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Urdu Media Welcomes Taliban's Islamic Rule



- Efforts for Islamic Unity in India
- Can the New President of Iran Resolve the Crisis?
- Russia-China Joint Military Exercise in Xinjiang
- Campaign Against Ahmadis

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Summary

Afghanistan has been taken over by Taliban and despite spending trillions of dollars in the past 20 years, the Americans had to beat a hasty retreat from the country. What is strange is that the Americans and Western nations were under the impression that the three-and-a-half lakh Afghanistan soldiers whom they had trained all these years would be able to keep Taliban away at least for one to three months. But the Afghan army surrendered before the Taliban without firing even a single shot. The most interesting thing is that the latest weapon systems and equipment that the Americans had given to Afghanistan military have also been handed over to Taliban. This has strengthened the Taliban and it has become one of the world's armies that has the most modern weapons and arms. Another interesting thing is that while Taliban are playing with the blood of innocent citizens of Afghanistan, almost every Urdu newspaper in India is celebrating their victory, describing the Taliban takeover as one of the greatest victories in the history of Islam.

There is even a competition among Muslim leaders over celebrating the victory of Taliban in Afghanistan. Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq has dared to compare the Taliban with the freedom fighters of our country. Even the Muslim leaders in Kashmir are competing to celebrate the victory of Taliban. A member of Muslim Personal Law Board, Sajjad Nomani, welcomed Taliban's capture of Afghanistan, but when the police registered a case against Barq and a few other people, the Muslim Personal Law board immediately changed its stand and said that it was a personal opinion of Sajjad Nomani and the board has nothing to do with it. In Assam, Muslim organisations have openly welcomed the Taliban victory. The Assam police had to register cases against 18 persons in this connection.

In the past few days, Muslim politics in the country has taken a new turn. A meeting of 80 Muslim leaders took place in Delhi where it has been decided to unite the Muslim community which is divided into 72 sects. What is interesting is that the effort for this campaign has started in Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Did the Muslim organisations in India too follow the direction of Saudi Arabia in this connection? The Hindu society is not aware of the serious differences among various Muslim organisations. Is there anybody who doesn't know about the riots that is taking place for the past 150 years between Sunnis and Shias in the major cities of the country? In the eyes of Deobandis, a visit to a mazaar (tomb) is considered as "kufir" (disbelief) while Barelvis and Sufis consider it as part of Islam. For the past 100 years, the Deobandis and Barelvis are issuing fatwas against each other and also calling each other as 'kafir' and infidels. Whereas Ahmadis are not even considered as Muslims. Recently, a similar issue in Telangana has even reached the police station. Earlier also several attempts were made to unite the various sects of Islam. However, till now nothing much has come out of such efforts.

National Book Trust has recently published a book titled 'Bharat Vaibhav' which was released at a function by the Sarsanghchhalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat. In his speech, he said that the entire Bharat was never under slavery at any point of time. Whenever an invader started planning an attack on Bharat, efforts were also taken to uproot him from the country. Bharat's pride is in its traditional knowledge and there is no need for the country to imitate others. India was born to share its knowledge traditions with the entire world.



Concern among Muslims over campaign about Love Jihad



Muslim organisations have launched a counter campaign against a drive launched by a few Hindu organisations against Love Jihad in the recent past.

Inqilab (August 5) reports that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has expressed serious concern over the increasing tendency among Muslim girls to marry non-Muslim boys and urged the parents of Muslim girls to keep an eye on them so that they do not go astray. The executive general secretary of the board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said that Muslim girls can marry only Muslim boys. In the same way, Muslim boys cannot marry non-Muslim girls. He urged the parents to remain alert in this connection. This apart, he urged the Muslim Ulema and imams of masjids to organise more and more meetings with youths, especially with young women and teenagers so that Muslim boys and girls do not land in the trap of non-Muslims.

In his speech, Maulana Rahmani said that in Islam, it is clearly stated that the

‘nikah’ of a Muslim girl can be solemnised only with a Muslim boy. In the same way, a Muslim boy cannot marry a non-Muslim girl. If any ‘nikah’ takes place in violation of this rule, it will be wrong as per Sharia. Since women and men work together in offices, there are increasing cases of inter-faith marriage. Several such cases have come before us in which many Muslim girls had gone with non-Muslims and they had to face several difficulties later. Sometimes they had to sacrifice even their lives. Hence it is necessary that Muslim scholars and imams create awareness among youths about their religion so that inter-faith marriages could be stopped.

He said that in order to stop such incidents it is necessary that parents make arrangements for the religious education of their children and keep a close watch on the usage of mobile phones by boys and girls so that they don't go astray. Muslims should also take efforts to ensure that they send their daughters only to girls' school or

college for education. As far as those interested in getting married in courts are concerned, a notification for the same is issued much in advance. If religious organisations, spiritual leaders, teachers and the enlightened persons of Muslim society come across such notification, then it is their duty to visit the homes of the concerned boy and girl and convince them against inter-faith marriage and make them understand that such love marriages are a failure and their entire life becomes a 'haram'. He said that it has also come to the notice that whenever the marriage of girls get delayed for some time, then their family gets misled and falls into the clutches of non-Muslims. Hence it is necessary that Muslims should marry off their boys and girls on time so that such situations do not arise.

As per a news published in **Inquilab** (August 9), Muslim girls are falling into the clutches of non-Muslims resulting in tension between both the communities. At one level, the allegation of Love Jihad is raised and at another level people of one community are trying to trap as many Muslim girls as possible into marriage. Some organisations of saffron parivar are taking a special interest in such campaigns. The interest among Muslims to marry non-Muslims is on the rise and social activists are blaming parents for their wrong upbringing of their children apart from the influence of mobile phones and social media. Renowned lawyer Shahid Ali said that the situation is getting worse day-by-day. The interest among Muslim girls to marry non-Muslim boys is on the rise. He cited three reasons for this. The first is that an atmosphere of fear has been created among Muslims due to which the girls feel that if they marry non-Muslim boys, then their life and property will be more secure. The second reason is co-education due to which the children liberate themselves out of the control of their parents. This is the reason why in Aligarh Muslim University, the education of boys and girls are separate right from the lower classes to BA classes. The third reason is that if Muslim boys

ignore Muslim girls and marry non-Muslim girls, they kill the right of the Muslim girls.

According to social activist Dr Saira Khan, some organisations deliberately persuade boys to lure Muslim girls into their fold. Shaukat Mufti of Hamdard National Foundation said that these kinds of incidents are happening because the younger generation is moving away from Islam. The minds of girls and boys studying in schools and colleges should be Islamic so that they do not go astray and stick to their religion.

Most Urdu newspapers have started an effort to publish news from different places in order to give a direction to this campaign.

Inquilab in its editorial on August 8 said that marriages were given a communal colour by the state governments of BJP. The newspaper described Love Jihad as a false propaganda by RSS and its allied organisations and alleged that the BJP governments in states first described it as official truth and then created a unilateral law. After the BJP government came to power, they opened frontseverywhere to sell their false propaganda and raised the fabricated term called 'Love Jihad' and spread the word that Muslim organisations are giving lakhs of rupees to Muslim youths to marry Hindu girls. You will remember that in 2017 different news channels had given publicity to Hindu Jagran Manch claiming that 2,100 Muslim girls would become daughters-in-law in Hindu families within six months. But the liar gets exposed with his face blackened. Forget 2100, they were not able to make even 21 Muslim girls as daughters-in-law. Later in 2018, on August 14, an organisation named Hindu Yuva Morcha had announced that Hindu youths who marry Muslim girls would get 2.5 lakh cash, food for six months and a secure accommodation. But not a single Hindu boy came forward to get the 2.5 lakh. It is natural that a unilateral law is created against Muslims. That is the reason why the Muslim Personal Law Board has issued an advisory stating that the parents keep an

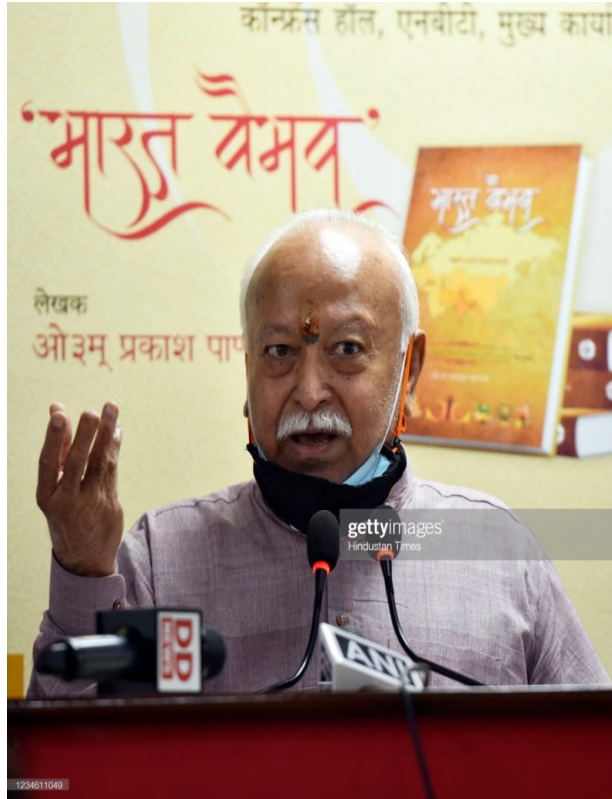
eye on Muslim boys and girls. Keep checking their mobiles. Girls should be sent to girls' school only and if any Muslim girl's or boy's photo is pasted in the office of marriage registrar, then Muslim religious leaders should reach there and convince

them against the marriage. In our opinion, the solution to the problems of boys and girls is that they should shun Hindustani rituals in weddings and embrace the holy Islamic marriage where there is no trace of dowry. ■

RSS chief releases 'Bharat Vaibhav'

Roznama Sahara (August 12) reports that Sarsanghchalak of RSS, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, released a book written by Dr Om Prakash Pandey titled 'Bharat Vaibhav' at a function organised by National Book Trust in New Delhi. On the occasion, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, MP Dr Satyapal Singh, National Book Trust chairman Prof Govind Prasad Sharma and others were present.

In his speech, Mohan Bhagwat said that the entire Bharat was never under the slavery of a foreign power at any point of time. Whenever an invader tried to invade the country, efforts began on the same day itself to stop him. He said that the pride of the country is in its traditional knowledge and there is no need for the country to copy from others. Bharat was born to share its traditional knowledge with the entire world. The vast ocean of knowledge about Bharat should be translated in all Bharatiya languages and widely publicised and disseminated. He said he was often asked why we were not able to work like China, America or Russia. But my question is why we need to copy some other country? Why do we want to be like them? We need to work like us only. Referring to the New Education Policy, the Sangh chief said that it is necessary that we go back to the Bharatiya value system through the new education policy. Once we return to our value system, then voices opposed to it would also surface. It can happen on this also. He said that due to our knowledge and culture we keep ourselves away from bigotry. This is the reason why we have never attacked



others and never went to invade other countries. We win the hearts through our knowledge and culture. He said that for any society, nation or individual, it is necessary to have self-confidence for its progress. Without it nothing is possible. Even before the invasion of Alexander, many others made preparations for attack. Our nation used to resist every attack and used to win as well. Therefore our entire nation was never under foreign control at any point of time. Whenever some attacker tried to invade the country we used to make preparations to uproot him that day itself.

According to Mohan Bhagwat, there is no bigger pride than self-pride. Bharat's pride is its knowledge tradition. Bharat was

born to provide its traditional knowledge to the entire world. In the function held at the National Book Trust office in Vasant Kunj, he said the book has provided knowledge on everything in detail from 'aatma' to 'anaatma.' The book, which is an ocean of knowledge, should be translated into all the languages in our country so that it gets wide publicity.

Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammad Khan, said the morale and self-confidence of any nation develop through its own culture. Bharatiya culture is till sanatan and it is our social responsibility to take maximum efforts to realise it. Member of Parliament Dr Satyapal Singh said that the basic element of the book is 'Shreshta Bharat' and

relentless efforts should be initiated to make the nation realise 'paramvaibhav.' This book is the first step in that direction. Chairman of the Trust, Professor Dr Govind Prasad Sharma said Bharat's "jnanaparampara" is the most ancient one and this book would play a key role in re-establishing the values of Bharat in the world. Describing about Bharat Vaibhav, the author of the book, Om Prakash Pandey, said that culture is the soul of the body called nation and the culture of Bharat is still alive through its glorious tradition. Director of the Trust, Yuvraj Malik, assured that in the coming days, similar literature would be published and the Trust would remain at the forefront in creating a society based on knowledge.

Row over circular issued for Muharram

Inquilab (August 3) reports that a circular issued by the Uttar Pradesh police administration on the occasion of Muharram is kicking up a controversy day-by-day. Many prominent personalities and the Ulema have strongly objected to several points in the circular, which has gone viral on social media. General Secretary of Majlis Ulema-e-Hind, Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi organised a press conference and sought an apology from the DGP of Uttar Pradesh Mukul Goyal and said that if he doesn't do so then the government should take action against him. He also threatened that they would boycott all meetings of the administration being organised on the occasion of Muharram. Commissioner of police, Lucknow, Dr D K Thakur met Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi at his residence. Naqvi said that Muharram is the most sacred and holy month for us. For the month, events are organised in the most peaceful and sacred manner. By issuing such a circular, the police have tried to tarnish the image of Shias and the Muharram and also used



derogatory terms. In the circular, the police said that there could be 'disturbances' during Muharram procession. There could be danger to other sects of Muslims. Anti-social elements take part in Muharram procession and often hurt the sentiments of other sections, the circular said. The Maulana said that this is totally wrong and there is a conspiracy to bring bad name to Muharram. Muharram is the month of mourning where the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and his colleagues is observed. It is not a celebration. Hence there is no question of any ruckus or unruly behaviour taking place during the month.

He said that both Shias and Sunnis observe Muharram in a peaceful manner and sometimes even Hindus also take part in it, which the director general of police should have been aware of. A reading of the circular gives the feeling that it is a deliberate attempt to bring a bad name to Shias and the Muharram. He challenged to show one single incident in entire Hindustan where there was a clash with anyone during Muharram. He said that the circulars that were issued till today since the Independence had never used this kind of language. He appealed to all Shia-Sunni and Hindu organisations in Uttar Pradesh that till the circular is withdrawn we would not take part in any meetings called by the administration.

According to the newspaper, after holding talks with the Maulana, police commissioner D K Thakur said the circular was issued for police officials and staff. In that case it is even worse, the Maulana said. By issuing such a circular, a wrong message has been sent to police officers and employees. The police commissioner said that he would apprise senior officials about the sentiments expressed by Maulana in this connection.

In another report published in the same newspaper, additional director general of police Prashant Kumar said that this kind of circular is issued every year and its aim is neither to insult any religion or faith nor to hurt the religious sentiments of the believers. He said that he would talk to senior police officers and find a solution to the issue.

In a meeting organised at Shia Jama Masjid in Delhi, Shia leaders have demanded that the language used in the circular can lead to differences between different sects of Muslims. They demanded that the circular shall be immediately withdrawn and instead another circular be issued. Maulana Mohsin Ali Naqvi said that the directions issued in the wake of Corona pandemic during Muharram are followed by the Shias in totality. He said that they have objections to some portions

of the circular and they should be removed immediately.

Inqilab editor Shakeel Shamsi in his editorial on August 3 accused Uttar Pradesh government of trying to divide the Muslim community. Earlier, the government used Wasim Rizvi to achieve this aim. He said that Wasim Rizvi is not alone, an anti-Islam gang is with him, and its link extends up to Nagpur. That is the reason why the government has not taken any action against him. Recently, the circular issued by the Uttar Pradesh police for Muharram is also a part of this campaign. The question that arises here is why the government circular has been made viral? In the circular, the open manner in which things were written about the differences between Deobandi, Ahle Haadis fraternities like Barelvi, Sufi and Shia have no basis at all.

The editor said that a Shia-Sunni riot never took place in Uttar Pradesh. Yes, disputes do occur between the two in Lucknow. We do not understand why the police in the entire region were told that during Muharram, Shia, Barelvi, and Sufi Muslims take out tazia processions. The Deobandis and Ahle Haadis object to this. What is the purpose behind mentioning about the Shia-Sunni clash that took place in Lucknow nearly 40–50 years ago, throughout the state? The editor has admitted that till the beginning of 80s, Shia-Sunni riots used to take place. However, after the Ayodhya controversy and the Shah Bano case, the Muslims never fought among themselves. The editor has demanded to withdraw the circular.

Avadhnama (August 8) in its editorial states that the director general of police apologised to Maulana Naqvi after Shias expressed resentment over the circular and also said that in future they would keep in mind not to take measures that hurt the sentiments of Shias. The DGP said that the circular was a secret one. After this clarification, the Shia leaders withdrew the decision to boycott the meetings convened by the administration. In this connection, the Shia leaders also held talks

with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the chairman of minorities commission, Atif Rasheed. The National Commission for Minorities has also issued a notice to Uttar Pradesh police over issuing the controversial guidelines and sought a clarification from them.

Avadhnama in another editorial on August 10 said that Muharram is observed amid Corona once again. As per the new guidelines, no procession could be taken out during Muharram. Neither can people gather together to bury the tazia. Instead, only two or three persons are allowed to go

to bury the tazia. In the majlis being organised as part of Muharram, more than 50 people cannot take part and they have to observe Covid protocol. In Lucknow, Section 144 of CrPC has been imposed and police patrol has been intensified to maintain peace. The majlis is held as per Covid guidelines throughout the country.

Avadhnama (August 14) reports that Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi had urged the police and the administration not to create any obstacles during Muharram. He said that the ban by the administration on putting up black flags is not appropriate.

Efforts for Islamic unity in India



It is generally believed that there are no differences or divisions among Muslims. However, the ground reality is different. According to Islamic scholar Dr Zafar Raza, Muslims are roughly divided into 72 sects (firqa).

Inqilab (August 9) reports that under the auspices of general secretary of All India Milli Council and chairman of Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), Dr Mohammad Mansoor Alam, an Ittehadul Millet meeting was held in Jamia Nagar where the chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Syed Arshad Madani, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Sadatullah Hussaini, manager of

Darul Uloom Deoband Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, Shia Aalam-e-Din and general secretary of Majlis Ulema-e-Hind Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, chief of All India Ulema and Mashaikh Board Maulana Syed Mohammad Ashraf Kichhouchhwi, general secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, Shia scholar Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali and other important leaders took part. After the meeting, speaking to the correspondent of **Inqilab**, Maulana Arshad Madani said that he would like to speak on behalf of Darul Uloom Deoband that it has one particular sect and many people due to that

describe Deobandis as Kafirs. However, Darul Uloom Deoband has never issued a fatwa against anyone describing him or her as a kafir. But if any individual opposes Sharia, then we will criticise him. Chief of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Navaid Hamid, said it has been decided at the meeting that the differences between various sects of Muslims should be resolved. For that, an atmosphere needs to be created. The Ummat of all Muslims shall be brought together in one place.

Beginning in Mecca

The effort to unite various sects of Muslims in India has begun in Mecca.

Inquilab (August 7) reports that on behalf of Muslim World League in Mecca, a Millet Unity Meeting was organised in which nearly 80 leaders of different Muslim sects participated. General Secretary of Muslim World League, Dr Mohammad Al-Issa, in his inaugural address said the effort for unity should begin with Shias and Sunnis. If one needs to keep alive Islam and the Ummah, then we have to forget the internal differences and come together. According to the website of Muslim World League, it is the first such meeting in Mecca. Earlier in

2006, OIC had made similar efforts. The latest meeting was the next step after the OIC meeting.

General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Abdul Hamid Nomani said he has been taking round of the country along with Maulana Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadvi and Mohammad Alam to unite different sects of Muslims. Very soon, an Ittehad Millet Conference will be convened in Delhi in which all Muslim organisations will be invited. He said that a committee of 25 important leaders have been formed for the purpose and its convenor is Khalid Saifullah Rahmani and joint convenors are Maulana Anees-ur-Rahman Qasmi and Maulana Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadvi. He said it has been decided that Muslims shall not do or rake up any issue that hurts the feelings of other sects within the community.

To find solutionsto the problems faced by Millet-e-Islamia, we need to take joint efforts. We need to ensure that we do not fall into the trap of organisations that oppose Muslims and whose efforts are to make various sects of Muslims fight among themselves. ■

Row over construction of Haj House in Delhi

The Haj House being constructed by the Delhi government in Dwarka Sector 22 has already landed in a controversy. According to government sources, the foundation stone of the house was laid by the then chief minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, in 2008. Later the issue got mired in controversy. In 2018, the Aam Aadmi Party government allocated Rs 94 crore for its construction. It is being said that the construction of the house is currently on. Earlier, a temporary Haj House was built near Turkman Gate. However, the land at Turkman Gate was not sufficient to accommodate the increasing number of Haajis and hence the then Congress

government decided to build a Haj House in Dwarka.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 8) claims that a mahapanchayat was held against the construction of the Haj House in which activists of hardline Hindu organisations participated in huge numbers. Those who attended include the Delhi state president of BJP, Adesh Gupta. The purpose of the mahapanchayat was to tell the government that if the Haj House is constructed in Dwarka without their permission, then there would be a communal flare-up in the region. The newspaper wrote that earlier there was a protest against construction of Haj House



in Dwarka from Muslim organisations, due to which the plan got shelved. The Muslim organisations wanted the Haj House to be built adjacent to the office of the Delhi Haj Committee. This is because Dwarka is far away from the city. The Delhi Police had registered cases against those who opposed the construction of Haj House. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dwarka, S K Meena said the meeting held in Sector 22 on the Juma day was organised in violation of Covid protocol. Hence action is being taken against its organisers and CCTV footage are being examined to identify the violators.

BJP leader Adesh Gupta said it is being constructed against the wishes of KhapPanchayat. He demanded that the land allotted for the proposed Haj House shall be used to construct a school or a hospital. The BJP has suggested to Kejriwal government that instead of constructing the Haj House on the land of farmers, it should be built on the vacant land of Waqf Board. Adesh Gupta also claimed that in 2007, the then Congress government decided to build the Haj House here and in February 2008, when the then chief minister Sheila Dikshit wanted to lay the foundation stone, it was opposed. He alleged that Kejriwal is constructing the Haj House to satisfy his political interests. There are no Muslims in the area where the Haj House is being constructed.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has also opposed the construction of the Haj House and said that if it is constructed there, it would pose a threat to the Hindus living in the area and a Shaheen Bagh kind of situation would emerge there. The VHP said that the Kejriwal government, in order to get Muslim votes, is splurging Rs 100 crores, which is the sweat and blood of taxpayers.

Avadhnama (August 5) reports that All Dwarka Residents Federation had sent a letter to the Lt Governor of Delhi demanding that the land allotted for Haj House in Delhi be cancelled. If that is not done, then a Kashmir-like situation would emerge there and Hindus would have to flee from there. Social activist Shabnam Hashmi, while opposing the letter, said that the letter would spread communalism and the government should take action against the office-bearers of the federation. The newspaper stated that fissures have developed among the residents of Dwarka over the construction of Haj House. More than 100 residents of the locality issued a statement in support of the construction of Haj House and said a few communal elements are deliberately creating an atmosphere against Muslims in the name of Haj House. They claimed that the organisations that are opposed to the construction of the Haj House have nothing to do with the locality.

Urdu media welcomes Taliban's Islamic rule



The unexpected manner in which Taliban captured the entire Afghanistan has been welcomed by almost all Urdu newspapers, and they described it as a victory of Islam. These newspapers also expressed happiness over the establishment of Islamic Sharia in Afghanistan.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 16) carried the headline, "Great victory in Islamic history, Taliban enters Kabul, Ashraf Ghani flees, comes back to power after a gap of 20 years, announcement of general amnesty, welcomed amid slogan shouting in different places in Kabul."

Salar (August 16) has its headline, "Huge victory for Islam in Afghanistan, wave of happiness among people over establishment of Sharia rule, Islamic world happy over victory of Taliban."

Aurangabad Times (August 16) has given the headline, "Wave of happiness in Islamic world over establishment of Islamic rule."

Roznama Sahara (August 16) has given the headline, "Taliban takes control of Afghanistan."

Hamara Samaj (August 16) has given the headline, "Victory for Islam in Afghanistan, America flees."

Avadhnama (August 16) has its headline "Taliban captures entire Afghanistan. Emarat-e-Islamia established."

Jadeed Markaz (August 22), a weekly from Lucknow, publishing it as the main news, said, "Taliban returns after 20 years, America flees from Afghanistan." It is mentioned in the news that regardless of the way the Taliban functions, whether we agree to it or not, we have to admit that the Taliban has banished the world's most powerful Americans from the country and captured Kabul without killing anyone. America's puppet Ashraf Ghani took away government money and tried to take refuge in Kazakhstan. When he was refused permission to land there, he fled to Qatar. The newspaper wrote that after Taliban captured the entire territory, there was no report of violence from anywhere in the country. The stand taken by China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan etc with regard to Taliban is

a matter of concern for India. The Taliban takeover will increase the panic in Bharat, especially in Kashmir.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 17) reports that Sheikh Ul Islam Mufti ThaqiUsmani said the peaceful entry of Taliban in Kabul, general amnesty and guarantee for peace revives the memory of Prophet's victory over Mecca. The Afghanistan incident has confirmed that even the world's most powerful nation would not be able to stand before Islam and its faith. Now the Islamic world should learn from this miracle. Chief of Jamiat-e-Islam Pakistan, Maulana Fazalur Rahman said they extend full support to Taliban. America attacked Afghanistan and we stood with Taliban because they were the oppressed people. It is important for people who believe in Quran and Sharia to feel happy on the victory of Taliban. If somebody is distressed about the victory of Islam and Taliban, then we have nothing to do with them. Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Maulana Sirajul Haq said if the people do not have faith in any particular government, then they cannot be saved even using the world's most powerful weapons. He said that Taliban will make Afghanistan a nation of peace, justice and Islamic Sharia and would present it as a model Islamic state before the world.

America-based director of Darul Uloom Online, Dr Yasir Nadeem al-Wajidi has offered hearty congratulations on the establishment of Daulat-e-Islamia in Afghanistan and said that Allah has given you one more opportunity to present an Islamic state based on Islam and Quran having peace and justice which could be presented to the world as an example. Your entry to Kabul resembled the Prophet's victory from Medina to Mecca.

While addressing reporters, member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Sajjad Nomani, congratulated Taliban and refuted the allegation that Taliban is torturing people. He said that Taliban is walking on the path laid by Prophet. Leader of Samajwadi Party, Muhammad Rehan Khan too, while congratulating Taliban for

giving a befitting reply to America, said that Taliban has taken these steps to establish peace in Afghanistan. Similarly, Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq said it is an internal matter of Afghanistan. Now Taliban has liberated itself from the slavery of America and raised the head of Islam. He expressed hope that Taliban would administer the country based on Islamic principles.

Navbharat Times (August 18) has carried a news report which claims that a case for treason has been registered against Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq. As per the case registered with police, Barq, while taking the side of Taliban, said India fought for freedom while under the British rule. Now Taliban has liberated its country and want to run the country on its own. He compared Taliban with the freedom fighters of India.

Siasat (August 17) reports that after taking control of the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Taliban have clarified that it would like to work with world community on international issues. In an interview, Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Nayeem said Taliban would not interfere in the internal affairs of any other country and it expects other countries also do not interfere in the internal matters of Afghanistan. In an interview to Al Jazeera, Nayeem said the war that stretched to 20 years in the past has now come to an end. Now efforts are on to form a government and the outline of the new government would become clear soon. He also made it clear that the new government in Afghanistan would be based on Quran and Sharia. Minorities and women will get their rights as per the Sharia. He also made it clear that Taliban don't want to bring danger to anyone and they are ready to hold talks with any Afghan leader. No power will be allowed to use the land of Afghanistan against any other nation. We hope that the foreign elements will not muster courage to repeat their failed experiment in Afghanistan. He said they did not expect former President Ashraf Ghani to escape from the country. We will not target any embassy in the



country. Every citizen will get protection. Chief of the political wing of Afghan Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said Taliban got such a huge victory due to the grace of Allah something which we did not expect at all. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Afghanistan has broken the chain of slavery. However, it is more important to break the chain of mental slavery. Pakistan wants a government that represents all ideologies.

Inqilab (August 13) reports that American experts had expressed hope that the Afghanistan Army would be able to contain the advance of Taliban for three months. However, British newspapers had described the time as one or two months only.

Akhbar-e-Mashariq (August 17) reports that the way the Taliban captured the entire Afghanistan has surprised all powerful countries in the world. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the three lakh Afghan soldiers whom the US trained for nearly 20 years, after giving them the most modern weapons, could not stand the 70,000 Taliban members even for a single day. We never expected such a huge failure from the Afghan Army. Launching a tirade on US President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump said Biden should immediately resign as the US got a slap on its face in

Afghanistan. He claimed that had he been the President, Taliban would not have taken over Afghanistan the way they did it. Meanwhile, Biden administration said Trump is equally responsible for the current state of affairs in Afghanistan. This is because the talks between Taliban and the US started under his administration in February 2020.

The reason for Taliban revolving around China, Russia and Pakistan for the past one year has now emerged from the background.

Sahafat (August 17) reports that the US and its allies have closed their embassies in Kabul but, Pakistan, China and Russia have announced that they would keep their embassies functioning. The Russian foreign affairs ministry announced that they have no intention of closing down their embassy in Kabul.

As per another news report published in **Sahafat**, Taliban has announced a general amnesty but a chaotic atmosphere prevails in Kabul. Taliban opened fire in different places in Kabul. Seven persons were killed at Kabul international airport due to the chaos. In an attempt to flee the country, several Afghans clung on to the wheels of a US military aircraft and fell to the ground and died as soon as the plane took off to the skies.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (August 17) reports that several people were killed in Kabul airport as Taliban resorted to firing.

Aurangabad Times (August 17) published a report on its front page, which expressed hope that the Taliban government would soon be recognised by China, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. The head of the political wing of Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said in an online video that henceforth the name of Afghanistan would be 'Emarat-e-Islamia, Afghanistan' and the administration would be run as per Islamic Sharia and Quran.

Siasat (August 17) reports that the Russian Ambassador in Kabul had said that former President Ashraf Ghani fled Afghanistan with four cars and a helicopter filled with money. It is being said that he arrived in Tajikistan. Ashraf Ghani claimed he understood it was better to leave Kabul and avoid bloodshed.

Inqilab (August 17) reports that 64 nations in the world issued a joint statement asking Taliban to allow foreigners and Afghan residents to leave the country in a secure manner. The roads, airports and borders shall be kept open for the purpose. Albania said that those who keep their faith in America should learn a lesson from the situation in Afghanistan.

Avadhnama (August 17) reports that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US would recognise Taliban in Afghanistan when they protect the basic rights of its citizens and keep terrorists away from the country. He said if Taliban don't stop providing refuge to terrorists in the country then they would not get any international help and various sanctions would be imposed on them. When he was asked whether the US failed in Afghanistan, he said that the US has achieved its aim in that country.

In another news published in the same newspaper, Iran has said that it would continue to support Afghan people and it wants the problems in that country to be resolved in a peaceful manner and through talks. Iran would continue with its efforts to find an agreement between various groups

in Afghanistan. Former President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai said he would stay only in Afghanistan and would not go anywhere. Spokesperson of Iranian foreign ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said Iran had five offices in Afghanistan, out of which four had been shut and now only its embassy is functioning in Kabul. Even in Kabul, we have reduced the number of our staff, he said.

News agency IANS reports that more than one lakh people have fled from war-ravaged regions of Afghanistan and are camping in different parks in Kabul. An Afghan resident in Delhi claimed that thousands of women of these refugees have gone missing in mysterious manner. He alleged that they have been abducted by Taliban.

Etemaad (August 17) reports that China has announced that it hopes to maintain a friendly relationship with Taliban. According to China, the people of Afghanistan have all the rights to decide their own future. China expects to further improve its friendly relationship and cooperation with Afghanistan. The Russian foreign ministry said they are keeping a close watch on the situation in Afghanistan. UAE has vacated its embassy in Kabul and called back its staff from there.

Hamara Samaj (August 17) reports that Taliban had announced that Afghanistan would be governed as per Islamic Sharia. Taliban have given strict instructions to its fighters that they shall not enter people's house without permission. Because Taliban want to provide security to the people of the country. BBC has announced that Taliban have been entering citizens' houses and taking away arms and ammunition. Taliban claim that it is now their responsibility to provide security to the people. Hence there is no need to keep these arms and ammunition. It is also being reported that the thousands of terrorists lodged in jails by the Americans have all been released. Among those who have been released include the vice-chief of Tehreek-e-Taliban, Pakistan, Maulavi Fakir



Mohammad and other Pakistan-supported terrorists.

The newspaper also claimed that the Taliban has so far not been able to capture Panjshir Valley. The biggest warlord of this valley, Ahmad Masood, said if Taliban don't try to impose their ideology on us using the strength of the gun, then we are ready to hold talks with them. His father Ahmad Shah Masood was considered as the biggest opponent of Taliban in Afghanistan.

Sahafat (August 17) in its editorial has welcomed 'Islamic Emarat' (Islamic rule) in Afghanistan. The total population of Afghanistan is 3.36 crore and 80% of them are Sunni Muslims and nearly 19% are Shia Muslims. Among them 42% are Pushtun, 29% are Tajik, 9% are Hazara and another 9% belong to Uzbeki community. **Sahafat** has written that it had repeatedly warned the Indian government against investing billions of dollars in Afghanistan. But nobody listened to its warning. The newspaper also expressed surprise that Taliban wanted a friendly relationship with China. Because China has been torturing lakhs of Uyghur Muslims. What is surprising is that Taliban, which claims to espouse the cause of Islam, is describing the Chinese Muslims as terrorists.

Siasat (August 15) in its editorial states that the developments in Afghanistan have heightened the threats faced by India. Taliban have warned India against exploring any military options in Afghanistan. India had always stood as a responsible neighbour for reconstruction of Afghanistan. In the present circumstances, India needs to remain more cautious. In order to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, every nation in the world needs to come forward.

Siasat in its special editorial on August 16 had warned India against the increasing threat from Afghanistan and expressed the apprehension that terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad would become more active in the country. There is also a possibility that with Taliban coming to power in Afghanistan, Pakistan's grip over the administration in Afghanistan will get strengthened, posing a threat to Indian interests. Now India has got limited role in Afghanistan. In future, Afghanistan's trade relations will be with different regions of Pakistan. In such a situation, there are three options before India. The first is for India to support the soon-to-be-formed government in Kabul and keep extending help to them. Second, India should not interfere in any manner in Afghanistan.



The third option is not to take any effort to establish any relationship with Taliban. However, it is unlikely to get a favourable reply from Taliban. This is because Taliban is under the control of Pakistan.

Avadhnama (August 17) states that the US and its 29 allies had declared a war on Afghanistan in 2001. That time, Afghanistan was under the control of Taliban. The US demanded that Taliban hand over the chief of Al Qaida, Osama bin Laden, to them. However, the Taliban government had refused to do so. Now, after 20 years, the US had to down their shutters in Afghanistan and exit from the country. Another thing is that the US used to assure the Ashraf Ghani government of all support. At the same time, it used to hold secret talks with Taliban and made a hurried exit from the country, leaving the Ashraf Ghani government at the mercy of Taliban. Soon after the US left the country, the Ashraf Ghani government started collapsing and Taliban captured the entire country. Taliban has the power of Islam, due to which a superpower like America could not do anything to it and they had once beaten back Russia. India has to keep a close watch on the situation in Afghanistan.

Etemaad (August 17) has stressed that Taliban has to establish a model

Islamic rule in Afghanistan and should provide complete security to the people of the country. It is necessary that Taliban provide peace and stability while taking the path of Quran and Sharia.

Hamara Samaj (August 17) in its editorial states that the turmoil taking place in Afghanistan has increased the threat to India and hence India has to take every step only after proper thinking.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 17) states that last time when the Taliban was in power in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, they had introduced a stringent Sharia law in the country. But now the Taliban itself is trying to become liberal to a certain extent. The change in their policy might have been influenced by the changes in Saudi Arabia. This is the reason why the Taliban spokesperson expressed hope that it would take the cooperation of different groups to establish peace and political stability in Afghanistan and would not seize the private wealth of anybody and would provide security to women's rights. This is the reason why they said the country that is involved in reconstruction work in Afghanistan need not worry about any hurdles. The newspaper urged Modi government to reach out to Taliban in the changed circumstances. ■

Malaysian Prime Minister resigns

Etemaad (August 17) reports that Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and his government submitted their resignation to the king of Malaysia. He remained in power for 17 months. He had to resign from his post as his allies refused to extend support to him. One of the ministers, Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof has confirmed that Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has resigned from his post but the Malaysian king is yet to appoint anybody else as the Prime Minister. Neither an announcement has been made for fresh elections. The reason is that the country is in the grip of Corona pandemic and economic distress. An expert from Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Oh Ei Sun, said that a new era of political alliances has started among the different groups in the Malaysian Parliament after the resignation of Yassin. It is difficult to say which



political turn the country will take now. As per the Constitution of Malaysia, the sovereign ruler appoints the one who has majority in the Parliament as the country's Prime Minister. Last year in March, the then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad got entangled in corruption charges, forcing him to resign from his post. ■

UK refuses to extend visa to Nawaz Sharif

Siasat (August 11) reports that the Britain's home ministry has refused to extend the visa of former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Nawaz Sharif. This has caused a great discomfort to him because if he returns to Pakistan, the government there would put him behind bars on corruption charges. Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz has confirmed that the British home ministry has refused to extend the visa of Nawaz Sharif. Pakistan's information ministry Fawad Chaudhary alleged that Nawaz Sharif had used fake reports from doctors to escape jail in corruption charges and fled to Britain under the guise of medical treatment. However, he is not suffering from any illness. He just wanted to escape from jail. The Pakistan government has



urged the British government not to shelter corrupt Nawaz Sharif. He should immediately be sent back to Pakistan so that legal action could be taken against him. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was given bail for eight months by the Islamabad High Court in October 2019 on the basis of medical reports. The Pakistan government has given him permission to go abroad on humanitarian considerations. Since then he has been living in London. Nawaz Sharif fears that if he returns home, he will be sent to jail. Hence he has now approached the British Immigration Tribunal with the help of his lawyers questioning the government decision not to extend his visa. As long as the tribunal doesn't take any decision on his application, he would legally be able to stay in Britain. ■

Russia-China joint military exercise in Xinjiang



Hamara Samaj (August 14) reports that Russian and Chinese military are involved in a largescale joint military exercise in North-Western China these days. Apart from the armies of both countries, fighter planes of the air forces are also involved in the exercise. The two countries started military cooperation after seeing the deteriorating political situation in neighbouring Afghanistan. The exercise is taking place in Ningxia region which is in the eastern part of Xinjiang province of China. Xinjiang province borders Afghanistan. China fears that after the exit of US troops from Afghanistan, Islamic terrorism would spread in the region. This is the region where China has kept more than 10 lakh Uyghur Muslims in detention camps. China claims that they were arrested during its campaign against terrorism and extremism. However, Western media claims that China deliberately wants to uproot Muslims from its region and they are going ahead with the policy of keeping the younger generation of Muslims away from Islam. According to the Chinese government news agency, the aim of the military exercise is to strengthen the synergy for joint action between the

forces of China and Russia against terrorism. The government agency also said that due to the fast changing political situation in the region, it is necessary that both the countries reassess their military policy. According to Russian defence ministry, the main aim of the exercise is improve the military relationship between both the countries and create an atmosphere of friendship. The government spokesperson said that both China and Russia will jointly tackle the emerging terrorism in the region. Recently, Russia has extended support to China over its claim on South China Sea. The representatives of China and US clashed over the issue in UN Security Council recently. For the past several decades, China, Taiwan and Asean countries like Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam have been staking their claim on South China Sea. Recently, China captured a number of islands in the controversial region and established their missile bases there. Hence tension arose between China and US on the issue. China has alleged that the US is deliberately creating tension in the region. ■

Man held for vandalising Maharaja Ranjit Singh statue



Inquilab (August 18) reports that the man who vandalised the statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Lahore Fort in Pakistan has been arrested and legal action is being taken against him. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had condemned the incident and had assured of stringent action against the accused. Recently, a video had gone viral in social media which shows Rizwan Ahmad, a member of banned Islamic organisation Tehreek-e-Labbak, vandalising the statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh located at Lahore Fort. After receiving the direction of the Prime Minister, police commissioner of Lahore, Ghulam Mehmood Dogar arrested Rizwan and said that a case has been registered against the accused. In a tweet, an aide to Pakistan Prime Minister Dr ShahbazGul said that whoever has done it, he is suffering from mental imbalance. The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh astride his

horse was erected outside Lahore Fort a few years ago. The ruling class of Pakistan has been promoting a friendly relationship with the Sikhs.

Recently, a number of gurdwaras in Pakistan have been repaired and Sikhs living abroad are invited in groups to Pakistan and taken for darshan in gurdwaras. The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was also set up in this connection and a Sikh Art Gallery has also been set up at Lahore Fort. Before this, in 2019 also, four persons attacked the statue and destroyed it. A section of Pakistanis consider Maharaja Ranjit Singh as an enemy of Islam and Muslims and they also allege that during his rule many masjids were converted into gurdwaras, including the Shahidganj masjid located in Lahore. This apart, many tombs of Muslim period were removed under the Sikh rule. ■

Can the new President of Iran resolve the crisis?



Inqilab (August 7) reports that after taking oath of office as the eighth President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi has stressed on the need to strengthen the country and start holding talks with world powers. The US has urged the new president to restart talks on the nuclear deal. A US spokesperson expressed hope that Iran would move ahead and use the occasion to politically settle the controversy. The talks cannot go on endlessly. After taking oath, the Iran President said he would support diplomatic efforts to end the sanctions imposed on Iran. The U.S. relations with Iran on the issue of nuclear deal are quite stressful. After the oath-taking function, Ebrahim Raisi said that the sanctions imposed on Iran by the US should be lifted. He also said that the politics of threat and sanctions cannot force Iran to backtrack on its rights.

Inqilab (August 7) reports that Iran's new president Ebrahim Raisi has taken charge. After holding talks with the representatives of United Arab Emirates, he said that Iran would try to improve its economic and commercial relationship with

UAE, since it is a good friend of Iran in the region. He said that they stand with the victimised people of Palestine and despite all kinds of pressures and hurdles, we are fulfilling our religious and humanitarian responsibilities in order to protect the people of Palestine and we are hopeful that all Muslims and Arab nations would take strong steps to end the aggression of Jews. He said that as far as the question of future of Yemen is concerned, the people of that country would take a decision on it. All the nations in the region should support the people of Yemen and protect their rights. He alleged that the Jews and Christians want to divide Muslims and weaken them. Earlier, the new Iranian President took oath of office and said he would not get involved in any deal against the interests of the people and would improve the relationship with all Muslim nations.

Earlier, the Iranian President held talks with the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Belarus and stressed that a joint commission shall be established to improve the relationship

between the two countries. He said there is huge potential for development between the two countries which could be made useful to the people of both the countries. He said that America thought that they could block the path of development in Iran. However, they could not fulfil their wish. Despite the hurdles created by the US, Iran is moving forward on the path of development.

Etemaad (August 7) in its editorial welcomed the new President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi assuming his office and said that after a moderate Hassan Rouhani, a hardliner Ebrahim Raisi has once again taken over. After his election was confirmed by the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he took the oath of office as the eighth president of Iran. Raisi has taken over at a time when Iran is facing challenges both at the domestic front and from abroad. In the country, huge protests are taking place against rising prices and shortage of water and electricity. This apart, while accusing Iran of attacking an Israeli tanker, the US, Britain and Israel have threatened to take strong action against Iran. However, Iran has clarified that it had no role in the attack. Iran is facing the century's biggest threat of famine and drought. Hence there is a crisis over water and electricity and Corona pandemic is also fast spreading in the country. Due to the sanctions imposed by the US, the prices are sky-rocketing and there have been protests in different parts of the country against the government.

Political observers believe that the new President, Ebrahim Raisi, would not be able to bring any change in the situation. Raisi had made several promises during his election campaign, including an improvement in the financial condition of the country. For this, it is necessary to lift the sanctions imposed by the US first. Raisi has no previous experience in foreign policy and administration. Before being elected as the President, he was the chief justice of Iran. During the regime of former President Hasan Rouhani, Mohammad Javad Zarif was head of foreign affairs

ministry as well as nuclear energy department. He spent nearly 20 years in US and hence he is totally familiar with US politics. The bilateral talks between the two countries to restore the nuclear deal are currently taking place in Vienna. However, the two sides are adamant on their respective stands. Iran wants the US to first lift the sanctions it had imposed on it. On the other hand, the US wants Iran to implement its assurances. Ali Baqri could be made the new foreign affairs minister of Iran. He had earlier worked with Raisi. During the regime of Mahmood Ahmedinijad, Baqri had served as an assistant to the then chief of foreign policy wing, Saeed Jalili. Baqri had got his education from Imam Sadiq University in Teheran. Students get admission in this university based on their religious bigotry. US had imposed sanctions on Iran's oil sales and had also threatened sanctions on any country that purchases oil from Iran. Iran has plunged into financial crisis following decrease in income from oil sales and its national production. Since 2017, there is an 85% decrease in Iran's trade with European Union nations. According to Bloomberg, there is pressure on extremist leaders in Iran that instead of trying to improve trade relations with Europe, it should concentrate on improving relationships with Russia and China. Since the new Iran President's policy is also anti-West, he would not be able to bring any improvement in the financial situation. For the first time since the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, the people of Iran are disenchanted by the country's leadership. This is the reason why more than half of the voters did not exercise their franchise in the recently held presidential election.

Siasat (August 11) has stressed that the atmosphere of tension between Gulf countries and Iran should end and the Islamic world should unite and rise above the differences between them. The newspaper alleged that the original reason for these differences is the support and opposition from the United States. The Islamic world should get united to fight

infidels, idolatry and communism as espoused by Quran and in order to fulfil the religious duty of Muslims, should resort to Jihad to spread Islam and recapture Jerusalem.

The newspaper states that if the two big Islamic nations Saudi Arabia and Iran end their differences in the interests of Islam and Muslims, then the Islamic world

will unite and would be able to face any kind of challenges. Recently, the relationship established by UAE and Bahrain with Israel has made a negative impact on Arab politics. U.S. has its military stations in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE. The tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran is increasing day by day on the issue of Yemen.

Oil supply deal between UAE and Israel in trouble

Inquilab (August 17) reports that the recently signed secret deal between UAE and Israel for supply of oil has been cancelled. This is likely to have a negative impact on the relationship between the two nations. As per the report by news agency Associated Press, Abu Dhabi and Israel had signed a deal to supply oil from UAE to Western nations through the port of Eilat in Israel. This agreement was signed due to the efforts of former US President Donald Trump in



order to improve the relationship between the two countries. The agreement was signed between an Israeli company Europe-Asia Pipeline Company and the UAE. The deal was signed in Abu Dhabi as part of MED-RED Land Bridge project that has Emirati and Israeli owners. However, following the recent change of government in Israel, it started reconsidering the project. They said that the project would have an adverse effect on the environment in Israel. The investors of the project have been apprised of the decision taken by the new government and a sense of bitterness has arisen in the bilateral relations between UAE and Israel.

A few 'save environment' organisations in Israel urged the Supreme Court of Israel to stop the project. In this

connection, the environment minister of Israel assured the court that the project would be totally scrapped. This decision of Israel evoked a swift response in UAE and the government there said that ending the deal for the project would be against diplomatic treaty and it would harm the relationship between the two nations. The decision is also a jolt to the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel said that trade worth 45.7 crore dollar took place between UAE and Israel between January and June 2020 and UAE was supplied goods worth 25.5 crore dollars. As per the data at Jebel Ali port, business worth 27.2 crore dollars took place between the two countries from September 2020 till date.

Four get 24 years in jail for money laundering in Saudi Arabia

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (August 15) reports that four persons have been sentenced to 24 years in jail for money laundering in Saudi Arabia. Once their sentence is over, the accused will be expelled from the country. A spokesperson of Saudi justice ministry said that following an investigation in a big money laundering case, nearly 10.4 crore Riyals were seized from the four persons. One of the accused is a citizen of Saudi Arabia while the other three are foreigners. These people were illegally sending Saudi

currency abroad through foreign banks and they used to get 30,000 Riyal per month as commission. The court has sentenced the four accused to 24 years in jail. Once the three foreign citizens complete their jail term, they will be expelled from the country, whereas the Saudi citizen would not be able to go out of jail even after completing his jail term. According to a government statement, the accused were trying to smuggle out 25 lakh Riyals through a container to foreign countries.

Foreigners can buy property in Saudi Arabia

Siasat (August 16) reports that the Saudi government has permitted foreigners residing legally in the country to buy property in Saudi Arabia. According to Saudi Gazette, all such non-Saudi residents who are staying legally in the country can buy one property each in the country. However, those interested in buying property have to satisfy three conditions. The first thing is that the person interested

in buying the property needs to possess a legal identity for residence in the country. This apart, along with a copy of the title deed, all information related to the property has to be provided to the government. He should not possess any other property in Saudi Arabia. The non-Saudi residents should get online permission from the government before purchasing the property.

65 people dead in fire in Algeria

Etemaad (August 14) reports that a massive fire broke out in the forests in northern region of Algeria in which at least 65 people have died. They include 28 soldiers as well. The President of Algeria has announced a three-day national mourning. Largescale destruction occurred in three coastal districts where a number of cities and towns were totally gutted. For the past nine days, continuous efforts were made to control the raging fire. Nowadays, the region extending from Turkey to Tunisia is under a huge heat wave. Because of the heat wave, the fire has acquired



devastating proportions. France, Britain, Germany and Czech Republic sent their firefighters to help control the fire in Algeria. The fire has taken a toll on some parts of Greece as well.

Others

Muslim League's student wing reconstituted

Inquilab (August 7) reports that Indian Union Muslim League has decided to reconstitute its student wing named Muslim Students Federation. Unnas Abdullah has been elected as President, Hafiz Mahroof, Shahid Khan and Afzal Yusuf have been elected as vice-presidents. While Furqan Farooq has been elected general secretary,

Abdullah Mubid Raza, Sayed Sarif Raza and Hafiz Eizaz have been elected joint secretaries, Asharfuddin is treasurer and Khalid Mahmood is media secretary. It has been decided at the meeting that Muslim students in Delhi should be organised so that injustice meted out to Muslims could be stopped. ■

Mayawati to field 100 Muslim candidates

Inquilab (August 11) reports that Bahujan Samaj Party is getting ready to field 100 Muslim candidates in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. These candidates would be fielded in those constituencies where the Muslims and Dalits are the deciding factor in the elections. This apart, it has been decided to give tickets to Brahmins, Thakurs and OBCs. Since the Brahmins are having a bitter relationship with BJP these days,

Brahmin Sammelans are being organised in different places in the state with the aim of attracting them. These meetings are given the name 'Prabudhajan Sammelan.' This type of meeting was already held in Ayodhya. The responsibility to bring Muslims to the party has been given to former state president Munkad Ali, Nowshad Ali and former minister Wasim Arai. ■

Modi's photo in Muslim University Gazette



Siasat (August 10) reports that the students of Aligarh Muslim University have raised serious objections to the photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the University Gazette being released on the occasion of

the varsity's centenary year. The students are staging a dharna against this for the past one week. The students allege that instead of giving prominence to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, more stress is given on carrying the photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While the Gazette carries three photos of the founder of the university, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, it has seven photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this connection, the student union submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor and alleged that the

university administration is trying to serve their personal interests by ignoring Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and giving importance to Prime Minister Modi. ■

Campaign against Ahmadis

Siasat (August 13) reports that Ahmadis have filed a complaint with a police station in Warangal town in Telangana alleging that the Muslim organisations are harassing the Ahmadis. It is also mentioned in the report that fundamentalist Muslims have stopped Ahmadis from offering namaz in mosques. This apart, they are also not

permitted to bury the dead in the graveyard. On behalf of Majlis Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nubuwwat it is also being demanded that Muslim clerics should not conduct the nikah of Ahmadis as they are not Muslims. Ahmadis in different parts of the country have complained that fundamentalist elements are interfering in their religious affairs. ■

Islamic State member released on bail

Hamara Samaj (August 14) reports that the Bombay High Court has directed that Iqbal Ahmed Kabir Ahmed, lodged in jail for the past five years, be released on bail. The court has directed the accused to be present in the trial court during the hearings of the case after his release from the jail. The Maharashtra ATS had arrested Ahmed nearly five years ago under UAPA and under various sections of Explosives Substances Act. He is accused of being a member of ISIS who

considers Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi as his leader (Khalifa) and he had written an affidavit to this effect in Arabi. The case was argued in the court in Mumbai on his behalf by Jamiat Ulema. The lawyers argued that he has been lodged in jail for the past five years but no hearing took place in cases registered against him so far. Though government counsel Aruna Pai opposed his bail application, the court refused to accept the objections. ■

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- Taliban War? Board's Income Increased



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