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Statement of RSS Chief on Citizenship Act



- Debate over Ending Sedition Law
- Dictatorship in Tunisia
- Taliban Kill 100 Citizens in Afghanistan
- Gaudan by Muslim Rashtriya Manch

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Summary

Releasing a book on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Registration of Citizens (NRC) in Guwahati, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, said all religions in Bharat enjoyed freedom of worship right from the beginning. We see the God in one form. If you see the God in a different form, that is fine. We are devoted in our worship and you are also devoted in your worship. We do not have any problem with it. We will continue to respect and honour each other's language and we will ensure protection of each other's language. These are things said by everyone. And these are often stated as ideals. However, the only one who imbibe these things in real life are the practitioners of the traditional culture of Hindustan. It is our culture to do so. We don't have to learn about things like secularism, socialism and democracy from other places. These are inherent in our tradition, in our blood. That is also the reason why these are considered as hallmarks and implemented in our country, keeping them alive in the process. He clarified that neither the Citizenship Amendment Act nor the National Registration for Citizens has been formulated against any citizen in the country and no Indian Muslim would face any kind of threat from the two laws. Due to political reasons, some people have made the two laws a Hindu-Muslim issue. It is not a Hindu-Muslim issue at all. Every nation in the world keeps a data to identify its citizens. NRC is also a project like this. This is not against anyone. He said that a strategy was devised since 1930 to increase the population of Muslims. They wanted to transform India into Pakistan. The nation got partitioned. Pakistan was created. However, it did not happen the way they wanted it. They did not get Assam, but got half of Bengal and Punjab. Our first prime minister had given this assurance that the minorities of this country would be given full protection and we also stand firm on this assurance. There would not be any kind of discrimination against any minority community in the country.

Following Afghanistan, the US has decided to withdraw its troops from Iraq as well. The US troops are stationed in Iraq for the past 18 years. In Afghanistan, the Taliban are fast filling up the vacuum left in that country following the exit of US troops. The most worrying factor for India is that Taliban have formed a friendly relationship with China. Recently, a high-level delegation of Taliban under the leadership of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar visited China, held talks with its leaders and described China as their greatest friend. The interesting thing is that under pressure from Chinese leaders, the Taliban announced that it would not support the campaign to establish an Islamic nation in Xinjiang province under any circumstances.

Muslim politics has taken one more turn. A few elements are trying to make Syed Arshad Madani, leader of Darul Uloom Deoband and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, as the leader of all Muslims in the country. This is likely to lead to a turf war between Deobandis and the chief of All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi. Jamiat Ulema was established in the 1920s as part of Khilafat movement. Till recently, they have been functioning as a B team of Congress party. Earlier, its general secretary Hafiz-ur-Rahman and his successor Maulana Asad Madani had sat in the Parliament for decades on tickets provided by Congress party. The biggest strength of Jamiat Ulema is the imams who receive training in Darul Uloom Deoband and have their stranglehold on lakhs of masjids spread in various parts of the country. That is the reason why they are able to hold a sway over Muslims and influence them. As of now, Jamiat-e-Islami is in politics with its platform called Welfare Party but it has not been a success. How far Arshad Madani would be able to shine in Muslim politics is a question and it would be difficult to make any claims in this connection as of now.

Statement of RSS chief on Citizenship Act



Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, had made a statement on the increasing population of Muslims and on the Citizenship Amendment Act during the launch of a book, “Citizenship Debate over NRC and CAA: Assam and the Politics of History” in Guwahati on July 21. However, majority of the Urdu newspapers did not carry his speech and those who carried it were extremely cautious.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 22) claims that the statement of Mohan Bhagwat over the increasing Muslim population and Citizenship Amendment Act could create a flutter. In a function held in Guwahati, he said that a strategy has been devised since to increase the population of Muslims in the country. They planned to increase the population and impose their hegemony and subsequently turn the entire country into Pakistan. This strategy was mainly in Punjab, Sindh, Assam and Bengal. The strategy succeeded to a certain extent. The nation got divided and Pakistan came into existence. However, things did not happen the way they wanted it throughout the country. In

his speech, Mohan Bhagwat also said that there was no need for us to learn about secularism, socialism and democracy from the others. This is because these are part of our tradition and these are there in our blood. Our country have implemented these and kept them alive as well. On CAA, the RSS chief made it clear that the law is not against the citizens of the country and nothing would happen to the Indian Muslims due to it. CAA and NRC have nothing to do with Hindu-Muslim divide. However, some people are giving the two laws a communal colour to extract political mileage. He said that after Partition, it was assured that we would take care of the minorities in the country and we are doing it till now. However, Pakistan has failed to do so.

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (July 24) reports that the chief of RSS Mohan Bhagwat had said that ever since 1930, a strategy has been devised to increase the population of Muslims in Hindustan. They think that by increasing the population, the country could be turned into Pakistan. The plan was to make Bengal, Assam and Sindh as Pakistan. However, this plan did not

succeed. The country got partitioned and Pakistan came into being. On Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC, Mohan Bhagwat said that these have nothing to do with Hindu-Muslim divide. He also claimed that some people are giving a communal colour to it due to political selfishness. He also stressed that the Citizenship Act would not be a threat to any Indian Muslim. Releasing a book titled 'Citizenship Debate over NRC and CAA: Assam and the Politics of History,' Mohan Bhagwat said that after Independence, the country's first prime minister had assured that we would protect the country's minorities which has been done so far and we would continue to do so.



Mohan Bhagwat stressed that the Citizenship Amendment Act is aimed at providing security to the persecuted minorities in the neighbouring countries. We help the majority community of these countries in times of crisis. So if there are some who wish to come to our country due to intimidation and fear, we definitely have to help them out. In Hindustan, the planned manner in which Muslim families relocate their places and the strategic manner with which they increase their population are causes of concern in Assam and other regions. The main reason for increasing the population is to seek all the rights but not to fulfil their duties. The book releasing function was also addressed by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the author of the book, Prof N Gopal Mahant.

Comment: Following are the main parts of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's speech:

- For all of us who work for Sangh, we keep the well-being of everyone in mind and walk on the path of truth.
- The conclusion of the book is already before you. There is an effort to create

ruckus on every issue. Today there could be a ruckus on this as well. The author of the book has done a proper study. When you read the book then you will understand it. He did an extensive study by taking lot of effort. Those things that have not come before us, or not allowed to come before us, have also been highlighted in this book.

- We are not in conflict with any language, religion or any other thing in this world. This is because our concept is that of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*' There were many kingdoms in our country, but there was no visa or passport. Long journeys were normal. From Himalayas to Kanyakumari, from Kutch to Kamarup, people used to travel back and forth. From the point of view of administration, there was a state or a nation. For us, entire nation is one, we believe in the concept of '*Swadesho Bhuvanatrayah*'.
- From 1930, there was an effort to increase the population of Muslims in a strategic manner. The plan was that if the population increases, Muslims would be able to establish supremacy and domination and turn this country into Pakistan. This was the plan for entire Punjab, Sindh, Assam and Bengal. The strategy won to a certain



extent, India got partitioned and Pakistan was created. However, it did not happen the way they wanted it. They did not get Assam, but got half of Bengal and half of Punjab. They wanted a corridor between East and West, that did not happen. Still they got something they asked for.

- After Partition, some people came here persecuted and terrorised. They were refugees, while some others came here with the aim of increasing their population. They were helped by vested interests so their number increased. They still get help. They think wherever their population is more, those places are theirs. Others who are different from them, they stay there on their mercy or they do not stay at all. This is what happened in Pakistan. The same thing happened in Bangladesh. Our experience is that when such people come and stay in our country, and their number keeps on increasing and the others' number keep on decreasing, the latter would permanently remain insecure. This is the experience of Bharat, this is the experience of Assam.
- Here we have freedom of worship right from the beginning. There is nothing wrong with us. We see God in one form. If you see it in a different form, it is fine. We are firm on our belief

system, you are firm on your belief system. We do not have any problem. We respect and honour each other's language and protect each other's language. This is something everybody talks about and keeps talking as part of their ideals. However, the only one who practices this in life is the one who follows the traditional culture of Hindustan. This is our culture.

- There is no need for us to learn about things like secularism, socialism and democracy from the world. These are our traditions, these are there in our blood and our nation has implemented them with great importance and thereby kept them alive.\
- Bhauraoji Deoras once went to England. There he had lunch with politicians, MPs and with those who received Knighthood. During lunch, there was also a speech and somebody while welcoming him, said—it is good that now we have got good relationship with India, we have given democracy to the country etc etc. Then Bhauraoji told him that he had said everything very well, and thanks for it. But there was a factual error. You did not give us the Republic. It might have reached you via the Greeks who learnt about it from Bharat. Because, even when your nation did not

exist, we had *Ganarajyas* (republics) like Vaishali, Lachhavi etc.

- When I first met Pranab da, he said that there was a debate over secularism. Who can teach us secularism? What can the world teach us? Our Constitution is secular. Then he said that the belief that we are secular because our Constitution is secular is not correct. The makers of our Constitution had the same mindset and they were secular. Hence they formulated such a Constitution. Then he stopped for some time and said—the makers of our Constitution were not the first secular persons in our country. Our 5,000-year-old civilisation has taught us the same thing. What other secularism can the world teach us?
- This is not our *bhog bhoomi*. This is our *karma bhoomi*, the land where we do our duty. Every person living on this land has a duty towards it, towards its society and this is decided by its culture. This is not on the basis of any creed, sect and worship.
- CAA and NRC are not laws created against any Indian citizen. No Muslim citizen in India will face any danger from the CAA. Both the laws (CAA & NRC) have been portrayed as Hindu-Muslim issue for political mileage. However, it is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. Every nation has a data to identify its own citizens. NRC is a plan for this. It is not against anybody.

The Urdu newspapers are instigating people against BJP in a strategic manner.

Inquilab (July 21) has published a news item titled 'Population Army in Assam' stating that it would control the population in Assam's Muslim-majority areas. The newspaper claimed that chief minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, had issued one more challenge to Muslims. He has announced special measures to control the population in Muslim-dominated areas. He made a statement in the Assembly in this connection and said a 'population army' would be created which would work towards controlling the population in Muslim-dominated areas.

This army would distribute items related to family planning in such places and would create awareness on the need to reduce population. There would be 1,000 members in this army and they would be sent to different regions of Assam.

The newspaper claims that the minorities are angry over this controversial statement of Himanta Biswa. Earlier, many BJP-ruled states including Uttar Pradesh had taken similar steps. The chief minister of Assam told the Assembly that the increasing population in western and central regions has resulted in an explosive situation. Hence in order to stop this, we have decided to create a separate team of Asha workers. They will create awareness on family planning and distribute contraceptives to people. He once again denounced Muslims for increasing their population. He said that from 2001 till 2011, there is 10% increase in the population of Hindus in Assam. Whereas the Muslim population increased by 29% during the same period. Due to the less growth in the population of Hindus, their development is visible.

Inquilab (July 17) has published a special article written by Shamim Tariq which targets the DNA comment of Mohan Bhagwat titled, 'Yes, our DNA is same.' The writer said that the claims of Mohan Bhagwat has nothing to do with truth. But the claims of BJP leaders are still there in our mind—we don't want the votes of Muslims. Then how come there was a change in their way of thinking all of a sudden. There are two reasons for this. One is that after studying all intelligence reports of the government, they have come to the conclusion the benefits that they were reaping till now will not work this time. Secondly, the Bengal election taught them that communal polarisation and efforts to purchase leaders from the ruling party and character assassination of clean people can backfire. They also understood one more thing. Many people from CPM and Congress tried to make the BJP victorious due to their enmity to Mamata Banerjee. So the Muslims severed their ties with CPM

and Congress and rallied behind Mamata and voted for her, due to which her sinking boat managed to cross the water. Now they can do the same in Uttar Pradesh as well. In Bengal, efforts were made to divide Muslims votes, but it did not get divided. Currently, there are eight non-BJP governments in the country or BJP governments are on the mercy of other political parties.

The same newspaper has published another article by Khalid Sheikh titled, 'Statement of Bhagwat: These arms are tested by me.' The writer has claimed that the news of criminal negligence in dealing with Corona has reached the entire world, dealing a severe blow to 'Modi brand.' Recently, the statement of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat regarding goodwill towards Muslims should be seen in this context. Its aim is to save the diminishing image of Modi at the international level and to win the elections scheduled in various states. Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has a special importance.

Mumbai Urdu News carried a special editorial on July 24 and it was titled 'Give the responsibility of engaging RSS to the students of Aligarh and Jamia.' In the editorial, Mushrif Shamsi said that the recent statement of Bhagwat regarding Indian Muslims has become a topic of debate among Muslim thinkers. The comments of Bhagwat should be taken in a positive way, that's the general view. Bhagwat has put his point of view. Now it is up to the Muslim leadership on how to go ahead with it. If talking to RSS or similar organisations would help improve the lives of Indian Muslims, then it should definitely be done. Talks are a democratic process and talks are the only way forward. Bhagwat has already said that the DNA of Indian Muslims is the same as that of the country. Those who protect cows and those who do mob lynching are not the same. Those who do mob lynching should get punishment as per the law established. Now think why Bhagwat differentiated between Gaurakshaks and those who organise mob lynching. Remember the

incident of 2017. The violence by Gaurakshaks remained as headlines of newspapers. That time Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating about Gaurakshaks, said what they do during day time and what they do during night, he has the information. Then by issuing a statement in support of such Gaurakshaks, Mohan Bhagwat was trying to save them."

RSS is such an organisation that it can neither keep itself away from nationalism nor has it got the welfare of majority Hindus as its goal. The only aim of RSS is to keep the government of rich Hindus in power. This is because, in India, caste forms the basis of the rich-poor divide. Hence the upper castes always keep the aim of appropriating the government with the help of banyas. The banyas extend their support as long as they get the opportunity to loot the country. Otherwise, they keep somebody as a pawn in their hands and ensure the system of loot continues. Due to the anti-people policies of Modi government, a major section of the society is angry with the government. In any case, it has become difficult for RSS and BJP to win the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. If the BJP is defeated in Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, then it would become impossible for the party to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In any case, a section of people is required to vote for BJP to keep the party government in power. Even if they do not directly vote for the party, they should not at least vote outright against the party. After the beginning of farmers' protest, it has dawned upon the RSS and BJP that the Hindu-Muslim card would not bring them votes on the long run. But it is not possible for the RSS to stop hating the Muslims. This is because if the BJP stops chanting about Muslims and Pakistan, then its politics itself would come to an end. RSS claims to be the representative of 85% Hindus of the country and BJP would get majority votes of Hindus only if they plant Muslims in front of Hindus. Hence Muslims should not live with any

misunderstanding that the RSS would be thinking something good for them.”

“But Muslims should definitely hold talks with RSS because talks will be an opportunity to understand the leadership of RSS. But the question is which organisation should hold the talks on behalf of Muslims? My opinion is that the opportunity should be given to the youth and educated class who has the support of all sects of Muslims. This is because majority of big Muslim leaders may get influenced by the government in one way or the other. It would be fair if the young

students of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Milia Islamia can begin this talks. Every section of Muslims in this country would have faith on them. They can also hold talks with an open mind. But one thing is sure, it is the aim of RSS to stop the role of Muslims in politics. But if everything is foregone and talks are concentrated only on this, then it would not proceed further. Yes, if the RSS is willing to consider the positive role of Muslims in politics, then there is no danger in holding such talks. ■

Debate over ending Sedition law

Inquilab (July 16) carried a news item titled ‘SC angry over misuse of Sedition law’ as its main story. The story says that in order to end the misuse of sedition law, which had often been used to suppress opposition voice, the Supreme Court had issued a notice to the Central government and also raised some basic questions. Admitting a petition filed by retired Major General S G Vombatkere, who sought to scrap Section 124A of IPC, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said the Sedition law was created by the British against freedom movement and those who raise their voice against government policies during the British rule. Under this law, actions were taken against Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak during British period. I just want to know whether the government wants to keep this law even after 75 years of Independence. The Supreme Court said very few people have been sentenced under Sedition law and the most interesting thing is that there is no provision to fix the accountability of the person who files the case. The court pointed out the example of Section 66 to Attorney General K K Venugopal. Though the court had quashed this section, thousands of cases are still registered under the section. A few days ago, Section 66A of IT Act was also scrapped, but cases are still registered

under its provision. Actually, this law has been used to suppress dissent. If the government is repealing archaic laws from the book, why it didn’t consider this law also for removal, the chief justice asked. The court said that it would look into the constitutional requirement of sedition and in this connection a notice has also been issued to the Centre and stated that the matter would be heard alongside other petitions. The court said that the sedition law can put the lawmakers also in trouble. It is like giving a saw to the carpenter to cut a piece of wood but he uses it to cut the entire jungle.

The chief justice said that the court is not holding any particular government or state as accused in this matter. However, it should be noted how innocent people had to suffer in cases registered under scrapped provisions of IT Act and nobody has claimed responsibility for it. The police officials are using the provisions in an arbitrary manner. In his petition, the retired major general said that the section is totally unconstitutional and it should be scrapped at the earliest. This is because it is an interference in the fundamental right of freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution of the country. The Attorney General argued that it was not necessary to scrap the law, but a set of guidelines should be issued so that the law accomplishes its

goal. On this, the chief justice said that if one party doesn't want to listen to the other side, then that party can use this provision and trap the other side. This is a sensitive issue.

Siasat (July 16) has titled its editorial as 'Opposition is not sedition.' The newspaper said that nowadays sedition cases are filed even for protest marches also. For the past few years, sedition cases are registered to suppress opposition voices. Those who protest on the streets are branded as traitors. This law has been used to suppress or crush all the voices of protest against the government, even the minor ones. As soon as cases are registered, people are arrested and sent to jail and they do not even get bail. Now even the courts have the feeling that the government has been misusing the provisions of treason and rebellion. The government has been using this law to deal with all voices against it. Recently, a few violent incidents took place in Sirsa in Haryana during the farmers' agitation. The car of a BJP leader, who is now the deputy speaker of the Assembly, was targeted and its windshields and others parts got damaged. The deputy speaker was not injured. However, even in this case the Khattar government chose to file sedition charges against nearly 100 farmers.

Even the intellectuals in the country admit that the sedition law has been misused on issues related to treason and differences of opinion and the law has been hampering the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. It is correct that if there is any protest on any issue, there should not be any violence. But there is no doubt that in such minor incidents, cases should not be filed for treason and rebellion. Hence the government should think of scrapping such laws. Surprisingly, such laws are not only used against people opposed to government policies but also against journalists who fulfil their responsibility by highlighting social issues. Now, after such stinging observations from the Supreme Court, the Central government should not file similar cases.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 16) published an editorial titled 'Indiscriminate use of sedition law.' The kind of darkness that is seen in the country, one can't find any othersimilarity for that. After the Supreme Court made some serious observations over thousands of cases being registered under Section 66A of IT Act which was scrapped six years ago, the Central government has now innocently written to all state governments not to register cases under the same law. Similarly, the Supreme Court also expressed concern over the arbitrary use of the sedition law and asked about the use of such a law even after 75 years of Independence. This law was created by the British to suppress the voice of Hindustanis and to curb freedom movement and what is its present use? Section 124A of Indian Penal Code already deals with treason, treachery and rebellion. On this issue, a retired Major General has approached the court and the Supreme Court is ready to hear the petition. This law was created by the British Empire in 1870 and its aim was to suppress the discontent against the government. Those who have been found guilty under the law would not be able to secure a government job and his passport would also be cancelled.

Inquilab (July 18) in its editorial has demanded that the sedition law should be scrapped. The newspaper stated that even the Supreme Court has described the law as unnecessary and useless and the chief justice has conveyed a message to the government that they are convinced that the controversial sedition law has become such a weapon in the hands of the government that the citizens' liberty on expressing their opinion and the fundamental rights are hampered. In modern era, such spooky laws are not required and hence it should be scrapped. In 2016, 35 cases were registered under this provision and by 2019, the number rose to 93. This way, there is a 165% increase in the registration of such cases. Now, if the government has clear evidence on committing sedition, then why the charge sheet was filed only in 17

out of the total 93 cases? It is clear from this that the law has been misused all these years and till now only 3% people have been found guilty. Earlier, the Andhra Pradesh high court had also opposed the law and described it as a provision to suppress the voice of media. However, after all this, the law is still being applied.

Rozena Sahara (July 17) reports that the Supreme Court has once again raised a question on the sedition law and while expressing serious concern over its misuse, asked the Centre about the need for this law which has been formed even before the imperial rule. Earlier also, the Supreme Court and various other high courts had criticised the misuse of this law. The law is being ruthlessly applied against those who criticise the functioning of the government and its policies. Recently, a retired Major General of the Army filed a

petition before the Supreme Court to get this law scrapped. This law is against Article 19 of the Constitution of India, which has guaranteed freedom of expression to all citizens. The Supreme Court has said that criticising the government or exposing its inefficiency cannot be treated as sedition of the country.

The newspaper said that a few days ago, the government prescribed a process for the use of this law, but it did not follow the guidelines. In the past 75 years, dozens of governments came and went, but nobody took any interest in scrapping this law. After the present government came to power, majority of the cases filed under this law were against those who criticise the government like journalists, writers and social workers. The government has been arbitrarily using the law to curb its opponents. This has to be stopped now.

Maulana Arshad Madani likely to enter politics

Mumbai Urdu News (July 28) writes that due to the internal squabble between Muslim leaders, Muslims are becoming irrelevant in politics and these controversies are also getting exploited in politics. Hence we need to unite and support the party that has been supporting the community on various issues. Since independence, Muslims are being used as vote bank and in the name of making them participate in politics, they were given some talks and promises, but nothing concrete was ever given. Hence it is necessary to make the president of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, the Ameer-ul-Hind of Muslims. He must play his part as the leader of Muslims in this connection. Hence it is necessary that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen must also support Maulana Arshad Madani. This is because Majlis chief Asaduddin Owaisi understands not just religious matters but also the political issues of Muslims and he has been following the concept of Shariah. Hence Asaduddin Owaisi must issue an appeal in support of Maulana Arshad Madani which,

in the present circumstances, is very important for Muslims.

Renowned Islamic scholar Syed Salman Husaini Nadwi said that Muslims should unite ahead of the forthcoming elections and should keep themselves away from political opportunists. In order to prove their worth in the elections, the Muslims should adopt a strong political strategy. He said that Maulana Arshad Madani is more competent than Asaduddin Owaisi to become the leader of Muslims in the country. A political party has been formed from the platform of Jamiat Ulema. Now it is necessary to make it more active. Arshad Madani and Owaisi are both members of All Indian Muslim Personal Law Board. It is being led by Maulana Syed Rabey Hasani Nadwi. Now he has to play his role in a more effective manner. Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen should also support Muslim Personal Law Board. The Majlis has made its political existence relevant in Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Bihar. Till now, Muslims have been extending support to parties that were



propounding secularism. However, Muslims haven't got anything from it. Hence, a thought should be given on making Muslims politically active.

Jamiat Ulema has got divided into two groups in the past few years. But now since there is a peace deal between the chacha-bhatija (Arshad Madani and Mahmood Madani), the organisation has got a fresh lease of life. Jamiat Ulema has been openly extending support to Muslims caught in terror-related cases. According to convenor of legal defence committee, Gulzar Azmi, till now the Jamiat Ulema has extended legal help to more than 300 accused and managed to secure their release. Recently, the Jamiat Ulema had also announced that it would extend free legal aid to the accused arrested in Uttar Pradesh on charges of conversion and receiving money from abroad and would also extend financial help to their families. According to the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani, these innocent people have been trapped in fake cases.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 19) reports that the advocate of Jamiat Ulema, M R Shamshad, had issued a legal notice to

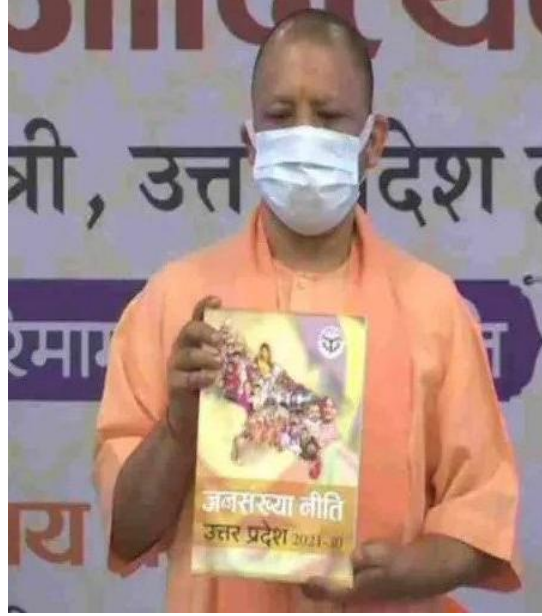
Hindi newspaper Dainik Jagran claiming that it had published a false story on July 7, 2021 against Islamic madrasas, creating mental agony to Muslims and earlier also the same newspaper had published false stories in the name of Love Jihad with the aim of misleading people. Jamiat Ulema has sought an apology from Dainik Jagran and also asked it to stop printing such false stories and said that if they do not do so they would take legal action against them.

Inquilab (July 17) reports that Arshad Madani had said Jamiat would approach the court over the false news being published against various Islamic organisations in different news channels. Recently, the petition filed by Jamiat in the Supreme Court against false news published in media against Tablighi Jamaat has been accepted by the court for hearing. He alleged that some newspapers are trying to tarnish the image of Muslims and have been running a campaign to create a fight between Hindus and Muslims and it is very important to stop this. He said that we are not against freedom of expression but are against false and mischievous reporting and it is very important to stop such things. ■

Effort to curb population growth in Uttar Pradesh

Inquilab (July 12) reports that Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has released an Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030. He said that the government has formulated the population policy after taking into consideration different sections of the society. Its aim is to curb the increasing population and to make the life of every citizen happier and better. Speaking in Lucknow in this connection, he said that the increasing population stops development and hence it is important to reduce the birth rate and people belonging to every caste, religion and class must pay attention to it. He said that whichever country took concrete steps to curb their population, they got positive results from it. Chief secretary Amit Mohan Prasad said that the aim of the policy is to reduce the population growth from 2% to 1.9% by 2026. Welcoming the steps taken by the Yogi government on the population control law, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi extended support to it and said that population control is the need of the hour and whatever steps the Uttar Pradesh government is taking, those are welcome. He expressed surprise that the Congress has taken a U-turn on its old policy and have started opposing population control measures.

Inquilab (July 14) has written an editorial opposing the population policy of Uttar Pradesh and it has been titled, 'BJP on the path of Sanjay Gandhi.' The editorial states that in 1975, as soon as the Emergency was declared, Sanjay Gandhi launched a forced family planning campaign. People believe that the main reason for the defeat of Indira Gandhi in the 1977 elections was the forced sterilisation. However, without learning anything from such historical episodes, the BJP has also started treading on the same path where Sanjay Gandhi got slipped. What is surprising is that the BJP has been



in power at the Centre for the past seven years and it has never thought about family planning. However, all of a sudden a new family planning policy has been declared in Uttar Pradesh and a BJP member in the Parliament has also announced that he would introduce a private bill in the House. However, the population policy has totally changed in the entire world. In this connection, even China has got convinced and has given permission for its citizens to give birth to three children instead of two. In our country too, the growth of population has not created any disadvantages, instead it has brought only benefits.

Roznama Sahara (July 14) reports that the chief of Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati, while questioning the intentions of the Uttar Pradesh government over its statement on the population control policy, said that it is more about reaping political benefits rather than a serious approach to the issue. She said that this new issue has been unleashed because the Assembly elections are scheduled to take place in Uttar Pradesh soon.

Efforts on to save Shabnam from the gallows

Inquilab (July 24) reports that there is a ray of hope for Shabnam, the country's first woman convict on death row. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel intervened in her issue and handed over her case to the principal secretary of jail department. The Governor took this decision on the basis of a special appeal filed by a woman lawyer, Saher Naqvi. Shabnam was sentenced to death by the Session's court in Amroha in 2010 which was challenged in the Allahabad high court. However, in view of the magnitude of the crime, the high court had upheld the death sentence awarded to her. Later Shabnam approached Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court dismissed her petition. When Shabnam killed her entire family, she was pregnant. Today, her 13-year-old son is out of the jail and stays with another family for his studies. Shabnam's mercy petition has been rejected by both the Governor and the President. Now, Shabnam's son Mohammad Taj has filed a mercy petition with both the Governor and the President. Till now, she has not been sent to gallows due to some technical reasons. The last hope is that Anandiben Patel may help convert her death sentence to life-term imprisonment. In this connection, Saher Naqvi, a lawyer practicing at Allahabad high court, appealed to the Governor saying that she be given the special consideration of being a woman. This is because no woman has ever been sent to gallows in India. On the directions of the Governor, her special secretary Badrinath



Singh sent a letter to the principal secretary, jail department, asking him to apprise him in detail about the legal aspects of the case.

Shabnam belongs to a well-off family in Bawankhedi village in Amroha district in Uttar Pradesh. She has done MA in English and Geography. She madly fell in love with an illiterate man. Her family was opposed to her marriage with her lover. Angry and upset over this, in 2008, she brutally killed seven members of her family including her parents, brothers, sisters-in-law and nephew and in order to mislead the police, claimed that they were killed by dacoits. However, the police investigation revealed the entire plot behind the crime. Her lover Saleem has also been awarded death sentence. He is also awaiting the punishment. The case got global attention and the notoriety of the couple has been published in countries like US, Britain and Germany.

Taliban kill 100 citizens in Afghanistan



Inqilab (July 25) reports that Taliban has been making efforts to seize maximum regions in Afghanistan. In this process, they also brutally murdered over 100 residents in Spin Boldak, the border town near Pakistan. The interior ministry of Afghanistan has blamed Taliban for the massacre. Earlier, a news came stating that Taliban had already captured nearly 90% of the border areas of Afghanistan. The Afghanistan government alleged that Taliban committed this massacre on the directions of Pakistan. In response to this, the US military had launched air strikes on Taliban positions. Spin Boldak is an important town located near the Pakistani border. The bodies of innocent people were strewn around in all the four sides of the town.

The spokesperson of Afghanistan's interior ministry Mirwais Stanikzai said that the massacre took place at the behest of Pakistan. This is the town where Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was murdered. The Taliban had seized this town last week. India's ministry of external affairs had issued an advisory to the Indians staying in Afghanistan stating that

the situation in Afghanistan is volatile. Hence the citizens have been asked to take precautions while moving out of their residences and keep themselves away from military convoys and government offices and also resist themselves from visiting crowded places, shopping complexes and other public places.

Etemaad (July 26) reports that US defence secretary Lloyd Austin had said that the basic duty of Afghanistan Army is to take efforts to stop the advance of Taliban and then liberate the places which were seized by them. Speaking to reporters, the US defence department has said that the Afghanistan Army has been making efforts to strengthen its position in strategic places and in densely populated regions. The US military is all set to leave Afghanistan by August 31 on the directions of US President Joe Biden after being in the war-ravaged country for 20 years. The defence department expressed hope that the Afghanistan Army would be able to stop the advance of Taliban. He admitted that Taliban has already seized nearly half of Afghanistan. In order to stop the advance of Taliban, the Afghanistan government

has announced the decision to impose night curfew in 31 out of the total 34 regions in Afghanistan. The three regions where curfew is not imposed are Kabul, Panjshir and Nangarhar.

Siasat (July 21) reports that on the occasion of Eid, when President Ashraf Ghani and other senior leaders were holding the Eid namaz, a rocket attack took place near the Presidential Palace. However, there was no casualty, government sources said. Nobody took responsibility for the attack.

Avadhnama (July 25) states that the US President has assured Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani of full cooperation in view of the increasing attacks by Taliban and said the US would extend all kinds of support to Afghanistan.

Siasat (July 20) reports that 967 Taliban members were killed in attacks by government soldiers in Afghanistan and more than 500 others were injured. The war against Taliban is currently taking place in nearly 20 regions and 9 cities of the country. Spokesperson of Afghan military, General Ajmal Omar Shinwari said that they were trying to give a befitting reply to Taliban.

Etemaad (July 20) reports that nearly 16 countries including the US have told Taliban to stop the war in Afghanistan because it is an open violation of the ceasefire agreement reached in Doha. These countries also said that people are being killed and robbed in the regions which are under the control of Taliban. This apart, the basic rights of the citizens are curbed and media organisations are shut down so that anti-people measures do not see the light of the day.

Etemaad (July 20) reports that Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada stressed on a political solution to the problems faced by Afghanistan and also alleged that the Afghanistan government is trying to stop the process. He said that they wanted an Islamic law in the country and wanted a friendly relationship with all the countries in the world. We want to give an assurance to our neighbouring countries

that we would not give our land to be used for creating trouble in other countries, he said. However, the other countries should also understand that they should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Avadhnama (July 31) reports that the US has appealed to Pakistan to make use of their influence on Taliban. The entire world is receiving reports of massacres taking place in Afghanistan. In an interview to Al Jazeera, the Secretary of State of US alleged that Taliban have violated all peace deals and are making efforts to seize the entire Afghanistan. In this connection, the US is holding talks with other countries like Kuwait to find a solution.

Etemaad (July 29) reports that a delegation of Taliban under the leadership of Mullah Baradar visited China. China fears that once the foreign forces leave Afghanistan, the country would be used to promote the campaign of Uyghur separatists in Xinjiang province in China. However, Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Nayeem said that the fears of China are unfounded. China has made it clear that it would not interfere in any manner in the developments in Afghanistan. China also extracted a promise from Taliban that it would not allow Turkistan Islamic Party to operate from Afghanistan's land. This is because this party is not only supporting the separatist Muslim campaigners but is also encouraging them. In reply to this, the Taliban said they would not allow any organisation to use Afghanistan's territory against China. Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Nayeem admitted that a high-level delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar had visited China to hold talks with Chinese leaders. He said that recently Taliban held talks with Chinese foreign affairs minister Wang Yi.

Siasat (July 19) reports that Afghan Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada had said in a statement that he favours a political solution to the problems in Afghanistan. He said that their message is

that instead of depending on foreigners, we have to find solutions to problems on our own and save the country from the current crisis. The Taliban spokesperson said they expect a political, financial and diplomatic relationship with all countries in the world including the US. He said they would like to assure all foreign missions in Afghanistan that they would not create any kind of troubles to them. For the past few months, several rounds of talks were held between the Afghanistan government and Taliban. The talks got stalled several times. An expert on Afghan affairs, Tahir Khan said that though the Taliban had been making several claims recently, there were no further progress in the talks held in Qatar. The Afghanistan government alleged that instead of settling the issues, the Taliban were deliberately wasting time.

Avadhnama (July 30) reports that Russia had said that it is strengthening its deployment in military stations in Tajikistan and are also extending special training to local soldiers. For the first time, Russia issued a warning that ISIS is present in Afghanistan and there is a spike in their day-to-day activities. Russia has got the apprehension that the situation is deteriorating day-by-day after the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and hence it may have to face a huge security challenges from Muslim-majority Asian countries. Russia has claimed that the fighters of ISIS are leaving for Afghanistan from Muslim nations like Syria and Libya. Hence the situation may turn more dangerous in Afghanistan. Russia would hold a joint-military exercise with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the Afghanistan border so that the military infrastructure in the region gets strengthened, it said.

Etemaad (July 23) reports that the situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating day-by-day after the withdrawal of foreign troops. Hence the Tajikistan government has expressed apprehension that more than one lakh refugees from Afghanistan may enter the country. Tajikistan stated that it is taking steps to accommodate them. The

vice-chairperson of Tajikistan's emergency committee Imam Ali Ibrahimzada said they would establish two centres on the border to shelter the refugees fleeing Afghanistan. The two centres would be set up in Khathlon and Gorno-Badakhshan. As per a news published in 'Dawn' newspaper, the Tajikistan government has put on alert its army following the increasing movement of Taliban and launched its largest ever military exercise. On the directions of Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, the 2 lakh-member Tajikistan Army has been asked to remain alert round-the-clock. Tajikistan has sent 20,000 soldiers to its border with Afghanistan.

It is the first time in 30 years that the Tajikistan government has not only put on alert all its three armed forces but also directed them to complete the testing of their weapons in order to ensure that peace is maintained in the region. He said that the situation that has emerged in Afghanistan, due to which our border has become tense, is turning grim day-by-day. The President of Tajikistan, who is in power since 1994, held lengthy talks with Russian President over the increasing threat from Taliban. As per a report from Moscow, Taliban has seized an Afghan border town near Tajikistan called Sher Khan Bandar. Taliban spokesperson Jabiullah Mujahid told Russian news agency that Taliban has seized nearly 90% of regions in Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran.

Siasat (July 24) reports that a war of words has erupted between Pakistan and Afghanistan on social media. Vice-President of Afghanistan Amarullah Saleh tweeted about a rocket attack on the Presidential Palace for which he blamed Pakistan and also posted an old photo of Pakistani General Amir Abdullah Khan Niyazi signing the documents to surrender before India in Dhaka. In his tweet, the Afghanistan Vice-President said that they had no such history and neither would they have one. In reply to this tweet, Pakistan's minister for information and broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that Afghanistan

doesn't belong to traitors like you (Amarullah Saleh), but to the brave. Stupid people like you have no interest in peace in Afghanistan or in the region. When the time comes, you will be the first to flee from your country.

Qaumi Tanzeem (July 24) reports that Taliban have alleged that as long as the current President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani remains in power, the situation will not improve in the country. In order to establish peace in Afghanistan, it is important for President Ashraf Ghani to resign from his post so that a new government could be formed.

Inqilab (July 29) reports that India and the US agree for a democratic government in Afghanistan. The US

Secretary of State, during a joint press meet with Indian minister for external affairs, said that we expect a government in Afghanistan elected by its own people. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken recently paid a visit to India and discussed the situation in Afghanistan with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He told reporters that both the US and India are working together and the US may withdraw its troops from Afghanistan but would continue to keep an eye on the situation there. India's external affairs minister S Jaishankar said that on the issue of Afghanistan, both India and the US share the same concerns because Afghanistan is our neighbouring country. Hence we expect peace to prevail there. ■

Election drama in Pak Occupied Kashmir



Avadhnama (July 27) reports that the ruling party of Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has won the majority in the Assembly elections and has started making efforts to form the government. However, opposition parties Muslim League and Pakistan People's Party have accused the Imran government of rigging elections to ensure victory. Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Maryam Nawaz said they are not ready to accept the election results.

Surprisingly, the People's Party has registered a strong victory against Muslim League and 12 candidates of the party won the elections. However, the so-called prime minister of Pak Occupied Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, was defeated in the elections. The interesting thing is that ballot papers were used instead of EVMs in the elections. The workers of different political parties clashed in various places in which two persons were killed. A senior

leader of Muslim League, Ataullah Tarar has been arrested.

According to the newspaper, the Tehreek-e-Insaf party of Imran Khan has won 26 seats in the elections whereas People's Party got only 11 seats. Muslim League (Nawaz) managed to win only 6 seats. Those who won the elections include the local president of Imran Khan's party Barrister Sultan Mahmood, who won from Mirpur. Sultan Mahmood congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan for the party's victory and said that the main reason for the victory is the corruption of Muslim League (Nawaz). The district president of Pakistan People's Party in Muzaffarabad, Chaudhary Latif Akbar too emerged victorious. Whereas in Muzaffarabad city, Tehreek-e-Insaf Party candidate Khwaja Farooq won the elections by defeating the candidate of Muslim League (Nawaz). Raja Farooq Haider, who contested the elections from the two seats in Jhelum Valley, was defeated by his nearest rival Diwan Ali Chughtai. Chaudhary Tariq Farooq was defeated in Bhimber Nagar by PTI's Chaudhary Anwar Haq. Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan and Malik Jafar Iqbal, both of PTI, also won the elections. Jafar Iqbal defeated a strong candidate of Muslim League, Malik Nawaz, who was never defeated in any general elections since 1985. Former president of Pak Occupied Kashmir Sardar Yaqoob Khan won from Rawalakot. In the same district, Shahid Jahir and PTI's Abdul Qayoom Niyazi too emerged victorious. Fahim Rahmani and Sardar Mohammad Hussain Khan of PTI also won the

elections. Whereas Raja Faizal Rathore, Dr Javed Ayoob, Sayyed Badal Naqvi and Miyan Abdul Wahid of Pakistan People's Party too managed to win the elections.

Qaumi Tanzeem (July 24) reports that Muslim League (Nawaz) has refused to accept the election results. Party's vice president Maryam Nawaz said she did not recognise even the 2018 elections. Neither do I accept this fraud government, she said. However, Pakistan's minister for information and broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry has given the credit for the victory of Tehreek-e-Insaf party in the elections to Prime Minister Imran Khan. Spokesperson of Muslim League (Nawaz) Maryam Aurangzeb said that the elections were a fraud and rigging took place. The ordinary people did not vote for those who sell Kashmir. The ruling party used all gimmicks to win the elections. Chief of Pakistan People's Party Asif Ali Zardari said that time has come to groom an alternative leadership.

Inquilab (July 25) reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced that the plan of his government is not to make Pak Occupied Kashmir a region of Pakistan. He said that it is for the people of Kashmir to decide whether they want to merge with Pakistan or remain independent. He said that he doesn't know from where such concerns were coming from. The day will definitely come when the Kashmiris will get the right for self-determination as per the declaration of United Nations. ■

Smuggling of drugs into US by China

Hindustan Express (July 24) reports that China is running a drug cartel to United States through Mexico. In a meeting in Ohio, the US President said his government is taking necessary action to stop this smuggling racket. The government is in the process of deploying special staff on the border to stop the racket. He said that narcotic drug named Fentanyl is 50 to 60%

more dangerous compared to heroin. During his reign, Donald Trump had alleged that China was running a campaign to smuggle narcotic drugs into United States through the Mexico border. He had alleged that China had been deliberately sending the necessary material to manufacture Fentanyl drug pills to Mexico. From there these are sent to US and the



rackets involving these dangerous drugs are spreading in United States. He also alleged that Mexico never takes any action against the smuggling of dangerous drugs. After assuming power, Biden has also started looking into this problem. He has already visited the Mexico border regions three times. Due to these drugs, there is a sudden increase in the mortality rates in different states of US. Recently, in a reply to the representative of Voice of America, the White House press secretary JenPsaki admitted that some Chinese-made drugs are creating a problem in many states in the US. Hence the new President of US has decided to take strong measures to stop the menace.

The US government also alleged that apart from smuggling drugs, people of Chinese origin also intrude through the Mexican border and a vast majority of the arrested often abscond after getting bail. Recently, the Centre for Drugs Control and Prevention released a report which

expressed deep concern over the increasing use of narcotic drugs in various states of US. In Ohio, every day 5,215 people use these Chinese drug pills. This number is quite big compared to year 2017. The report also states that due to the Chinese drug pills there is a huge increase in the mortality rate in the country. In the first half of last year, there was a 27% increase in the use of these drugs. As per the data of National Drug Control Policy under White House, from August 2019 till August 2020, roughly 48,000 people died due to Chinese pills. The reason for their death was Fentanyl and Opioid pills which are manufactured using Chinese narcotic substances. The report states that these narcotic substances are smuggled into US with the aim of destroying the young generation of the country. Hence taking steps to overcome this situation is the most important agenda for the new President of the United States.

Life-term for insulting Prophet in Pakistan

Inquilab (July 18) reports that a special anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has awarded life-term to a man for allegedly insulting Islam and the prophet. According to 'Dawn' newspaper, Ibtisam Mustafa has been sentenced to life in jail for making derogatory comments against Hazrat Mohammad. He was also given 10-year

imprisonment on two counts for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of Christians by insulting their religion and religious beliefs. The anti-terrorism court judge Shaukat Kamal Dar said in his judgment that the accused has deliberately insulted Prophet Jesus which has hurt the religious sentiments of

Christians. Hence as per Section 295 of Pakistan Penal Code he has been sentenced to 20 years in jail and under Section 295C, he has been sentenced to life-term for insulting Prophet Mohammad. The court has convicted the man, a resident of Chakwal district, under Anti-Terrorism Law, 1997 and under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 and also imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh on him. The court awarded him life-term under Article 80C of PPC Section 295C for allegedly insulting Prophet Mohammad. However, the Lahore high court, after hearing an appeal by the accused, sent the case back to

the local court for a fresh hearing in the case. The court has given this judgment after hearing the case once again.

Government pleader Tahir Qasim told the newspaper that the investigating agencies had presented the evidence under Section 80C. After hearing the case, the judge convicted him for insulting Prophet Jesus. The same court has sentenced 12 other accused to 10 years in jail for allegedly attacking government officials and police in Attock district. They were accused of attacking government officials when they arrived at a place to seize the property of an absconding accused. ■

Africa emerges as a hub of terrorism

Inquilab (July 25) reports that the United Nations General Secretary has recently shared a report with the member nations of UN Security Council which states that there is huge increase in Islamic terrorist activities in Africa in the first half of 2021. Despite stringent restrictions due to Corona pandemic, there is a huge increase in Islamic terrorist activities in the middle-east and western parts of Africa. The report also claims that the different notorious terrorist organisations operating in West Asia have opened their bases in various parts of Africa. This has resulted in Islamic terrorism assuming a dangerous proportion in the region.

As per the report, several Islamic groups linked to Islamic State and Al Qaida are making efforts to increase their influence among the local communities in Africa after establishing their bases in different nations. If anybody dares to challenge them, they are murdered. This is the reason why there is a four-fold increase in the number of Islamic terror victims in African countries. The two Islamic terrorist organisations source their weapons from foreign lands and also get huge funding from abroad which are used to step up their activities. A large number of armed insurgents

belonging to Islamic State, which had wreaked havoc in Iraq and Syria, have reached western and eastern African countries from Iraq and Syria in the recent past. On the other hand, Al Qaida is more active in Somalia and its neighbouring countries. The armed clashes between the two Islamic organisations for domination are also assuming dangerous proportions almost daily.

Al Qaida has spread its terrorist activities in Male, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Niger. They have also spread their tentacles to Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. In Nigeria, Jihadi organisation Boko Haram is wreaking havoc daily. In Somalia, Al Shababis publicly kidnapping people and committing massacres. The jihadis which are active in Somalia in eastern Africa have reached Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. In 2021, the Islamic State has established contacts with local jihadi organisations and they seized an important coastal city of Mocimboa da Praia. The port is situated near the Tanzanian border. According to experts in United Nations, there is a sudden increase in the activities of Islamic State in the recent past. ■

Dictatorship in Tunisia



The tension between the President and the democratically elected government in Tunisia, the largest Islamic country in Africa, has taken a new turn. President Kais Saied has suspended Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and his cabinet and dissolved the parliament and assumed executive powers with the help of the military.

Inqilab (August 1) has published an editorial titled 'Tunisia and dictatorship.' The editorial states that there is only one country among Arab nations that could be termed as a fully democratic country, and that is Tunisia. In 2011, when the 'Arab Spring' started sweeping through different countries, the people in Tunisia removed Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who had been in power for over 24 years. The Arab Spring later started sweeping through a few other Arab countries and people supporting democracy got a feeling that the dictatorships in Arab nations would become a thing of past and they all would be able to embrace a democratic rule. When democracy was established in Egypt under the leadership of Mohammad Mursi, the joy of democratic supporters knew no bounds. However, everybody knows what happened later. The military seized power with support of foreign agencies. Ikhwanul Muslimeen was banned. Thousands of its

workers are in jails. Hundreds of others were hanged to death and Mursi died under mysterious circumstances in the jail. The same story got repeated in Libya and Muammer Ghaddafi was murdered. The world is still watching what is happening in Syria. Whatever has happened in Libya and Egypt during the Arab Spring, one cannot put a label on it. But the CIA, which has entangled Syria in a civil war, has delightedly branded it as a Shia-Sunni war.

As far as Tunisia is concerned, its total population is approximately 1.2 crore and 98% of them are Muslims. Muslims have a comparatively peaceful existence in this country. It became a part of the Ottoman Empire in 1575. However, in 1881, France occupied the country and it remained under its rule till 1956. Tunisia secured independence from France on March 20, 1956 and declared itself as a democratic country. Habib Bourguiba became the first president of the country. In 1987, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who was appointed as prime minister by President Habib Bourguiba, launched a rebellion and captured power and started functioning as a dictator. However, his dictatorship ended in 2011 when the people overthrew his government. Now the country's current president has removed the prime minister

and his cabinet, dissolved the parliament and took over executive powers.

President Kais Saied alleged that due to the financial policy of the prime minister and his government, the country has become bankrupt. Hence he was forced to take power into his hands. He also alleged that the deposed prime minister and his 460 supporters have stolen 4 billion and 80 crore dollar from the country's treasury. But the interesting thing is that when he captured power after getting frustrated with corruption, why did he close down newspapers and news agencies in the country? What is the president trying to hide from the world? Why the office of Arab channel Al Jazeera was raided? Why the people working there were arrested? Why journalists across the country were arrested? If the government was corrupt, then why opposition MPs were arrested? The truth is that Kais Saied wants to become the dictator of the country. He branded the prime minister as corrupt to fulfil this aim. Had the government of Hichem Mechichi been corrupt, then how come the people of the country were holding protests in his favour on the streets? Why the Tunisian police is after the life of all those who open their mouth against the president? The truth is that there is a trend in Arab nations to become dictatorships. Those who get the strength often tend to dig the grave of democracy. We are sure that the revolutionary people of Tunisia would stand up with full strength against this dictatorship and would make efforts to establish democracy in the country.

Qaumi Tanzeem, (July 31) published from Patna, reports that France, along with other Western nations have repeatedly demanded that there should be an early resolution to the political crisis in Tunisia. France asked Tunisian President Kais Saied to immediately set up a democratic government in that country. European Union and the US had already asked Kais Saied to restore democracy to ensure political stability in the country. Earlier, using his special powers, President

Kais Saied had removed the Prime Minister and dissolved the Parliament. When the opposition parties opposed the decisions, the President started taking measures to arrest opposition MPs. Apart from this, the President also removed several top officials from their posts. They include the chief of the government Television channel.

The foreign minister of France demanded that the rule of law should be established in the country and the democracy restored to elect a new prime minister. The surprising thing is that majority of Arab nations have claimed that they stand with the people of Tunisia, but chose not to criticise President Kais Saied. The spokesperson of Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs ministry said the Saudi government is ready with everything for the brothers and sisters of Tunisia to ensure their safety and security. The Qatar government stressed on holding talks with all the sides. However, Egypt refused to comment on the developments in Tunisia. However, the government media in Egypt has come out in support of the measures taken by Kais Saied and said that the President had taken these measures to save Tunisia from Islamic terrorist elements.

Inqilab (July 29) reports that Iran and Saudi Arabia had announced that they stand with Tunisia in this hour of crisis and expressed hope that the people there would overcome the crisis. Without criticising President Kais Saied, Saudi Arabia expressed hope that he would successfully deal with the situation.

Inqilab (July 27) reports that people have launched massive protests in Tunisia after the suspension of democratic rights. Government sources have claimed that the erstwhile government had failed to tackle the Corona pandemic as well as inflation in the country and hence the people were protesting against the government. However, the media said that people were holding protests seeking restoration of democracy. The military has issued a strong warning to the protesters asking them not to spread violence, otherwise will be fired with bullets. ■

US announces end of military operations in Iraq

Inquilab (July 28) reports that US President Joe Biden had announced that the US would withdraw its all troops from Iraq by the end of this year. The US military has been camping in Iraq for the past 18 years. However, a handful of officers involved in providing training to others may remain in Iraq. The US President has conveyed this decision after holding talks with Iraq Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi. According to government spokesperson, the role of US military would soon be limited to providing training to Iraqi soldiers in their fight against Islamic State and also in extending help to them. However, the security cooperation between US and Iraq would remain. We would jointly fight Islamic State and would defeat them, he said. The Iraq Prime Minister has claimed the relationship between his government and US have improved a lot compared to the past.

There are 2500 US soldiers currently present in Iraq and their role is to extend help and cooperation to the Iraqi soldiers. Till now it is not clear how many US soldiers would return to their native country. According to media reports, there is tremendous pressure on Iraq's prime minister from Iranian supporters to ensure that the US troops withdraw from the country as early as possible. Three months later, there will be elections in Iraq. The announcement has been made ahead of it. Years of war and violence have destroyed the economy of Iraq. Due to shutdown of electricity generation there is a huge increase in the problems being faced by the people of the country, which is also the



hottest country in the region. It is being said that PM Al-Kadhimi, in order to secure the support of Iran, has been putting pressure on US to withdraw its troops. The US started interfering in Iraq from 2003 after Islamic State established its network in the country. But last year, after the declaration of the then President of United States Donald Trump that it would withdraw maximum troops from Iraq, the US has broken the back of Islamic State. Now the US has announced its decision to stop its military campaign in Iraq. The announcement came at a time when the US has started withdrawing all its troops from Afghanistan ending its 20-year-old military campaign in that country leading to a situation where the Taliban have captured majority regions of the country amid clashes with government forces.

What is weird is that Iraq Prime Minister Al Kadhimi claims that the Iraqi military is capable of looking after the country's security. However, the truth is that the fighters of Islamic State are still present in many parts of the country and they are creating a mayhem. This week, Islamic State militants exploded a bomb at a market place in Baghdad in which at least 35 people were killed. ■

Renowned Shia scholar released from jail

Inqilab (July 31) reports that a court in Nigeria has ordered the release of renowned Shia scholar Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky and his wife Zeena Ibrahim from the jail. The two were in jail since 2015. In 2018, the Nigerian government had booked him on charges like assisting in murder and disturbing peace. The lawyer of Sheikh Zakzaky said the court found that all charges were baseless and hence released him from the jail. For the past one decade, Ibrahim Zakzaky has been running a campaign seeking an Islamic revolution in Nigeria, modelled on Iran. In order to crush his demand, the Nigerian government had arrested him, his wife and nearly 200 members of his organisation called Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN). One year later, a court had ordered his release. However, even before he could be released, charges like murder were foisted on him in order to ensure that he remains in jail.

The charges against him were framed during a campaign unleashed by his supporters in 2015. During the campaign, the government forces had brutally murdered his 350 supporters at a place called North Kaduna. It is being said that



when his supporters were participating in a rally, the military stopped them and opened indiscriminate fire on them. Initially, both the government and the military refused to acknowledge the incident but later said that when a few protesters attacked a soldier and killed him, the soldiers had to take counter action. Later, the government imposed a ban on Islamic Movement in Nigeria. Many people linked to this organisation were released during 2019-20. However, since Sheikh and his wife continued to be incarcerated in jail, violent protests broke out in many places and many people were killed. ■

Bashar Al Assad becomes Syrian President once again

Hamara Samaj (July 19) reports that Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has claimed to have received 95% votes in the elections held in May. He has taken over as the President of Syria for the fourth consecutive time. According to French news agency AFP, Bashar Al Assad took oath in the name of Quran and Constitution. More than 600 people attended the function. Now he will remain in power for the next seven years. His family is in power in Syria for the past 60 years. Earlier, his father Hafiz Al Assad was the ruler of Syria for nearly 30 years. Europe and US have described the

elections held in May as 'fraud' and demanded its cancellation. However, after taking the oath Al Assad described his election as a victory for the people. The Bashar Al Assad government controls nearly two-third parts of the country. The rebels are active in many northern parts of the country. Syria is in the grip of a civil war for the past one decade and so far nearly 5 lakh people have been killed and lakhs of others have been rendered homeless. The nation is also facing a huge financial crisis.

Avadhnama (July 30) reports that Syria President Bashar Al Assad had

described Iran as its closest friend. Earlier, the Speaker of Iranian parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf met Assad in Damascus. The leaders told journalists that Iran and Syria are the most trusted friends and the two countries are involved in fight against terrorism. Iran has been standing with the people of Syria right from the beginning and they have been extending their help in all fields. He said that till each and every inch of Syrian land is liberated from the clutches of the rebels, the cooperation between the two countries would remain steady. The outcome of the elections held in Syria and Iran indicate that the people are with us and the pressure exerted by different forces in the world to change the political fortunes of the two countries have failed to yield results. He also said



that both the countries would extend cooperation on financial development.

Haj amid Corona restrictions

Hamara Samaj (July 7) reports that Haj pilgrimage has started amid Corona restrictions and the Saudi government has permitted only 60,000 Saudi Hajjis to visit Ka'aba this year. The Hajjis have been allowed to enter Masjid-e-Harem in groups of 6,000 each and granted permission for circumambulation. For the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, the haajjis were presented the Aab-e-Zamzam (holy water) by women employees. The government has selected only 60,000 people from lakhs of people interested in doing Haj this year. Every year, on an average, 30 to 40 lakh

people arrive for Haj from different parts of the world and the Saudi government gets billions of dollars as revenue from them. The Haj sermon was delivered in 10 world languages, including Urdu, by Sheikh Abdullah Al Mania. For the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, robots were deployed in the service of Hajjis. The robots are being used to spray on Hajjis. For the first time, Saudi government used modern computer technology to broadcast the Haj sermon. Muslims in the entire world listened to the sermon.

Over 14,000 infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia

Siasat (July 26) reports that the security agencies of Saudi Arabia raided different places in the country and arrested 14,648 people who have been illegally staying in the country. Among them, 9,000 had illegally entered the

country. Those who have been nabbed include 46% Yemenis, 44% Ethiopians and 10% from other countries. This apart, workers who have been staying illegally have also been arrested, and their number is 126.

Gaudan by Muslim Rashtriya Manch



Inquilab (July 21) reports that under the leadership of RSS leader Indresh Kumar, the Muslim RashtriyaManch organised a Gaudan at the Gaushala at Hanuman Vatika near Turkman Gate and also held a milk party. On this occasion, chief of Muslim RashtriyaManch, Delhi, Hafiz Mohammad Sabarin said they organised a milk party on the advice of Indresh Kumar during which cows were donated to different gaushalas in Delhi. He said the cow milk is beneficial in

many ways. One benefit is that it improves the bone strength and protects the heart that helps one to keep away different ailments. He said that cow milk contains anti-oxidant Vitamin E and zinc. On this occasion, he said that it is necessary to launch a campaign for cow protection in the country. The others who were present were Dr Imran Chaudhary, Girish Juyal, Mohammad Faiz Khan, Mohammad Shakir, Mohammad Shabir, Shabana and others. ■

Row over Muslim guest house

Inquilab (July 21) reports that the efforts by builder mafia to encroach a 175-year-old Muslim Muzafir Khana at Ballimaran in Old Delhi and set up a market in its place has been foiled due to the efforts of the alert residents and intervention of Waqf Board. It is being

said that it is the only one Musafir Khana in Delhi where any Muslim can enter and stay there for free for a couple of days. It was constructed by the family of Sharif Khan Hakim nearly 175 years ago. It has more than 60 rooms and it is a two-storey structure. ■

Centuries-old masjid revived in Haryana

Inqilab (July 19) reports that non-Muslims in a village near Panipat has renovated a centuries-old masjid and handed over the same to Haryana Muslim Waqf Board. It is being said that the masjid belongs to Lodhi period. During Partition, all the Muslim residents of the village left for Pakistan and hence the masjid remained abandoned. Chief of Jamia Darul Islam, Maulana Javed Naqvi, with the cooperation of the non-Muslims of the village, renovated the masjid and

handed it over to Muslims. For the first time in 75 years, the village witnessed namaz. Sarpanch of the village, Surjit Singh, said the masjid was in a dilapidated state. Now all the non-Muslims in the village handed it over to the Muslims in the nearby village so that they can do namaz there. Earlier also, non-Muslims had renovated at least 70 masjids in Haryana and handed them over to Muslims. Now these masjids are being looked after by Haryana Waqf Board.

Special programme during Moharram on DD Urdu

Inqilab (August 1) reports that during the month of Moharram, Prasar Bharati satellite channel DD Urdu will telecast majlis related to ‘Shahidan-e-Karbala’ for ten days. This will be broadcast under the title ‘Paigam-e-Karbala’ and many renowned scholars of Islam will take part in it. This apart, those who organise different majlis have also been specially invited. Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is taking a special interest in the programme and due to his efforts, scholars from important places like Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai, Agra, Kolkata and

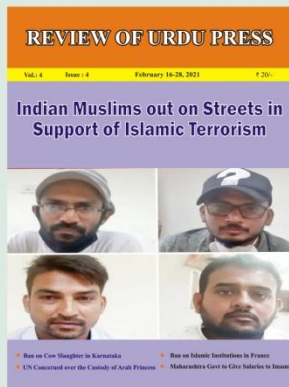
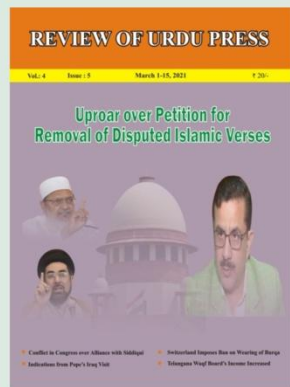
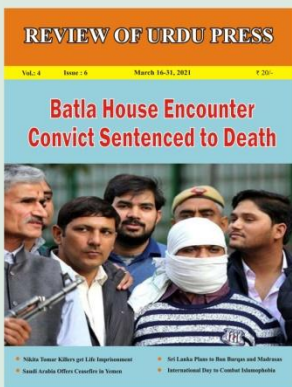
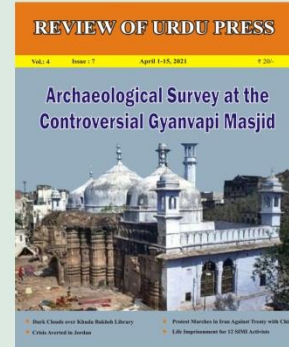
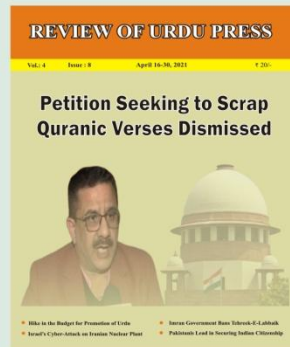
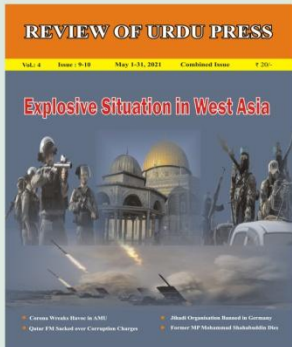
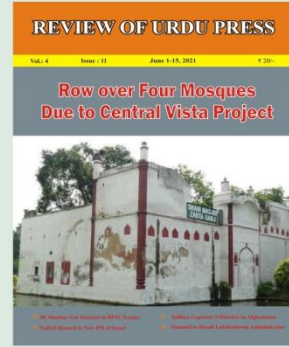
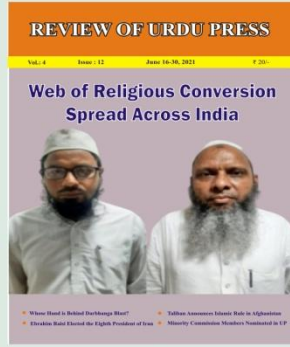
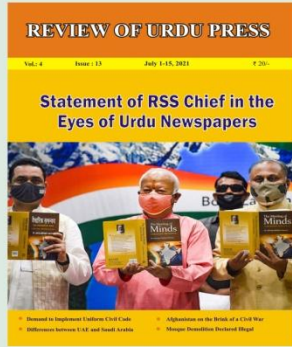
Banaras are taking part in the event. This time Shia leader Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, Imam of Fatehpuri Shahi masjid Dr Mufti Mukram Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur, Padma Shri Prof Aktharul Wasey, world renowned speaker Maulana Abid Bilgrami, Athar Hussain Delhavi and Maulana Sayed Razi Haider will take part in the majlis.

In India, apart from DD Urdu, News18, Zee Salam, Munsif TV, and One TV broadcast special programme on Moharram every year and these are popular among Muslims world over.

Attack on Namaz-e-Janazah near Baghdad

Inqilab (August 1) reports that Islamic State terrorists attacked a Namaz-e-Janazah (funeral prayer) in Salahuddin region in Iraq in which 13 people participating in the prayers died on the spot. The incident took place nearly 80 kilometres away from Baghdad. The terrorists also attacked an outpost near a village in which at least 3 policemen were killed. At least 45 injured have been admitted to hospital.





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