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Web of Religious Conversion Spread Across India



- Whose Hand is Behind Darbhanga Blast?
- Taliban Announces Islamic Rule in Afghanistan
- Ebrahim Raisi Elected the Eighth President of Iran
- Minority Commission Members Nominated in UP

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Summary

Several instances of religious conversion of Hindus to Islam using foreign funds and through inducements have been unearthed in various parts of the country almost on a daily basis. Recently, Uttar Pradesh police arrested two maulavis from Noida, who had their offices in Jamia Nagar in Delhi. As per the case registered with police, these maulavis had converted a differently abled Hindu youth to Islam through inducement and sent him to south India. It is being said that they converted one deaf-mute Manu Yadav, a resident of Gurugram, and gave him a new name, Abdul Mannan. Similarly, they also converted a Kanpur resident, Aditya Gupta, and he was also sent to south India. What is strange is that the one who has been converting others to Islam is originally a Hindu Rajput and he was once known as Shyam Pratap Singh. In 1983, he converted to Islam and took the new name of Umar Gautam. This conversion mafia is getting huge financial support from foreign countries. The Enforcement Directorate has intensified its search to get into the roots of this syndicate by raiding various places in the country and many have been arrested in this connection.

As soon as the bugle has been sounded for Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, communal elements have stepped up their mischievous acts. A Samajwadi Party leader, Ummed Pahalwan, circulated the video of an Anupshahr resident, Abdul Samad Saifi, and made it viral. It was claimed in the video that the elderly man was kidnapped by Hindutvavadis and forced to chant Jai Shri Ram and Vande Mataram. Later they also beat him up and cut off his beard. Once the video became viral, it invited strong reactions from one community. The supporters of secular and Left ideology widely circulated the video. However, a police investigation exposed the false narrative. The Ghaziabad police claimed that the incident had been given a communal colour due to political reasons. The police have registered a case against a dozen people including Samajwadi Party leader Ummed Pahalwan.

Terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba has become active again in the country. Recently, this blood-thirsty organisation exploded a bomb in Darbhanga in Bihar. According to police, the jihadi organisation has been planning to explode bombs in trains and kill a large number of people. The police have so far arrested four persons linked to this organisation who belong to Kairana (Uttar Pradesh) and Hyderabad. The National Investigation Agency is probing the links of this terrorist organisation.

Ebrahim Raisi has become the new president of Iran. He is considered as an extremist Muslim. In a congratulatory letter to him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed hope that there would be a new beginning in the era of friendship between India and Iran.



National

Web of religious conversion spread across India



A massive conversion trap has been laid in the country with huge financial support from abroad. The Uttar Pradesh ATS has arrested two maulavis in this connection. The duo have been accused of luring two youths and converting them to Islam. The ATS has started an investigation to get into the roots of the case. Those who are part of the conversion syndicate are likely to be arrested from across the country.

Inquilab (June 22) reports that an Uttar Pradesh ATS team has raided an Islamic Da'wah centre in Jamia Nagar in Delhi and arrested Umar Gautam and his colleague Mufti Jahangir Alam Qasmi. The two have been accused of converting people from other religions belonging to poor and economically weaker sections through the offer of money and marriage. Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Prashant Kumar told a press meeting in Lucknow that they not only get money from abroad for conversion, but are also linked to terrorist organisations like ISIS. Preliminary investigations suggest that they have converted more than 1,000 people through inducements. Prashant Kumar claimed that they have been getting information for quite some time that a few people had been converting boys

and girls studying in schools meant for differently abled, and belonging to poor and weaker sections of the society, through inducements. In this connection, the family members of a youth belonging to Kanpur informed police that their son, Aditya Gupta, who was staying in Noida, had disappeared from there under mysterious circumstances. Later, it was confirmed that he had been sent to south India and he had converted to Islam. In the same way, a youth named Manu Yadav had also been converted to Islam. Investigations later revealed that a gang was working behind such incidents. The same gang had lured one Vijayvargia, who visited a mandir owned by Narsimhanand Saraswati in Dasna, Ghaziabad. When Vijayvargia was questioned, it was revealed that one Dhanraj Singh Gautam, aka Umar Gautam, who stays in Jamia Nagar, has been preparing to convert him to Islam.

When police questioned Umar Gautam, it has been revealed that conversions were done on the directions of Jahangir Alam, the mufti of Jamia Nagar-located Islamic Da'wah Centre. The police also claimed that the accused used to provide money to newly converted people and the former have their links in foreign countries

from where they get huge funds for conversions. The newly converted people are given Muslim girls in marriage.

Inquilab has claimed that the family members of Umar Gautam and Jahangir Alam Qasmi refuted the claims of police and said they did not offer anything for conversion. Those who have converted had given an affidavit for the same in the courts.

Umar Gautam was born in a Rajput family in Fatehpur district in Uttar Pradesh in 1964. He claimed that he converted to Islam while studying in Nainital.

Inquilab (June 23) reports that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed that National Security Act shall be imposed against the two maulavis who have been arrested in connection with the conversion case. The two maulavis have also been sent to seven days' police custody so that the police could interrogate them. Last month, one Kashif and his brother-in-law Vijayvargia were arrested while trying to enter a temple in Dasna. When the two were questioned, it was revealed that Vijayvargia had converted to Islam after being pressured to do so by Umar Gautam. The chief minister has directed the officials to hold a high-level inquiry and seize the property of the accused.

What is interesting is that all Islamic scholars have come out in open support of the maulavis who were converting people through inducements.

Roznama Sahara (June 23) reports that Muslim leaders have alleged that the government has raked up the conversion issue for polarising voters ahead of the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. General Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Salim Mohammad Engineer said Gautam and Qasmi have been conducting their activities as per the rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The police have arrested them under fake charges in order to create an atmosphere of fear in the country. Chief of Muslim Majlis Mushawarat Naved Hamid said he knew both the accused personally. They have been trapped in a fake case. Umar Gautam became a Muslim after getting impressed with the teachings of Islam and as far as the issue of getting money from abroad is concerned, it is a baseless allegation. Leader of SDPI, Dr Taslim Ahmad Rahmani too said that it is a baseless allegation. The anti-conversion law passed by the Uttar Pradesh government doesn't allow anybody to be arrested under National Security

Act. This is illegal. General Secretary of All India Milli Council, Dr Mohammad Mansoor Alam said that as per Indian Constitution, every citizen has the right to accept any religion that he likes and in Uttar Pradesh they have been booked under fake charges with the aim of creating an atmosphere of fear. Chief of Jamiat Ulema, Mahmood Madani said that the two maulavis would be extended legal aid by Jamiat Ulema and the welfare of their families would also be taken care of. He said that their arrest is a violation of the Constitutional principles. This is also an example of the media trial being held against Muslim community across the country, he said. The Jamiat Ulema has sent a delegation to Lucknow to provide the two maulavis with legal help. He said that Jamiat Ulema has formed a team of lawyers to fight their case. The chief of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing, SIO, Mohammad Salman Ahmad alleged that the two have been targeted with the purpose of collecting the votes of Hindus in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

Inquilab (June 24) reports that the Uttar Pradesh ATS has raided an institution called Al Hassan in connection with the conversion case. Umar Gautam has his links with this institution. Secretary of the educational institution, Maulana Nazibul Hasan, has admitted that Umar Gautam is the vice-chairman of the institution. Maulana Kalbe Jawad has claimed that in Islam, nobody could be induced or threatened to become a Muslim. He claimed that the investigating agencies are not functioning in a fair manner. They are trapping people in fake cases, he alleged.

Inquilab (June 25) has claimed the two maulavis were trapped by the police in fake charges. There is no complaint of forceful conversion. The newspaper also claimed that under the 1,000-year-long rule of Muslims in India, the Hindus never faced any danger anywhere. Now all dangers are visible.

Inquilab (June 26) reports that the finance ministry has started an investigation into the money trail from foreign countries for conversion activities in India.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 23) in an editorial has condemned the arrest of Umar Gautam and Qasmi and said that what is most intriguing is there is no protest from Muslims across the country against their arrest. Those leaders of the community, running big organisations and taking huge donations, are all quiet. As if they all have nothing to do with this

issue. Sometimes, they must be thinking that this fire would not reach them. Umar Gautam issue is not that of a personal one. He has been doing his activities as per the rights given under Article 25 of the Constitution. If he has done any crime, then there should be an open investigation against him. However, the way the media trial is being conducted against him and the Uttar Pradesh government's efforts to trap him indicate that the matter is something else. Actually, they want to heat up the atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the assembly polls. They want a polarisation on Hindu-Muslim issue and want to create riots. To stop this, we need to unite and raise our voice. We need to unite and take political and legal steps. Otherwise, everybody would get trapped one after the other.

That time there won't be anybody to raise the voice. Even now there is an opportunity for the community organisations to take up the issue seriously and come together on one platform and question it both at political level and in courts. Otherwise, a time would come when RSS ruled country would not permit it.

In its editorial on June 24, the same newspaper has said that the government has totally failed to tackle the Corona pandemic. Hence it has once again started playing the dangerous politics of religious wrangling. The purpose of arresting the two for allegedly converting Hindus into Muslims is to unite Hindu voters. Earlier, a preacher, Dr Zakir Naik, was also cornered like this and he fled to foreign countries to take refuge. ■

Whose hand is behind Darbhanga blast?



The National Investigation Agency has taken into custody five persons in connection with the bomb blast that took place at Darbhanga Junction and they are suspected to be linked to Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. Among them, three were nabbed from Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh. The other two were taken into custody from Hyderabad. The police and intelligence agencies are trying to unearth the roots of this terrorist organisation in various parts of the country.

Inquilab (June 22) reports that the Bihar police could not find the accused after the bomb explosion in Darbhanga Junction and hence the case was transferred to National Investigation Agency. Following the explosion, security was tightened in the entire town and anti-terrorist

forces were deployed in various points. Oncoming trains were searched properly and crowded places were kept under surveillance. People moving around in suspicious manner were stopped and checked. However, people said that if these security steps had been taken earlier, the explosion would not have happened at all. The police commissioner made surprise visits to various places and five police officers were suspended for dereliction of duty. Five suspected people were being sought and several places were raided in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana following the blast at Darbhanga Junction railway station. However, nobody has been arrested so far.

Earlier, four suspicious-looking people alighted from a taxi outside Secunderabad railway station and placed some explosive substances inside the railway station. As per information, five explosions took place within a week in Darbhanga. While one explosion took place in railway station, the second one took place in a parcel sent from Telangana (Secunderabad). It is being said that the third explosion was linked to Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh. It is being said that all these parcels were sent with fake names.



Inquilab (June 26) reports that the explosions that took place in Darbhanga were linked to Kairana town in Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh. In this connection, the National Investigation Agency has taken four persons into custody. They include one father-son duo. The ATS has taken into custody one Haji Salim and his son Shah Pervez, both residents of Kairana town, and another person, Kafil. The father and son were arrested during a raid at their house. Kafil was arrested from another locality. Since the matter is a sensitive one, the security agencies have refused to divulge more details.

According to sources, an explosion took place in a parcel at Darbhanga railway station in Bihar on June 17. It is being said that the parcel was booked from Secunderabad railway station in Telangana and was received at Darbhanga

railway station by a man named Mohammad Sufiyan. It is being said that some new chemicals had been used for the explosion. In 2005 also Haji Salim was arrested in West Bengal. The police is investigating under what circumstances he was arrested that time.

Dainik Hindustan (July 3) reports that the probe into the Darbhanga bomb explosion gathered pace after the case was taken over by National Investigation Agency. The district and sessions court has given five days' transit remand of both the accused, Haji Salim and Kafil. It is being said that apart from the duo, two more suspected persons have been arrested from Hyderabad and their interrogation is on. The NIA got their one week custody for interrogation. The two suspected persons who were arrested in Hyderabad have been identified as Imran and Nazir. ■

Row over cutting off beard

Newspapers have carried reports about a few youths cutting off the beard of an elderly man in Loni in Ghaziabad. A video showing him being thrashed went viral on social media, triggering a debate on the issue. As per the investigation report of police, the video was circulated by a leader of Samajwadi Party with the intention of bringing a bad name to Hindu organisations. In this connection, Ghaziabad police arrested Ummad Pahalwan and his five accomplices for circulating the video. Also, National Security Act has been invoked against Ummad Pahalwan for inciting communal passion in the country.

Inquilab (June 15) in a news published on its front page claimed that in Loni area in Ghaziabad an elderly man named Abdul Samad was not only beaten up, but his beard was also cut. It was also claimed that the attackers

shouted 'Jai Shriram' even as they rained blows on him. Abdul Samad, a resident of Bulandshahr, was on his way to a village in Loni in an auto. The allegation is that a few accomplices of the auto driver waylaid him and took him to a deserted place where they thrashed him and cut off his beard. The incident infuriated Muslims. According to Madanpal, SHO, Loni police station, the victim had filed an FIR against a few unidentified persons earlier on June 7. Later the police conducted a thorough investigation and found that the entire story of Abdul Samad is fake. The police said that this man used to sell "Taazib" (amulets worn to ward off evil) to people. However, when one of the amulets that he sold did not have the desired effect, some people came and thrashed him. Those who attacked him included both Hindus



and Muslims. Many people shared the video of him being beaten up, resulting in tension among Muslim community.

Inquilab (June 19) reports that the police have registered an FIR against 100 people including a leader of Samajwadi Party, Umed Pahalwan on charges of holding a press conference at the house of elderly man Abdul Samad at Anupshahar. At the press conference, it was claimed that the statement issued by police in the case was totally false. Umed Pahalwan also held a Facebook Live outside his residence and raised many questions on police starting from the cutting of beard of Abdul Samad. The police, however, claimed that the people who crowded at the spot neither had masks nor did they follow social distancing norms. The police have kept a watch at the residence of Abdul Samad. The police also claimed that Abdul Samad and his son Bablu have left their house for some unidentified place.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 17) reports that following an inquiry into the beating up of Abdul Samad Saifi, the police have clearly said that there was no religious or communal angle behind the incident. The beating took place over amulets and action is being taken on the incident. However, a statement of Abdul Samad's son Bablu Saifi has come to the fore in which he chose to put the onus on police. Bablu has claimed that those who attacked his father were not known to him and that he was attacked just because he was a Muslim. He also said that the story of amulets was false. My father does not give any amulets, he said. The police have written whatever came to their mind and the accused were not even identified by my father, he said. He also asked why the youths seen in the video were not arrested so far.

A few days ago a video went viral in which an elderly man, Abdul Samad, was seen

being brutally thrashed by a few youths and his beard was also cut using scissors. Abdul Samad claimed that a few people had kidnapped him and forced him to chant Jai Shriram and Vande Mataram and his beard was also cut. The police said that he had given amulets to some people but those were not effective. Hence they got infuriated and thrashed him. The police also claimed that the video was deliberately made viral by a Samajwadi Party leader called Umed Pahalwan so that he wanted to utilise the issue in the forthcoming elections.

Hamara Samaj (June 20) reports that the police have arrested 11 people in this connection. The Ghaziabad police also arrested Umed Pahalwan from Delhi, who made a Facebook Live and made headlines out of the issue. He was hiding there. It is being said that when the police started unravelling the case, Abdul Samad, his two sons and Umed Pahalwan disappeared from their houses, confirming the suspicion of police. However, police have been claiming from first day itself that there was no communal angle to the incident. But Abdul Samad and his family members were continuously misleading the police. Loni police has registered an FIR against Umed Pahalwan and started a search for him. However, he soon absconded. Later, the police identified his mobile location and arrested him from Delhi. Ghaziabad SSP Amit Pathak said his interrogation is on. The police have so far arrested 10 people including Umed Pahalwan, Tajuddhin, Firoz Mewati, Aalam and Jawed in this connection.

Inquilab (June 16) has claimed that there were two different versions of the incident. The Loni circle officer has said that those who have been arrested include people from both the religions. Former MLA Haji Zakir Ali said the allegation of being forced to chant Jai Shriram is totally false. Loni MLA Nand Kishore Gurjar

claimed that some mischievous elements tried to create a Hindu-Muslim riot by harping on the issue, but the police foiled any such attempt. He said the police unravelled the truth and stopped the situation from turning serious.

Inquilab (June 17) reports that the Uttar Pradesh police have filed an FIR against nine persons including Twitter in connection with the incident. Journalist Rana Ayyub admitted that she retweeted a tweet on the incident without verifying it. Those against whom an FIR was registered included some senior journalists and political activists.

Inquilab (June 17), while condemning the incident, said in an editorial that the case filed against social activists and journalists by police is totally wrong. The newspaper said it is not understandable why such a case was filed against journalists and ordinary people for tweeting or retweeting the video. The newspaper alleged that the police are deliberately creating an atmosphere where Muslims do not dare to raise their voice if an excess is committed against them.

Inquilab (June 18) has published a news in which the Editors Guild has strongly criticised the case filed against journalists and demanded that it should be withdrawn. The Guild stated that the police are deliberately

trying to create an atmosphere of fear in the country so that if such incidents happen in future, then the journalists should not dare to raise the issue.

Siasat (June 16) in its editorial states that Assembly elections are scheduled to take place in the largest state of Uttar Pradesh next year. As per current indications, it would not be possible for BJP to come back to power. Hence it is necessary to save the BJP in Uttar Pradesh in 2022 in order to help the Modi government save through during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP high command has started preparing for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Along with this, an effort to fuel communalism has also been started. Whether it is on social media or in Godi media, Muslims are targeted in both the spaces in order to create a wave of hate so that BJP rides back to power. A few days ago, an elderly Muslim man was targeted in Ghaziabad and he was also beaten up. He was also forced to chant Jai Shriram slogan. It is not such a small incident that one could ignore it. Rather, it is part of a well-planned strategy. After getting defeated in West Bengal, the BJP wants to win in Uttar Pradesh at any cost. Hence in future Ghaziabad kind of incidents will be repeated. ■

Owaisi's party to contest UP and Delhi elections



Inquilab (June 28) reports that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen has announced its decision to contest the Uttar Pradesh and Delhi Assembly elections. Asaduddin Owaisi said his party would form an alliance with Suhaldev

Bharatiya Samaj Party headed by Om Prakash Rajbhar and a few other small parties under the banner of Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha to contest the elections in UP. Tweeting for the first time in Hindi, Owaisi announced that his party would put up candidates in 100 seats in Uttar Pradesh. In this context, applications have also been invited from prospective candidates.

Siasat (June 28) reports that Ittehadul Muslimeen had announced its decision to contest the Assembly elections in Delhi after the polls in UP. Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel has been made the prabhari of Majlis party in Delhi. Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Jaleel strongly criticised Aam Admi Party and BJP and said that political parties in the country have done injustice to Muslims. Hence, on the request of Muslims of Delhi, Majlis has decided to contest elections in Delhi. It will start with

Municipal Corporation elections under the leadership of Majlis party Delhi president Kalim ul Hafiz and Majlis would emerge as a ray of hope for the desperate public of Delhi. He said the promises made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to the people of Delhi before being elected to power are yet to be fulfilled. Fed up with the family politics of Congress and communal policies of BJP, the people of Delhi have trusted their faith on Aam Admi Party. But the Aam Admi Party betrayed the trust of the people. The party had promised to give Delhi the status of a full state. However, whatever power the voters of Delhi had got, that was also lost and the party did not oppose it as well. The

Kejriwal government has failed to reduce unemployment and also failed to provide security to the public. The minorities are openly harassed and the Aam Admi Party has no interest in stopping them.

In the states where the Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen tried its luck, it did not get any major success. However, out of the 20 candidates it fielded in the Bihar Assembly elections, five emerged victorious. In West Bengal, however, it could not open account. In Gujarat, it managed to get seven seats in one municipal corporation. In Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, its performance was disappointing. ■

Assam to implement population control policy



Inquilab (June 20) reports that the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, said his government would slowly implement a population control policy and those with more than two kids would not be able to receive the benefits of social welfare programmes of the government. He said the state government has decided to rein in the increasing population through certain schemes. However, this will not be applicable to all government schemes. We will not make the two-child norm applicable for school admissions and for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he said.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 20) in this connection stated that as soon as the new BJP chief minister took charge, he has committed himself to stopping the increasing population of Muslims. He also stressed on the fact that in

order to reduce poverty among minorities it is necessary for them to adopt family planning. If the population increases, there won't be enough space to accommodate all and land grabbing would also begin. However, Muslim organisations in Assam and Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF strongly criticised his statement and said the chief minister, instead of trying to find solutions to the problems of Muslims, is deliberately creating an atmosphere of hate against them. The main reason for population explosion is poverty and if any policy is brought in the Assembly, then there could be a debate on it, he said.

Etemaad (June 30) in its editorial criticised the statement of the Assam chief minister and said that the issue of Muslim population is raked upon time and again just to scare people and this ploy still continues. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has once again issued a controversial statement on the population of Muslims in Assam. This is his second statement on the issue within a week. He said that in the past one decade, Muslim population in the state increased by 20% and to stop this increasing population, all kinds of steps would be taken. The statement he made targeting Muslims in the name of population explosion exposes his mentality and it also reveals his goal. He said that if the population explosion continues in the current mode, then one day even Kamakhya temple would also be

captured. Hence a two-child policy is being adopted to control the population. This kind of law is already in place for contesting panchayat elections and to apply for state government jobs. This is not the first time he has issued such a statement. Earlier also, he had issued similar statements. At one level, his statement is a challenge for Muslims. Actually, since the BJP has failed to harass Muslims in Assam in the name of NRC, it has started this new campaign to target Muslims in the name of population. The question now is whether there is any real increase in the Muslim population in Assam? In this connection, there are five reports of NFHS (National Family Health Survey) as per which the birth rate of children is same as that of the national average. In 2005-06, when the national level birth rate was 2.5%, it was 2.4% in Assam. As per the latest report, it has come down to 1.87%. It is clear that the birth rate in Assam is lower than that of the national level. In the case of birth rate of Muslims, it has also come down further. But we don't know why BJP and RSS leaders are constantly issuing statements on the increasing population of Muslims. The Sangh Parivar leaders are deliberately targeting

Muslims. A few Sangh leaders are claiming that if the increasing Muslim population is not curbed and if there is no substantial increase in Hindu population, then the country would go into the hands of Muslims. The question here is what is the truth about the increasing Muslim population? Why these kinds of statements are issued and an atmosphere of hate and fear is created against the Muslims of the country? However, if one takes a look at the statistics of the 2011 Census, one would realise that the population rate has come down in the country. Secondly, the Muslim population is considered as a threat to the country. But no debate is held on the continuous injustice being done to Muslims with regard to their education and other issues. As per the 2011 Census, the literacy rate among Hindus is 77% while the literacy rate among Muslims is 61%. But no debate is held on this. Only the issue of Muslim population is raised. Those having a secular point of view know the fact why the Sangh Parivar targets Muslims. Its sole aim is to create hatred among the public against Muslims so that an anti-Muslim atmosphere could be created in the country.

Ban on beef and dairy lifted in Lakshadweep

Mumbai Urdu News (June 22) reports that the Lakshadweep administration received a major setback when the Kerala High Court declared its two controversial decisions as illegal. The administration had earlier decided not to give beef and chicken as part of mid-day meals in schools and had decided to close down all dairy farms in the islands. When the court sought the reason for this step from the administration, it replied that there was no facility to store meat in the islands and the dairy farms were not profitable. Hence these were closed down. The court said it would not be appropriate to change the eating habits of people as they have been used to it for years. The court asked why such an order was issued.

Two months ago, Lakshadweep administrator Praful Khoda Patel had banned slaughter of animals without a certificate and also sale and purchase of beef and beef products. Along with this, a direction was also issued not to give non-vegetarian mid-day meals to school children. This was questioned in

Kerala high court by a lawyer, Ajmal Ahmad, claiming that the order issued by the administrator is a violation of the fundamental rights. The high court then sought a clarification from the administration on the matter.

There were several protests against various decisions taken by the administration and people also courted arrest over them. A division bench comprising Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly has stayed the decision of the administration to close down dairy farms. Prior to it, the administration had withdrawn its decision on land acquisition. However, it has not withdrawn its decision to allow sale of liquor on the islands and also imposed a ban on people having more than two children from contesting panchayat elections.

Etemaad (June 30) reports that the Lakshadweep administration had urged the Central government to issue an ordinance to bring the islands within the legal jurisdiction of Karnataka high court instead of Kerala high court.

Taliban announces Islamic rule in Afghanistan



Roznama Sahara (June 21) reports that the Taliban has announced that it would establish Islamic rule in Afghanistan, where, along with Islamic principles, there would be provision for women to have certain rights. Knowledgeable sources indicate that the talks between the US and Taliban, in the wake of the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country, has failed. According to Arab News, India's foreign affairs minister S Jaishankar has held two secret meetings with the representatives of Taliban in Doha. It is difficult to say what transpired between the two sides at the meetings. However, the general guess is that the talks were centred on the possible implications of Taliban rule in Afghanistan on India.

Etemaad (June 21) reports that the deputy chief of Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, has claimed that the solution to all problems being faced by the citizens of Afghanistan could be found only after the establishment of Islamic rule in the country. He said that however, they are ready to give some powers to women, which would be in accordance with Shariah. But a large number of Islamic scholars are opposed to it. He said they decided to join peace talks because they wanted peace to prevail in Afghanistan. We also want to give a guarantee to all Afghan citizens that whatever rights are available to them under

Islamic Shariah, those will be implemented sincerely whether one is a man or a woman.

A fierce war is currently on between government forces and Taliban in different parts of Afghanistan. Taliban has claimed that they are in control of a major portion of the country and they have killed more than 1,000 Afghan soldiers this month alone and took control of a number of many strategic roads. The Afghan government has not made any comments on Taliban's decision to impose Islamic rule in the country. However, Afghanistan President has said he was ready to resign and hold fresh elections to the post of the President.

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 20) reports that US defence secretary Lloyd Austin, while addressing the members of parliament, said it is almost sure that once US soldiers and other foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan, Taliban would establish its absolute rule in that country within two years. It can happen earlier also. But lot of things depend on Afghanistan government on how they run the administration. If the Afghanistan government fails or the Afghan army gets weakened, then Taliban would surely take control of the country and jihadi groups like Al Qaida and Islamic State would be back in action once again, resulting in instability in the region. He said it is important for US to keep a tight pressure on Al Qaida and Islamic State. According to intelligence sources,

the earlier assumption of Taliban and Islamic State cutting off their ties has been proved baseless. The fact is that the cooperation between the two is increasing day-by-day. The US defence department has told MPs that if Al Qaida and other Islamic terrorist organisations gain strength in Afghanistan, the US would have no other option but to launch airstrikes from its

own bases in the country or from other bases in West Asia.

According to a report, compared to last year, there is a 30% increase in attacks launched by Taliban this year. What is required is to strengthen the Afghan Army so that Taliban would not even dare to think of taking control of the country.

20 Afghan commandos killed by Taliban

Etemaad (June 17) reports that the Taliban has killed 20 Afghan government commandos in Faryab province. The commandos were sent to free the region from the clutches of Taliban. A government spokesperson has said that the government forces have captured Daulatabad town. The Taliban has destroyed two military tanks whereas the government spokesperson said more than 100 Taliban members were killed. Government sources have confirmed that intense fighting is on between the government forces and the Taliban in more than 80 districts of the country in which more than 100 government soldiers and 250 Taliban were killed so far. The Taliban has claimed that it has captured 30 new districts recently and the government forces have fled from the field. In Ghazni, a Taliban spokesperson said the US thought that it would be able to eliminate Taliban without a trace from Afghanistan. But Taliban has eliminated US soldiers and now they are fleeing from Afghanistan. Now an Islamic rule would be established in this country. He said that once the US soldiers leave, the government soldiers in Afghanistan would not be able to stand against us even for a week.

When the masters have ran away, how their slaves would be able to fight with us, he asked.

Roznama Sahara (June 21) reports that after seeing the increasing domination of Taliban in Afghanistan, country's President Ashraf Ghani has removed the Army chief, defence minister and home minister from their posts. The President said that the change became necessary due to the heightened war with Taliban. He admitted that out of the 34 provinces, Taliban has got an edge in 28 provinces. Hence lot of changes have been made in the security system of the country. Defence minister Asadullah Khalid has been removed and Bismillah Khan Mohammadi has been appointed in his position. Similarly, interior minister Hayatullah Hayat has been sacked and General Abdul Sattar Mirzakwal has been appointed as the new interior minister. The new defence minister has served as the Army chief during the regime of President Hamid Karzai and he has got a lengthy career with military campaigns. The President also removed Army chief General Yasin Zia and appointed Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai as the new chief.

Muslims attacked again in Myanmar

Mumbai Urdu News (June 29) reports that a human rights organisation based in Britain has claimed that the military has once again launched an attack on the minority Muslims in Myanmar and many masjids have been set ablaze. Burma Human Rights Network has claimed that the Army has set ablaze a masjid in Rangoon and after that violence erupted against Muslims and Christians across Myanmar. The group has demanded that the world should take note of the deteriorating situation in Myanmar and take urgent steps to stop the violence. In the past four months, at least 1,000 people were



shot dead by the military in Myanmar. Hence it is important for all other nations in the world to stop the supply of arms and ammunition as well as military equipment and also impose a

financial sanction on Myanmar. A Catholic church was also attacked because many refugees were staying in it. Four persons were killed in

this attack. On April 12, the military arrested an imam of a masjid in Rangoon and hanged him in public. ■

Blast near the house of Hafiz Saeed



Siasat (June 24) reports that at least four persons were killed in a bomb explosion that took place in Johar Town in Lahore. The house of Jamat-ud Dawa chief, Hafiz Saeed, is located next to the place where the explosion took place. Inspector general of police, Lahore, Inam Gani said they suspect the hands of international agents in the explosion. Hafiz Saeed is a ‘most wanted terrorist’ in the eyes of India. In an answer to a question, he said foreign elements never admit to their role in such attacks. He, however, said the real target was Hafiz Saeed.

But since there was a huge deployment of police at all the four sides of his house, the attackers could not reach Hafiz Saeed. They could not take the car carrying the explosives right up to the house of Saeed. He said had there been no police picket, Hafiz Saeed would have become the target of this attack. He also admitted that at least 25 people were injured and several buildings were destroyed in the attack. He said Pakistan does not get terrified due to such attacks and knows how to give a befitting reply to it. According to sources in Jinnah hospital, the condition of four injured were very worrying. The injured included men, women and children. The Pakistan government has formed a five-member committee to probe the incident which would submit its report to the interior ministry. Johar Town new housing colony is counted among the posh localities of Lahore city. Hafiz Saeed stays in a huge bungalow in the colony and the Pakistan government has provided him tight security. ■

Lockdown in Bangladesh due to Corona

Inquilab (June 28) reports that due to the fresh wave of Corona pandemic, a nationwide lockdown has been announced in Bangladesh for an indefinite period. Soon, a large number of labourers along with their families started leaving for their native villages from the capital city of Dhaka, mostly on foot. Due to the lockdown, almost all activities have come to a halt. According to government sources, at least 6,000 fresh cases are reported each day and the death toll per day has reached 200. The Bangladesh government has imposed restrictions on shops, markets and traffic movements and also directed people to remain indoors at their houses. Till now, the



government has not imposed any restrictions on boats in rivers. Hence some people are using boats to reach their homes. Recently, the number of deaths due to Corona in Bangladesh crossed 14,000. Earlier, on April 19, the highest toll of 112 deaths due to Corona was recorded in a single day. The health ministry has confirmed that the Delta variant of Corona virus is spreading fast in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government has sealed all its borders so that no foreigner enters Bangladesh. The government has also confirmed that a large number of Delta variant cases have been noticed in the region close to Indian border. ■

Ebrahim Raisi elected the eighth President of Iran



Avadhnama (June 20) reports that the Iranian government TV has announced the victory of candidate Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi in the Presidential elections. As per the declaration, Raisi got 62% votes, which means he got a total of 81 lakh votes. In the elections, 5.9 crore people were eligible to vote, out of which 2.8 crore people exercised their franchise. Raisi has been described as a ‘killer’ as he was a prosecution committee member responsible for the execution of thousands of political prisoners in Iran in 1988, due to which the US has banned him from entering the country. The 60-year-old Raisi has held several important positions in Iran after the Islamic Revolution. At the age of 20, he was appointed the prosecutor of Karaj and later on as the prosecutor of Hamadan province. In 1989, he became the chief prosecutor in Teheran and from 2004, he became the First Deputy Chief Justice of Iran. While the outgoing President, Hassan Rouhani, has been considered as a liberal, Raisi is considered as a hardliner. Raisi will take over as the President in August. Earlier, the 12-member Guardian Council in Iran had restrained the liberals from participating in the elections and stopped former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from contesting the elections. Later Mahmoud said he would not participate in the elections. He said he did not want to be a partner in crime. He said that Raisi had played a role in killing Iranians. However, the newly

elected President, in an interview to newspapers, said he would make efforts to find solutions to problems and would provide people with the prospects of a bright future.

Siasat (June 19) reports that the Guardian Council has banned majority of aspiring candidates from contesting the polls and allowed only four candidates to stand in the elections. Compared to the 2017 elections, only a few people participated in the elections. Raisi claims to be a descendent of Prophet Mohammad.

Etemaad (June 19) reports that the polling for the presidential elections progressed very slowly. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also exercised his franchise. He appealed to the Iranians to participate in the elections as it is their solemn duty. According to the Election Commission of Iran, there are a total of 5.9 crore voters in the country and 67,000 polling centres were set up across the country. Helicopters were used to deliver ballot boxes to remote areas and countryside. This time, former President Hassan Rouhani did not participate in the elections. In the latest Presidential elections, 40% of the voters exercised their franchise where as in the 2020 Parliamentary elections, over 57% exercised their franchise. While 600 people had filed their nominations to participate in the Presidential elections, only seven got permission to contest

the elections. Their number finally got reduced to four.

Etemaad (June 20) reports that majority of the voters had no interest in participating in the Presidential elections. Hence majority of the polling centres had worn a deserted look. A 36-year-old unemployed resident of Teheran, Ali Hasani said whoever gets elected, they always forget the promises made to the people. There was hardly any crowd in majority of the polling centres. The spokesperson of National Council for Resistance in Iran, an opposition political organisation of Iran, said in London that as per the report he got from 220 cities in 31 regions, the people of Iran have boycotted the fraudulent elections. According to Nasreen, a 31-year-old woman accountant in Teheran, she did not like even a single candidate and hence did not participate in the voting process. Another voter, 23-year-old Rozin Ahmad, said that due to financial crisis, unemployment and inflation are increasing rapidly and no political leader is worried about the problems being faced by the people. According to Arab News, the hands of the newly elected president are soaked in the blood of innocent people.

Inquilab (June 21) reports that the foreign affairs minister of Israel has described the newly elected president of Iran as an 'extremist' whose hands are drenched in the blood of thousands of innocent Iranians. Meanwhile, Raisi told government radio that he would fulfil all the promises he had given to

Iranians and would provide a corruption-free revolutionary and active administration to the people of the country.

Inquilab (June 22) reports that the general secretary of All India Shia Samaj, Maulana Zafrul Hasan has claimed that due to the election of Ebrahim Raisi as President of Iran, there would be a new beginning in the relationship between India and Iran.

Inquilab (June 28) expressed hope that the new President of Iran would overcome the negative publicity given to him by Western media. The newspaper said that last time also Raisi had contested against Hassan Rouhani but could not win. The new President's wife, Jamileh Alamolhoda, is among world's renowned scholars.

The newspaper said that Ebrahim Raisi had made it clear in his proposed foreign policy that he would make efforts for a friendly relationship with all countries barring Israel and would give more importance to Eastern part of the world rather than Western world. The election of Raisi as the President sent shockwaves across Israel, US and the Western countries, because he is described as an extremist and terrorist. We are happy that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warmly greeted the newly elected President of Iran and congratulated him on his success. The newspaper expressed hope that there would be a new beginning in the relationship between India and Iran.

Israel violates ceasefire in Jerusalem

Roznama Sahara (June 17) reports that Israel violated its ceasefire agreement with Palestine and attacked Palestinian territory two times in the recent past. Fire erupted in at least 20 places following Israeli bombardment. A Hamas spokesperson said that Israel is deliberately flaring up tensions but they would give them a befitting reply. Before the attacks, thousands of Jews carrying Israeli flags gathered at Damask gate in Jerusalem city and marched towards Al Aqsa mosque. The Israeli government has given them a free hand in holding the march. Due to this, clashes erupted



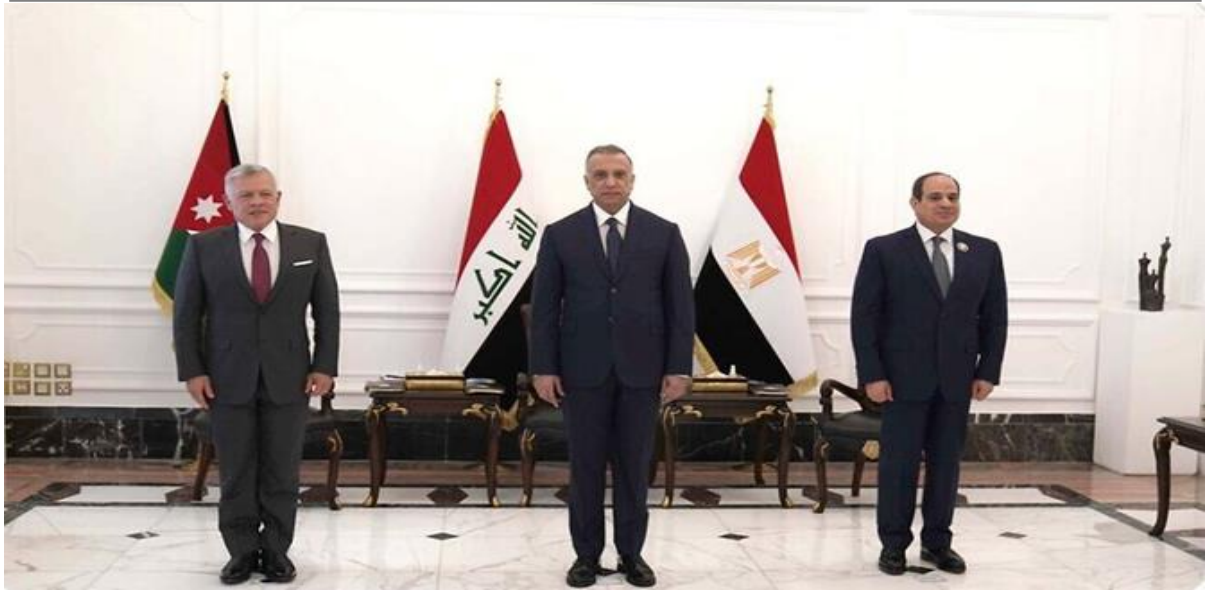
between Palestinians and Jews, resulting in the death of 17 people. Secondly, the Israeli government alleged that Hamas is deliberately sparking violence and hence it had to take action against them in Gaza Strip. The Israeli military has claimed that it had to open fire in self-defence after a few Arab women attacked them, resulting in the death of two Palestinian women.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 19) reports that Israeli planes continued to target Gaza for the second day. The Israeli military has fired rubber bullets at Muslims who reached Al Aqsa mosque for Juma namaz in which many faithful got injured. The Israeli military said they were

forced to take action against them who were spreading violence. They said they targeted only the buildings where Hamas fighters were hiding. Hamas spokesperson Fauzi Berhom said the new government in Israel is deliberately violating the ceasefire agreement. The Israeli government is furious. He said that the people of Palestine would not shy away from taking any step to protect its holy places.

Hamara Samaj (June 16) reports that Egypt has threatened Israel not to violate ceasefire agreement, and said otherwise there would be serious consequences. Recently, Jewish hardliners were given permission to take out a march to Al Aqsa mosque and it can once again flare up tensions resulting in war. ■

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq form alliance



Etemaad (June 29) reports that Egyptian President Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, Jordan King Abdullah and Prime Minister of Iraq, Mustafa al-Khatimi recently held a high-level talks in Baghdad during which discussions were held on regional security, economic cooperation, investments and other issues plaguing West Asia. It was the first time in the past 30 years an Egyptian President paid an official visit to Iraq. In 1980, when the then Iraq President Saddam Hussein attacked Kuwait, Egypt cut off its ties with Iraq. However, in the past few years, the relationship between the two countries improved a lot.

Secondly, for the King of Jordan too it was his first visit to Baghdad in the past 10 years. Even now, Iraq is heavily dependent on Iran for adequate supply of gas and electricity. During the talks, Egypt expressed concern over Ethiopia starting construction of its dam project and said it is likely to face a water supply crisis due to the project. Following the meeting, the three countries agreed to share intelligence to

boost security, curb terrorism and stop smuggling of narcotics and cybercrime. It is being said that US is behind the initiative for the talks as it wants to stop the increasing influence of Iran in the region by supporting the alliances of other Arab countries.

Dainik Inquilab (June 24) reports that the US government has shut down 33 websites being run by Iranian Islamic Radio and Television Union and three other websites related to Kata'ib Hezbollah. The US has declared it as a terrorist organisation. Earlier too, the US had imposed restrictions on 100 websites claiming that they were violating US laws and spreading negative information about the US. This apart, the US also shut down a website related to Houthi rebels in Yemen and stopped the broadcast of a television channel being operated from Teheran in Arabic. The legal department of US has admitted that it had taken these actions to stop the Iranian propaganda against US. ■

12 leaders of Muslim Brotherhood sentenced to death in Egypt

Roznama Sahara (June 16) reports that the Supreme Court in Egypt has upheld the death penalty awarded to 12 senior leaders of former ruling party, Muslim Brotherhood. Now, the convicted people cannot appeal against this verdict in any court. These leaders will be sent to gallows as soon as Egyptian President signs their death warrant. The leaders of Muslim Brotherhood who have been awarded death penalty include Mufti Abdul Rahman Al-Bar, former MP Mohamed al-Beltagy and former minister Osama Yasin. Earlier also in September 2018 an Egyptian court had awarded death sentence to 75 senior leaders of Muslim Brotherhood. This apart, 600 others were also given death penalty. Later, 44 among them appealed against their death penalty, out of which the conviction of 31 were converted to life imprisonment while the death sentence of 12 were confirmed. The first democratically elected president of Egypt, Mohamed Mursi, died in jail in 2019, while another prominent leader Essam

al-Arian passed away while undergoing imprisonment last year. This year, the Egyptian government has so far hanged 51 leaders of Muslim Brotherhood. Amnesty International has criticised Egypt government's policy of indiscriminate hanging of its opponents and demanded that Egypt stop awarding capital punishment.

Inquilab (June 26) reports that Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has condemned Egypt government's policy of hanging the leaders of Muslim Brotherhood and said the government there has been deliberately registering fake cases against opposition leaders in the courts and hanging them. Muslim Brotherhood is an extremist Islamic organisation and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind is also linked to this same organisation. Even the Bangladesh government has declared Jamaat-e-Islami as a banned organisation and more than two dozen leaders of the organisation have been awarded death penalty.

US airstrikes in Syria and Iraq

Siasat (June 29) reports that a number of people were killed after US air force resorted to heavy bombardment on outposts in Syrian-Iraq border where Iran-supported rebels have been active. Spokesperson of an Iraqi human rights organisation said the US targeted the outposts of Shia militants active in Syria. The new US President has taken this step in order to protect the Americans stationed in Iraq. A government spokesperson in Pentagon confirmed that the US planes had targeted the outposts of Shia rebels and their arms godowns in at least two places in Syria and one place in Iraq. These rebel elements are supplied arms and ammunition by Iran. These terrorist organisations include jihadi organisations



named Hezbollah and Sayyid Al-Shuhada. A US military spokesperson said these attacks were aimed at protecting the US interests in the region.

Minorities Commission members nominated in UP



Inqilab (June 26) reports that the Uttar Pradesh government has nominated Ashfaq Saifi, a leader from Agra, as the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission. The commission has been constituted for three years and it has nine members. Former chairperson of the commission, Tanvir Usmani had passed away on April 29, 2019. The post of the chairman has been lying vacant since then. Chief secretary Ravindra Naik has released a list

of the new members. Apart from the chairman, the other members are Sardar Parminder Singh, BJP minorities morcha president Haider Abbas Chand, Suresh Jain Rituraj from Meerut, Navendu Singh from Shahjahanpur, Salman Afroz Khan from Aligarh, Bakshish Ahmad Warsi from Gorakhpur, Romana Siddiqui from Lucknow and Anita Jain. Among them Suresh Jain, Bakshish Ahmad Warsi and Romana Siddiqui are re-nominated members. ■

Managing committee constituted at the oldest dargah in Delhi

Inqilab (June 27) reports that a new managing committee has been formed at Delhi's oldest dargah, Hazrat Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki. The chairman of the committee is Razia Sultana. While the general secretary is Hafiz Mahfooz Mohammad, the treasurer is Nisad Ahmad. A few days ago, former chairperson of the managing committee, Parveen Siddiqui, had submitted resignation. It is being said that the former chairperson of Waqf Board, Chaudhary Matin Ahmad, who formed the new committee at the dargah, had made Mohammad Umar Faridi as the chairman. After his death, Rana

Parveen Siddiqui has been discharging the responsibility of the chairman. In the elections, out of the 16 members of the managing committee, 11 were present. Member of the Waqf board, Jamal Akhtar, said they constituted a new committee because they were not satisfied with the management of the dargah. He said they sought the accounts of the dargah from the former manager but it was not given. He said that in order to operate the accounts of dargah in the bank, three members have been nominated. They are Razia Sultana, Hafiz Mahfooz and Nisad Ahmad. ■

Award for Jalaluddin Umri



Inquilab (June 21) reports that renowned Muslim thinker and former Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Maulana Jalaluddin Umri has been

awarded the 14th Shah Waliullah Award by Institute of Objective Studies for his literary works and Islamic services. He received a cheque for Rs one lakh, memento and a shawl. The function was held online. On this occasion, chief of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Mohammad Rabey Hasani Nadwi said the service done for Islam by Maulana Umri makes him truly deserving for this award. Maulana Umri said he has a special interest in spreading Islam's teachings. This is because the publicity and dissemination of Islam is an important order given in Quran. Senior journalist Suhail Anjum gave a brief description about Maulana Umri.

Shahi imam's family receives Corona vaccine jab



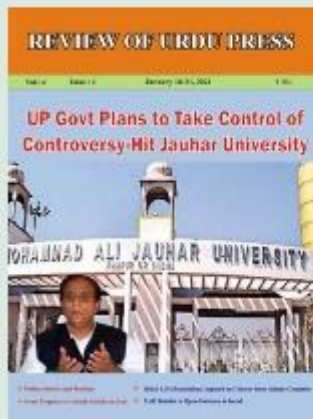
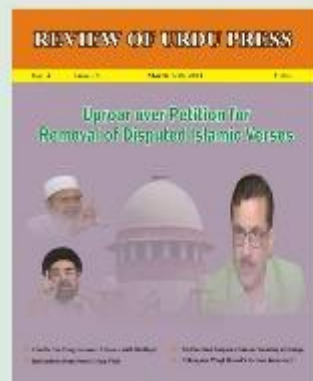
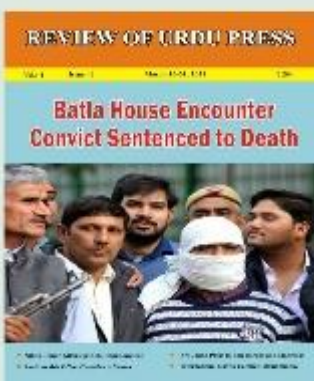
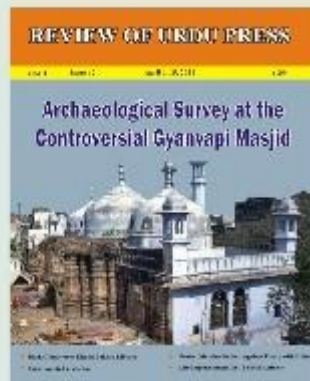
Inquilab (June 30) reports that Shahi imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari, his son Naib Shahi imam Syed Shaban Bukhari and the entire family visited Apollo Hospital and took Corona vaccine jab. He appealed to Muslims not to listen to rumours and take vaccines to protect oneself from the pandemic. Inquilab newspaper, in an effort to create awareness among Muslims, launched a special campaign and carried photos of Muslims taking vaccine jabs.

Tomb built on railway platform closed



Inquilab (June 16) reports that a tomb built on Hardoi railway station nearly hundred years ago has been closed for the visitors. This tomb was there on the platform right from the beginning. Hence, whenever an attempt was made to remove it from the platform, the devotees used

to protest and the officials used to step back. Now, the administration has built a wall on all its four sides and closed it for people. The tomb is famous as Zinda Peer and devotees used to offer prayers here for hundreds of years and lit agarbattis.



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