group of islands in the Arabian Sea and its local residents have been protesting against various actions taken by its Administrator recently.



Moving the resolution in the Assembly, the chief minister of Kerala said that Kerala and Lakshadweep share centuries-old cultural and historical relationship. Now, due to political reasons, the administrator is interfering in the traditional life of the people of the island. For the first time,

Goonda Act has also been invoked in the islands in an effort to curb opposition, he had claimed.

The newspaper wrote that the basic food of the people in the islands is beef. However, the administrator has imposed a total ban on cow slaughter. Recently, the administrator also

imposed a ban on people having more than two children from contesting in elections. It is an undue interference in the personal life of people. The Central government should immediately withdraw the present administrator due to the massive public anger of local people. ■

## Exodus due to landmines in Waziristan

**Avadhnama** (June 4) reports that three children were killed and two kids injured when a landmine exploded in a village in South Waziristan in Pakistan. It is reported that these mines were planted in several places in the region during the military campaign against terrorists and separatists. According to local residents, at least 200 people were killed and more than 300 were disabled in the past one decade due to

landmine explosions in the region. The public relations wing of Pakistani military has claimed that more than 48,000 landmines laid in the tribal areas have already been demined so that people would not become its victims. However, thousands of landmines are still lying under the ground. Due to these mines, many local residents have been leaving their native places. ■

## Iranian ship sinks after catching fire

**Inquilab** (June 3) reports that a huge ship of Iran suddenly caught fire and sank in the ocean. This ship was purchased by Iran from Britain nearly 40 years ago and it was one of the biggest ships. Iranian officials

unsuccessfully tried to save the ship and control the fire for almost 24 hours. However, almost all employees on board the ship were rescued on time. Iran's oil supply has got a huge setback due to the sinking of the ship. ■

## Demand to allot land for madrasa



**Inquilab** (June 11) reports that Shia leader Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi met the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, and demanded that the government land on which Sultan ul Madrasa was built should be allotted in the name of the madrasa. The Maulana said that the madrasa was built by his grandfather and currently hundreds of Shia students are getting educated at this

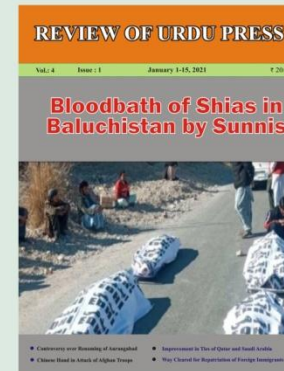
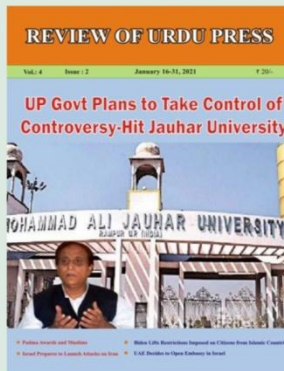
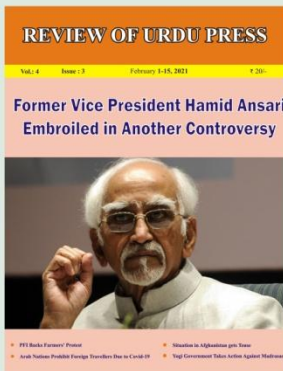
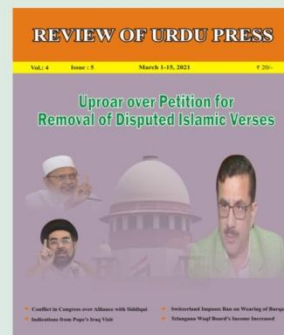
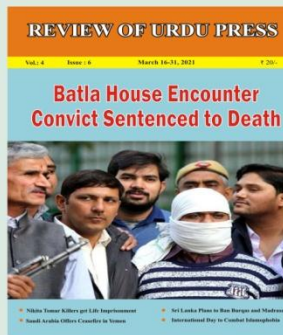
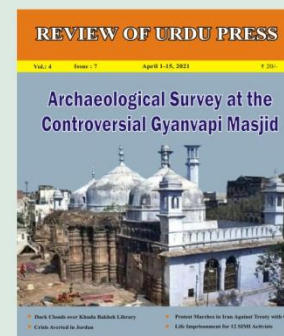
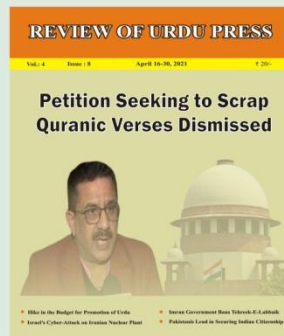
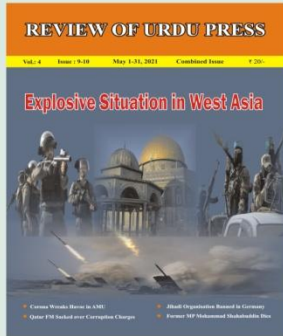
madrasa. He said that the land was allotted on a 100-year lease to the Shias by the British in 1911 and his grandfather constructed the madrasa on the land. Since then, this madrasa is run by Hussainabad Trust. Now the lease period has come to an end and hence the government should allot the land in the name of Hussainabad Trust, he demanded. ■

## Notification of Citizenship Act questioned in high court

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 2) reports that the Indian Union Muslim League has filed a petition in the Supreme Court questioning the notification issued by the Central government inviting applications for Indian citizenship from non-Muslim Afghani, Bangladeshi and Pakistani refugees residing in the districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab. It is mentioned in the petition that the Muslim League had earlier questioned the Citizenship Law before the court and the case is still pending before the court. The Central government has



clarified in the court that the rules of Citizenship Law has not been implemented as yet and hence there is no need to intervene in it. However, the home ministry has now issued this notification in an illegal manner seeking application from people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian religions from these countries which is a breach of the assurance it had given in the Supreme Court and hence the notification should be scrapped with immediate effect. ■



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