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Books of Two Extremist Islamic Scholars Dropped from AMU Syllabus



- Open rebellion against Rahul Gandhi in Congress
- Turkey announces establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel
- Al-Zawahiri claimed to be dead
- BJP's Minority Morcha delegation visits Darul Uloom Deoband

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Summary

A counter-terrorism team of the United States has killed Al Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul. US President Joe Biden has confirmed the death of Zawahiri and said that nobody will be spared who plays with the blood of the US citizens. In the past, a US counter terrorism team had killed Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the attack on World Trade Centre (September 11, 2001) during a special operation in Abbottabad town in Pakistan.

Spokesperson of Afghan Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid said the US has violated international laws and the Doha Agreement by launching an attack inside Afghanistan. A spokesperson of the US government said the Taliban had always violated the Doha peace agreement signed with the US. Under this agreement, the Taliban had assured that it would not allow any Islamic terrorist to take refuge on its land, but despite this, it had given refuge to the most infamous terrorist, Al-Zawahiri, in Kabul. In such a situation, the US can no longer keep any kind of faith on the Taliban.

The Aligarh Muslim University has taken an important decision recently. The Islamic education department of the university has dropped the works of notorious extremists Maulana Abul A'la Maududi and Sayyid Qutb of Egypt from the syllabus of BA and MA. The interesting thing is that the Aligarh Muslim University has been teaching students the books written by these two founders of Islamic terrorism and extremism for the past 50 years. Recently, 25 educationists in the country under the leadership of social activist Madhu Kishwar shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and drew his attention to the students of Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Milia Islamia and Hamdard University being taught about the books written by these two Islamic fundamentalists.

Internationally acclaimed English writer Salman Rushdie had written an essay, 'The Satanic Verses' in 1988 which has since been described by Islamic extremists as an insult to Prophet Mohammad and Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had issued a fatwa for his execution and also announced a reward of 30 lakh dollar to anyone who kills Rushdie. Since then, Salman Rushdie has been living in hiding in different countries of the world. In the past few days, when he was delivering a speech at a seminar in New York, an Iranian youth settled in the US launched a murderous attack on him. His life is stated to be in danger even now. A US court has refused to grant bail to the attacker.

In India too, the controversy that has been created over the alleged insult to the Prophet of Islam has not subsided. Recently, a BJP MLA in Hyderabad, T Raja Singh, has circulated a video which allegedly makes a comment against the Prophet of Islam. Following this, the Muslims erupted in anger. A hartal and huge protests took place in entire Telangana. The police banned the alleged comments of Raja Singh on video and also arrested him. Following the huge protests, the BJP issued a clarification that it did not agree with the viral video of Raja Singh and it respects all religions in equal measure. This apart, Raja Singh was suspended from the membership of BJP. Though the court had released Raja Singh on bail, the Telangana government arrested him again under the Security Act due to pressure from Muslims as they started largescale protests against his release.

Books of two Islamic extremists dropped from AMU syllabus



The newspaper 'The Hindu' (August 3) reports that on July 27, 2022 nearly 25 educationists including social activist Madhu Kishwar had written letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing concern that the Islamic education department of Aligarh Muslim University was teaching anti-national curriculum. Four days later, Aligarh Muslim University took a decision not to teach in future the works of two extremist Islamic thinkers. The public information officer of Aligarh Muslim University, Omar Peerzada, has confirmed that in order to avert any kind of controversy in future, the head of the Islamic education department has decided not to teach the works of Maulana Abul A'la Maududi and an Islamic extremist from Egypt, Sayyid Qutb, in the university. Peerzada said that these two books were included in the BA and MA syllabus of Islamic education. Following complaints from some people, the issue has been discussed and a decision has been taken to drop the two from the syllabus instead of getting entangled in some controversies in future. He said that however, there are no objectionable content in the two books and these are being taught in the syllabus of the university for the past 50 years.

Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Prof Tariq Mansoor, had directed the head of the department of Islamic education, Prof Mohammad Ismail, on July 31 that in future the books of Maulana Maududi and Syed Qutb should not be taught in the university. Mohammad Ismail said that though we do not agree with Maulana Maududi and Sayyid Qutb, for the students, they are still important.

According to knowledgeable sources, nearly 25 educationists, including Madhu Kishwar, had written a letter to the Prime Minister, in which his attention has been drawn to the fact that books related to extremist Islamic ideology are included in the syllabus of Aligarh Muslim University and they shall be dropped from the syllabus. It is being said that the Prime Minister's Office forwarded the letter to the Vice-Chancellor of Muslim University for necessary action. In the letter, it had been mentioned that even today the books of an extremist like Maulana Maududi are being taught in Jamia Milia Islamia and Jamia Hamdard apart from Aligarh Muslim University. On this, a decision has been taken after discussions at higher level.

Earlier in 2018, the Aligarh MP had complained that the photo of Pakistan



founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah still adorns the Union Hall of Aligarh University. On this, it had been clarified on behalf of the university that Jinnah was a life-time member of Students Union of Aligarh Muslim University and his photo has been put up at the office of the students' union in this connection. The photo is still kept there.

Comment: Since majority of the people in the country do not know about these two extremist Islamic thinkers, it is necessary to throw some light on them so that people should know how much their ideology was against the democratic system. Maulana Abul A'la Maududi has been counted among the most controversial and extremist Islamic scholars. He considered democracy as against Islamic Shariah and wanted to impose the Islamic Shariah system in the country instead of democracy. In 1925, Maulana Maududi had laid the foundation of the most Islamic fundamentalist organisation of India-Pakistan subcontinent, Jamaat-e-Islami, at Pathankot. The members of Jamaat-e-Islami played an important role in the agitation for Pakistan and its supporters played the lead role in the Partition and in the anti-Hindu-Sikh riots. During the partition of the country, Maulana Maududi along with some of his colleagues left for Pakistan. However, a large group of his followers remained in India. Abul Lais Islahi Nadvi has been made the first Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and Maulana Mohammad Yusuf was made the first general secretary. The headquarters of this organisation was initially at Rampur. Later

it was shifted to Delhi. Initially its headquarters was at Suiwalan near Jama Masjid in Delhi. Later a huge premise was established at Okhla for Jamaat e Islami and it has been named as Dawat Nagar. Three years ago, the headquarters of Jamaat-e-Islami was shifted to Hyderabad from Delhi.

In Pakistan, the Jamaat-e-Islami actively took part in the nationwide riots against Ahmadiyyas. These riots took place from February 1, 1953 to May 13, 1953 and nearly 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh Ahmadiyyas were killed during the riots. During this time, the entire Punjab was handed over to military and a martial law was imposed there for three months. The Pakistan government constituted the Muneer Commission to inquire into the riots which awarded death sentence to 27 leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami including Maulana Maududi, but later Pakistan's dictator General Zia-ul-Haq, after giving them remission from death sentence, also released them from jail. In 1974, Majlis-e-Ahrar-e-Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami once again launched an agitation and attacked Ahmadiyyas in each and every place. Later the then Zulfikar Ali Bhutto government passed a law in the Pakistan National Assembly declaring Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslims. In 1984, military dictator Zia-ul-Haq issued an ordinance and stopped Ahmadiyyas from learning Quran and preaching Ahmadiyya sect in entire Pakistan and this ordinance had also made the provision that those Ahmadiyyas who study Quran or indulge in promoting Ahmadiyya sect will be awarded life-term in jail. Later, the then chief of Ahmadiyya sect Mirza Tahir Ahmed fled to England to save his life.

Maulana Maududi is counted among the biggest fundamentalist scholars in Muslim world. In 1979, he was honoured with Saudi Arabia's 'King Faizal International Award.' Maulana Maududi

was the first person to receive this honour which is given for biggest services to Islam in the Muslim world. Due to his efforts, the Islamic University was established in Medina. He was the second person in the world whose Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayer) was held in Ka'aba. Maulana Maududi was born in Aurangabad city in the old princely state of Hyderabad. He was the third son of a lawyer, Ahmad Hassan. Maulana Maududi was considered as administrator, extremist Islamic scholar, journalist and world-renowned writer. He had written more than two dozen books on Islam. He was a supporter of Islamic rule in the entire world. He used to say that the Western democratic system was anti-Islam and hence Shariah and jihad should be used to extend Islamic rule in the entire world. It is being said that Maulana Maududi was linked to more than two dozen Islamic terrorist organisations. In India, Jamaat-e-Islami is active even today. However, the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), a student organisation linked to this organisation, remains banned in India.

As far as Sayyid Qutb is concerned, his full name was Sayyid Ibrahim Hussain Qutb. He was born in Cairo in Egypt in 1906. He is considered as founder of extremist Islamic ideology. He was one of the foremost leaders of Muslim Brotherhood, the most dangerous organisation of Islamic world during the

1950s and 1960s. In 1966, he was found guilty in the conspiracy for the assassination of the then President of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser and he was hanged to death. He was considered as a promotor of Salafi Jihadi ideology. The ideology of Qutb was a source of inspiration for the world's most feared terrorist organisations Al Qaida and ISIS. Whether it's the self-appointed Khalifa of ISIS Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi or for Osama bin Laden or for Al Zawahiri, they all considered Qutb to be a source of inspiration for them. Qutb was counted among the most dangerous people in Arab world. His ideology had counted Christians, Jews and Western democracy as enemies of Islam and his aim was to finish off Jews and Christians and establish Islamic jihadi rule in the entire world. In order to achieve this aim, he considered jihad and violence as necessities. Sayyid Qutb had written 64 books, which is believed to have laid the foundation for jihadi ideology. Though Qutb was hanged to death, the dreaded elements who spread the flames of Islamic terrorism in the world take inspiration from the ideology of Qutb even today. In majority of Arab countries, the institution named Muslim Brotherhood remains banned, but despite it, all jihadi organisations that take inspiration from its jihadi thinking are ideologically linked to it.

Open rebellion against Rahul Gandhi in Congress

An open rebellion has broken out against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in his party. Many important Congress leaders including senior leader and former minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, have resigned from the party. Ghulam Nabi Azad had written a five-page emotional letter to Congress President Sonia Gandhi, in which he had given the indication of forming a new party.

Inquilab (August 27) reports that Ghulam Nabi Azad has accused Rahul Gandhi that ever since he was made the vice-president of the party in 2013, he had

destroyed the organisational system in the party. He said that Sonia Gandhi is a namesake president and all important decisions are taken not only by Rahul Gandhi but even by his PAs and security guards. In the current situation, the focus should be more on Congress Jodo rather than on a Bharat Jodo Yatra. It is to be noted that Ghulam Nabi Azad has been upset with Congress high command and he has been a member of the dissatisfied group of leaders, termed as 'G-23' and who have been consistently seeking a change in



the Congress. Earlier, another senior leader of Congress, Kapil Sibal, had also resigned from the party.

Meanwhile, Congress has termed the resignation of Ghulam Nabi Azad as unfortunate and said that he has targeted the party at a crucial time when Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the entire Congress party have hit the streets to take on BJP over price rise and unemployment. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot described the allegations raised by Azad as unfortunate and said he held important positions in the Congress in the past 42 years. Surprisingly, despite that, he has been making such allegations against the party. Another dissatisfied leader of Congress, Anand Sharma, too resigned from the post of the president of steering committee of Congress in Himachal Pradesh.

Roznama Sahara (September 1) reports that a senior leader of Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, has alleged that whatever Ghulam Nabi Azad had done, was intended to make the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Modi happy. He described Azad as an opportunist and a power-hungry person and said that Azad has been dancing to the tunes of BJP leaders for the past two years.

Roznama Sahara (August 29) reports that after Ghulam Nabi Azad, a senior leader of Congress in Telangana and

a former member of Rajya Sabha, M A Khan too resigned from the Congress. In his five-page resignation letter, he had described Rahul Gandhi as an immature leader.

Roznama Sahara (August 28) reports that 64 important office-bearers of Congress party have announced their resignation from the Congress at one go. There are many former MLAs and ministers among them. Those leaders who have resigned have given the indication of joining the new party being launched by Azad. The senior leaders who have resigned from the Congress included Abdul Hamid Wani, Manoharlal Sharma, Gururam, Balwan Singh and former minister Tarachand.

Roznama Sahara (August 29) reports that Ghulam Nabi Azad had told journalists in Srinagar that it was a difficult decision for him to leave the Congress. He had worked day and night for the party for the past 50 years. He said that he had written the resignation letters several times and teared them off. After his resignation, he could not sleep for two nights.

Commenting on the resignation of Azad, **Inquilab** (August 28) said that senior leader of Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad, remained aloof in Congress despite being in the party for a long time. If Ghulam Nabi Azad had given something for the Congress, then he had also taken

much from it as well. If he still has complaints after holding so many posts, then the situation is not easy to understand. The newspaper said that it doesn't want to support Rahul Gandhi, but definitely wants to tell the senior leaders that time has come to give opportunity to the new generation and also give guidance to them. When the issue of resignation of Azad sahib came up, many leaders remembered how Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised him a lot and even shed tears on the occasion of his retirement from Rajya Sabha. Now, whether there is any relationship between his tears and the latter's resignation, only time can tell.



Azad, along with Prime Minister Modi, got the bill passed and today he has become sympathetic to the Kashmiris.

Aurangabad Times (August 30) reports that Ghulam Nabi Azad has praised the humanity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that after the slogan of Rahul Gandhi, 'Chowkidar Chor Hai' cracks have developed in Congress. The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Azad during the farewell function in Rajya Sabha, from there on, there has been an indication that something has been cooking between them.

Roznama Sahara (August 27) in its editorial has described Ghulam Nabi Azad as an opportunist leader and said he has displayed opportunism by targeting Rahul Gandhi. The editorial said that Rahul Gandhi has reached the status of senior leader and hence he resigned from posts. The Congress party had given 73-year-old Ghulam Nabi Azad maximum opportunities. He was made a Union minister several times and he was made the Opposition leader in Rajya Sabha. The surprising thing is that despite this, he left the party in search of honour. The resignation of Ghulam Nabi Azad on the next day of the visit of Home Minister Amit Shah to Kashmir gives credence to the claim that he will be joining the BJP. However, he had rejected the claim and said that he would be forming a new party. His decision will surely benefit the BJP. It is possible that the BJP will give him some post as a price but the honour that he has been seeking when he left the Congress, he would not get anywhere.

Siasat (August 29) reports that the chief of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Altaf Bukhari, said that if anyone has played any direct or indirect role in scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution, then that is done by Ghulam Nabi Azad. It was Ghulam Nabi Azad, and not Modi, who stabbed the Kashmiris in the back. Today Azad is saying that he will bring back the old status to Jammu-Kashmir, but when he was the leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, he did not make any effort to stop the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution. Now people have realised that Ghulam Nabi Azad had a dealing with the government in 2019. When the discussion came up in Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019, on the bill seeking to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution, the BJP had no majority in the House. But no votes were cast against the bill. Altaf alleged that Ghulam Nabi

Avadhnama (August 28) in its editorial has said that the indication of Ghulam Nabi Azad leaving Congress came when the Prime Minister openly praised him in Rajya Sabha and expressed his solidarity. He had indicated that he would be forming his own party in Jammu and Kashmir. If that happens, it would not be possible for Azad to survive there without the support of BJP.

Siasat (August 22) in its editorial expressed concern over the increasing rift in the Congress and said that the Congress high command should take some strong steps to address the complaints raised by a group.

Salar (August 27) in its editorial said that Ghulam Nabi is upset with Congress high command for some time now. Finally, he submitted his resignation from the party. The surprising thing is that

Azad had targeted Rahul Gandhi at a time when he is organising a mass awareness campaign across the country against the Modi government. In order to bring unity and strength to Congress party, it is necessary that the Congress high command pay close attention to the words of Ghulam Nabi Azad and in case if there is some truth in his allegations, then take immediate steps to strengthen the organisational structure of Congress.

Fresh issue of alleged insult to Prophet in Hyderabad



Etemaad (August 24) reports that Muslims held strong protests at several places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over the issue of alleged insult to Prophet Mohammad. In fact, BJP legislator T Raja Singh had released a video in which he had allegedly made some comments against the Prophet of Islam. Following these protests, BJP legislator T Raja Singh was arrested. However, a court later released him on bail. Soon, huge protests started across the state against this decision of the court. A riotous mob of Muslims held protests in front of all police stations in Hyderabad and demanded stringent action against the denigrator of the Prophet. Taking immediate steps, the police removed the controversial comments of Raja Singh from YouTube and other social media platforms. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, while condemning the comments of Raja Singh, alleged that

the BJP is deliberately hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims and they wanted to destroy the social fabric of the country.

In Hyderabad, huge protests took place against the comments and a hartal was observed in the entire city. Muslim leaders warned that if 'Gustakh-e-Rasool' Raja Singh is not arrested immediately, then there would be serious consequences. Following this, the police arrested Raja Singh and sent him to jail. After the video related to Raja Singh's alleged insult to the Prophet went viral, the BJP suspended him from the membership of the party and said that the party has nothing to do with such activities. Cases were filed against Raja Singh in several police stations of Telangana and demands were raised to take strong action against him.

Etemaad (August 26) reports that the city police have arrested Raja Singh

under the PD Act. Later he was sent to Cherlapally jail. While protesting against the arrest of Raja Singh in some parts of the city, BJP activists set fire to the effigy of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and staged a sit-in on the road outside the Moazzam Jahi market and tried to stop the traffic at the junction. On behalf of city police, a notice under CrPC Section 41 was pasted at the house of Raja Singh. As per the details provided by the police in the court, Raja Singh has been mentioned as a history-sheeter of Mangalhat police station and said that he has been delivering speeches that provoke communalism right from the beginning.



On August 22, Raja Singh had posted a video on YouTube channel 'Sriram Channel Telangana' against the Prophet of Islam, Hazrat Mohammad, which had not only hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims but also disturbed the peace mechanism. The police imposed a ban on the video of Raja Singh to prevent it from becoming viral and said that stringent action would be taken against those who make it viral. According to police, 101 cases have been registered against Raja Singh so far in different police stations of Telangana since 2004 and he has been found involved in 18 incidents of communal tension. The newspaper claimed that any person could be kept in jail for one year under the PD Act and he will not get bail. Raja Singh is the first MLA from Telangana against whom such an action has been taken.

Siasat (August 26) reports that the court had released Raja Singh in the first case on technical basis. Raja Singh's lawyer Karuna Sagar has claimed that Raja Singh was arrested without giving notice under Section 41 of CrPC, thereby violating the guidelines and directions issued by the Supreme Court and it is illegal. The lawyer said that it is mandatory to issue this notice before arresting a representative of the people. Following

this, the court released Raja Singh on a bail bond of Rs 20,000 and warned him not to indulge in any such activity that would hurt the religious sentiments of any community.

Etemaad (August 24) reports that the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Telangana, Maulana Hamid Mohammad Khan has alleged that the BJP has been deliberately creating an atmosphere of hatred against Islam and Muslims. He demanded that the government ban Raja Singh from staying in Telangana. All India Shia Majlis Ulema has also condemned the statement of Raja Singh and said that this absurd statement of BJP leader cannot be tolerated. Some people are making efforts to create rift between different sections of Muslims but their efforts would never succeed.

Hamara Samaj (August 31) reports that at a meeting of Muslims in Gulbarga, it has been demanded that the Central government create a law that provides for life-term in jail to those who insult the Prophet and Islam. Chief of Muslim Majlis Asaduddin Owaisi said the BJP and Sangh Parivar want to create riots in Telangana and Hyderabad. Everybody should come together and foil such efforts. He said that the suspended legislator of BJP had always flared up communal sentiments, but till now no strong action has been taken against him.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 24) reports that the Muslim Personal Law Board has condemned the statement of BJP leaders related to insulting the Prophet of Islam and demanded the government to strongly curb the tendency to insult Islam

and the Prophet which has been gaining ground in the country.

Siasat (August 31) in its editorial has condemned that communal passions are being ignited in Telangana for polarisation of votes. BJP is resorting to such steps to strengthen its power in Telangana and in order to polarise the votes of majority community. People need to remain alert against such efforts.

Hamara Samaj in its editorial on August 26 has condemned the statement of BJP legislator against the Prophet of Islam and expressed surprise that the court has immediately granted bail to Raja Singh. However, the Muslim population there launched a protest against the laxity of police and they came out on the streets, and hence the government had to arrest Raja Singh under the PD Act.

Salar (August 29) in its editorial said that Raja Singh and people like him have been conspiring to create a sense of fear in the minds of Hindustani Muslims.

However, due to the alertness of Muslims, the police had to arrest him again under National Security Act but along with it, one cannot ignore that some people are deliberately raising the slogan of ‘sir tan se juda’ (call to behead). Can this slogan of Muslims be justified in the current situation in the country? The people in the country need to remember that there is no Shariah rule here and hence the demand for ‘sir tan se juda (beheading) is not right. This kind of slogan is justified only when the government doesn’t punish those who insult the Prophet.

Avadhnama (August 24) in its editorial stated that the BJP has suspended ‘Gustakh-e-Rasool’ Raja Singh from the membership of the party but the question here is, why is the BJP high command not stopping this campaign that adds salt to the wounds of the Muslim community? What is necessary is to stop the efforts to create an atmosphere against the Muslims in the country.

Controversy erupts over release of accused in Bilkis Bano rape case

Roznama Sahara (August 16) reports that in the wake of the Godhra episode in Gujarat, all the 11 accused who were given life-term in jail in the Bilkis Bano rape case have been released from jail. The Gujarat government has confirmed their release under its ‘remission policy.’ In January 21, 2008, a CBI special court in Mumbai had awarded life-term to 11 accused in the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of 10 members of her family. Later, the Bombay High Court had confirmed the punishment. The government said that since the convicted persons had spent more than 15 years in jail, a committee was formed to examine the application for remission and after a thorough examination of the matter, ordered remission of sentence of all the 11 accused and released them from the jail.

Roznama Sahara (August 17) has claimed that though there is a BJP government both at the Centre and in state,

the state government had still violated the directions of the Central government on the issue of releasing the convicted persons in the case. It is being said that on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Central government had given directions for remission of sentence of the convicted persons in some cases, but they did not include those who were undergoing punishment for rape. Hence, due to technical reasons, the release of the convicted persons in the Bilkis Bano rape case did not take place as per these directions. The newspaper has also mentioned that when these people were released from the jail, they were given a welcome.

Siasat (August 18) reports that Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has condemned the release of the convicted persons in the case and said they were disappointed with the role played by the Gujarat government and

this decision was taken to get the votes of a particular community. The vice-chairman of Jamaat Islami Hind Professor Engineer Salim said this decision has shaken the foundation of Indian justice system.

Aurangabad Times (August 17) reports that the chief of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Naved Hamid, has described the decision to release the convicted persons in the anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat as unfortunate and said that it will encourage the activities of the accused and it exposes the true face of BJP to the women and hence the Gujarat government needs to rethink about its decision. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi condemned the release of the convicts from the jail in the gang rape-cum-murder case and said that the nation is watching the difference between the words and deeds of the Prime Minister. Earlier, a senior leader of Congress, P Chidambaram, had condemned the reception accorded to the convicted for the murder after their release from the jail and said that this decision of the Gujarat government was illegal. When only one accused had filed an appeal before the Supreme Court, on what basis all of them were released from the jail, he asked. This decision was not of the court, but of the executive and the government. How come a state government take such a decision in a case where a central agency had conducted the investigation and the accused were convicted by a CBI court?

Salar (August 25) in its editorial has said that Justice U D Salvi, who had awarded life-term in jail to the 11 accused in the Bilkis Bano case, has described the decision of the state government to remit the remaining sentence of the accused and subsequently release them as a wrong example and an injustice. He pointed out that due to the sensitivity of the case, the hearing was conducted outside Gujarat, in the state of Maharashtra. Justice Salvi said



in a press conference that he had convicted the accused after a thorough examination and the Supreme Court had also upheld the decision of the sessions court because the sessions court judge convicted the accused on the basis of solid evidence. The remission policy of the convicted persons has set a wrong example and is against the justice system of the country. There is a proper method to issue remission of sentences to the accused in the country's judicial system and it is mentioned in sections 432 to 435 of the Indian Penal Code. The Gujarat government can remit the sentences under these provisions, but the above action was not done as per these provisions. Justice Salvi said that since the investigation in the case was conducted by the CBI, then the opinion of the Central government should also have been taken into consideration. I do not know what opinion the Central government had given in connection with the remission of the sentence. It looks like that there is a violation of the legal procedure. As per the new policy of 2014, there cannot be any remission in the sentence of those who were convicted for rape and terrorism. Hence I demand the Gujarat government to reconsider this issue, he said.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 18) has stressed that this decision of the Gujarat government was a violation of the guidelines and directions issued by the Central government. In a letter sent to all states on June 10 on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had advised that if the state

governments want, they can remit the rest of the term of convicted persons who have completed 50% or more of their sentence in jail and release them. This apart, the circular had also clarified that those who have been awarded death sentence or whose death sentence have been converted to life-term, or those convicted of rape or sexual abuse of children or those who have been convicted in a dowry case or who have been found guilty in cases registered under POTA, FEMA or NDPS, such people shall not be given remission of their sentence. On the other hand, among the 11 persons whose sentence were remitted by the Gujarat government, only Radheshyam Shah had filed a petition in the Supreme Court in which he had urged the Gujarat government seeking remission of his sentence. The state government, however, extended the relief from this petition to all the accused.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 26) in its editorial has described the release of the convicted persons in the Bilkis Bano rape case and their remission of sentence on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as a very bad gift and said that the huge controversy that has erupted in the country and outside following the release of the accused in this notorious case is justified. Even the judge who had awarded punishment to the accused has condemned this decision of the state government. The newspaper has demanded the Gujarat government to reconsider its decision. Many important persons in the country have also demanded that the government withdraw its decision.

Etemaad (August 17) reports that in a statement, the chief of Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, had said that the state government had taken this decision keeping in mind the forthcoming Assembly elections. Hence it should be cancelled forthwith. This decision has sent a wrong message to the Muslims and they have been given the impression that they will not get justice under this judicial system.

Inquilab (August 21) has published a story as its main news headlined, 'Voices in favour of Bilkis Bano raised across the world.' According to the newspaper, the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom has described the release of the convicts as a mockery of the justice system. In a statement, chairman of the commission, Stephen Schneck, said the release of the convicts was not justice but an effort to save them from punishment. The Indian justice system had found them guilty on the basis of witnesses and evidence. However, the decision to release them is against the basic principles of natural justice.

Etemaad (August 28) reports that 134 former bureaucrats of the country in a joint letter to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, opposed the decision to release the 11 convicted persons in the Bilkis Bano rape case and urged him to take corrective action and send the accused back to jail to serve the rest of their jail term. Chief of Nationalist Congress Party Sharad Pawar also demanded the government to reconsider its decision and cancel the step.

On behalf of Urdu newspapers, a campaign has been unleashed in order to get this decision cancelled, for which news, editorials and even articles have been published regularly.

Hamara Samaj in its editorial on August 20 strongly condemned the decision to release of the rapists and said that it is against the sentiments of the country's justice system and it is a blot in the history of the country's justice delivery system.

Hamara Samaj in its editorial said that this decision of the Gujarat government was a serious setback to the country's judiciary and the justice delivery system. Leaders of different political parties also demanded the Gujarat government to reconsider its decision. The state government should not ignore the protests taking place across the country against this decision.

Supreme Court says no to Ganesh Utsav at Idgah grounds in Bengaluru



Inquilab (August 31) reports that the issue of celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi festival at the Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru has reached the Supreme Court from the High Court. Earlier, the Karnataka High Court had granted permission to conduct Ganesh festival on the grounds, but later the Supreme Court had stopped this order on the basis of an appeal filed by the Waqf Board. However, the Karnataka High Court had permitted celebration of Ganesh Utsav at the Idgah Maidan in Hubli Dharwad with certain conditions. Earlier, the Supreme Court in its order had clearly stated that for the time being Ganesh Utsav cannot be organised at Idgah Maidan and if there is any dispute regarding the ownership of the property, then they can approach the Karnataka High Court regarding the same. In its judgment, the Karnataka High Court pointed out that there was no dispute over the property of Idgah Maidan. Though the state government had filed an objection that the land is a disputed one, the high court had refused to accept it.

While refusing to grant permission to celebrate Ganesh Utsav on the Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru, the Supreme Court said that it is necessary to maintain status quo at the place. It is to be noted that an

appeal filed by Karnataka Waqf Board is still being heard by the Supreme Court. It is also to be noted that a controversy has erupted after the Karnataka government granted permission to celebrate Ganesh Utsav at the Idgah Maidan. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Karnataka government, told the Supreme Court that the state government had given permission to celebrate Ganesh Utsav in the Maidan. The Karnataka Waqf Board then approached the Supreme Court against this permission. Since there was a difference of opinion between the two judges of the bench in the interim order, the case has been shifted to a three-judge bench. Earlier, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the court that the decision of the state government could lead to religious tension. On August 25, a single bench of Karnataka High Court had stated that the ground could be used only as a playground or for celebration of Independence Day or Republic Day by the government. As far as Muslims are concerned, they could offer namaz on the land on the occasion of both Eids. Later, another division bench had given government the power to take a decision on the status of the land. Later, a division bench of the high court had given



permission to use the land for religious and cultural activities for a certain period. Following this, the state government had given permission to organise Ganesh Utsav on this ground. The home department made stringent arrangements to maintain peace in and around Idgah Maidan. Meanwhile, permission has been granted to organise Ganesh Utsav for three days at the controversial ground in Hubli-Dharwad.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 13) reports that tension has erupted between two communities in Karnataka's capital Bengaluru on the controversy over the Idgah Maidan. Karnataka's Minister for Revenue R Ashoka has claimed that the land belongs to the Revenue department of the government. On the other hand, the Waqf Board has described the property as Idgah Maidan and said that the land belongs to Waqf Board. Congress MLA Zamir Ahmad Khan, after visiting the controversial land, said that other than for celebrating Republic Day, the land should not be given for other events like Ganesh Utsav, which has been opposed by Vishwa Sanatan Parishad. Taking note of the statement of Vishwa Sanatan Parishad president Bhaskaran, the police arrested him.

Salar (August 8) in its editorial, while discussing about the grounds linked to Idgah, said that the Bengaluru

Municipal Corporation has staked claims over the property of Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru and fought several legal battles in courts claiming it to be a playground. Later the municipal corporation all of a sudden withdrew its claim on the Idgah Maidan and while describing it as a property of the revenue department, tried to create a fresh controversy. However, the real owner of this ground is the Waqf Board, which has been fighting legal battle in courts over the issue since 1956. The current BJP government has once again tried to rake up a controversy on this issue and sought documents from the Waqf Board. If the municipal corporation was not satisfied by the documents produced by the Waqf Board, then it should have described it as its own property and reject the claim of the Waqf Board. But the municipal corporation is claiming that it is a property of the revenue board. However, the truth is that in the history of the Idgah Maidan case, which has been contested in courts for the past 65 years, not even once the revenue board made any kind of claim regarding the property. It is clear from the new policy adopted by the Bengaluru Municipal Corporation that the BJP is giving a new colour to the controversy. Hence, the case shall be fought with full seriousness in the court.

Al-Zawahiri claimed to have been killed



Salar (August 3) reports that US President Joe Biden, in a special address, announced that the chief of Al Qaida, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, was killed in a drone attack in Afghanistan. Addressing the citizens of United States, the President said that we will never forget the innocents who were killed in the 9/11 attack. The elimination of Al-Zawahiri proves that we stick to our promise. Justice is done with Al-Zawahiri. From Nairobi to Afghanistan, Al-Zawahiri took part in the conspiracy to target the people of US, its diplomats and soldiers. The President confirmed that last week he had given the permission to conduct a special drone operation inside Afghanistan and ensured that except Al-Zawahiri and his family, no citizen shall suffer any kind of damage. He said that permission was granted to this plan of counter-terrorist team after lot of thinking and in this connection a few members of US Congress were also taken into confidence. He said that while withdrawing US soldiers from Afghanistan, we had given the promise that we will not allow Afghanistan to become a refugee camp of terrorists. The US President appreciated the services of the intelligence community and the counter-terrorism team for this operation and said that last month we had eliminated an

important leader of Islamic State. He said that the terrorists need to understand that if they inflict damages to the US citizens or their interests, they will not be spared wherever they hide themselves in. We will make efforts to ensure that the US citizens remain safe in the country and anywhere in the world.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 1) has claimed that the US has targeted Ayman Al-Zawahiri through a drone attack in Kabul. Following this claim of the US President, the Deputy Information Minister of Taliban government and spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid, in a tweet, condemned the drone attack by the US and described it as a violation of the 'Doha Peace Agreement.' He said that carrying out attack in any other country is an open violation of international laws and that country's sovereignty. Meanwhile, a US spokesperson has claimed that Al-Zawahiri was staying in a safe accommodation in Kabul with his family and it was an open violation of the peace agreement signed in Doha. It was agreed in the summit that no leader of terrorist organisations including that of Al Qaida would be given protection in Afghanistan. Despite this agreement, the Taliban government did not take any step over the presence of Al Zawahiri. The US



intelligence sources found his hideout and took action. Two missiles were fired in the drone attack and after the death of the Al Qaida chief, the Haqqani Network safely took out his family members from there.

Siasat (August 5) has claimed that the US intelligence had got information that the Al Qaida chief was initially staying in Karachi city in Pakistan. Later he and his family members were given refuge in Kabul. He was staying in a three-storied bungalow in Sherpur region in Kabul, where only trusted people were allowed entry. It is to be noted that this strategy was adopted by Al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden during his stay at his house in Abbottabad. However, the US spies reached there after continuous search and he was finally killed in 2011. Seventy-one-year-old Ayman Al-Zawahiri never appeared in public in any place, but he was spotted on the balcony of his bungalow in the past few days. Following this, the US monitored him through satellite and the CIA prepared a plan to eliminate him.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 12) reports that Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid has confirmed that an investigation is being held into the killing of Ayman Al-Zawahiri. In an interview to Al-Arabia, he said that the body of Al-Qaida chief is yet to be found.

Earlier, the same newspaper on (August 11) had said that the claims that the US President made about the killing of Al-Zawahiri could not be confirmed as yet. The newspaper said that the Taliban government in Afghanistan had no information that Ayman Al-Zawahiri was in Afghanistan, neither it got any

information about his death in a drone attack. It is to be noted that following the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011, Al-Zawahiri had taken the command of Al-Qaida. The US had announced a reward of 25 million dollars to those who help nab Ayman Al-Zawahiri.

Siasat (August 4) reports that the US had warned its citizens across the world that Al-Qaida may target US citizens across the world through terrorist activities in retaliation against the death of Al-Zawahiri.

Siasat (August 6) reports that FBI had claimed that despite the killing of Al-Zawahiri, the Al-Qaida may open a series of attacks on the US and it may also increase its activities in eastern and western Africa.

Etemaad in its editorial on August 4 has admitted that the death of Al-Zawahiri is a massive blow to Al-Qaida. Al-Zawahiri was a doctor by profession and his grandfather was the imam of the renowned Sunni University of Egypt. One of his uncles had been the General Secretary of Arab League. Al-Zawahiri's links was initially with the banned terrorist organisation of Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood. He was an ENT doctor and he had laid the foundation for an organisation named 'Islamic Jihad' in Egypt.

Siasat (August 4) in its editorial expressed regrets that the end of Al-Zawahiri took place in the same manner as that of Osama bin Laden. He was born in Cairo on June 19, 1951 and he was influenced by the teachings of Egypt's extremist Islamist thinker Sayyid Qutb. His aim was to convert all misguided Arab governments into Islamic rule. Al-Zawahiri had functioned as the right-hand man of Osama bin Laden in the attack on the World Trade Centre in US on September 11, 2001, in which more than 3,000 people were killed. In his autobiography written in 2001, he had appealed to Muslim youth to strongly oppose the US hegemony in the world. Al-Zawahiri has been credited with giving a new dimension to the violent activities of Al-Qaida.

Raid at the house of former US President Trump

Mumbai Urdu News (August 13) reports that US agency Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) raided the residence of former US President Donald Trump in search of secret nuclear files. However, the FBI has not confirmed what it had



obtained through this raid. Sources in the know of things said that the FBI had raided Donald Trump's house on Florida Beach and broke open his safe and also seized 10 boxes which were said to contain sensitive material. However, Donald Trump was not in Florida when the raid took place. The purpose of this raid, conducted by the FBI, was to investigate whether Trump took away some secret documents with him in an illegal manner when he left White House in January 2021. US Attorney General Merrick Garland has confirmed that he had granted permission to raid the house of Donald Trump and conduct a search there. This is the first time in the history of US that an Attorney General has confirmed such a raid.

Etemaad (August 10) reports that the former President has described the raid as a retributive action and claimed that since he is preparing to contest the US Presidential elections for the third time in 2024, the raid was conducted with the aim to defame him. He described it as the blackest chapter in the history of US and said that he had always cooperated with investigating agencies and hence it was unnecessary to conduct a raid at his house. This is an attempt to influence the justice delivery system so that he does not contest the Presidential elections once again.

Qaumi Tanzeem (August 11) in its editorial has claimed that Trump is always ready to do anything for power. He used to get his supporters ready in the US Congress to launch attack on his opponents and he even took away sensitive government

documents with him when he left the President's office. According to the US administration, it is necessary for the US President to hand over all documents and letters to the National Archives but Trump tore off many important documents and

took away many secret documents with him. In February, the US agency, National Archives, which preserves the records related to the President, had directed the law department to investigate whether Trump had taken away secret documents with him or not? New York Times journalist Maggie Haberman has claimed that the employees of White House found some documents which were destroyed. He said that only former President Trump could do such a thing. An investigation is also being done to find out whether former President Donald Trump and his colleagues had made any effort to interfere with the state election results.

Inquilab (August 25) reports that the US National Archives has confirmed that among the documents that the FBI had seized after raiding the residence of former President Trump included 700 secret documents. Among them, some were of sensitive nature, which were said to be more than 100 documents.

Inquilab (August 24) reports that former US President Trump filed a petition before the law department soon after a raid at his residence and demanded from the court that the FBI shall be stopped from investigating into the documents seized from his house and hand over the investigation to any impartial expert.

Inquilab (August 17) reports that the US law department had returned the three passports seized from the house of Trump during the raid, among which two had already expired, while the third one was a diplomatic passport.

Murderous attack on Salman Rushdie in the US



Etemaad (August 13) reports that notorious denigrator of Prophet, Salman Rushdie, was attacked with a knife during a function in New York, due to which he suffered serious injuries on his neck and he had to undergo surgery. He was taken to hospital in a helicopter with serious injuries where he was put on ventilator and was not in a condition to give a statement. It is to be noted that Salman Rushdie is a British writer born in Mumbai. He wrote an essay titled 'The Satanic Verses' in which, due to the alleged references against the Prophet, a number of fundamentalist Islamic thinkers had described him as someone who is 'wajib-al-qatl' (mandatory to be killed). He got the Booker Prize for his yet another novel, *The Midnight's Children*. In 1988, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, while declaring Salman Rushdie as responsible for insulting the Prophet through *Satanic Verses*, issued a fatwa for his killing. Later, many Islamic scholars too issued fatwa for 'wajib-al-qatl'. Since then, Rushdie has been leading a life in hiding in order to save his life. The New York police claimed that the attack on Rushdie took place when he was about to deliver a speech. He soon

fell down and blood started oozing out from several parts of his body. The attacker was soon nabbed. The incident took place in an institution in western New York. Around 11 am, a Muslim man climbed on stage all of a sudden and he attacked Salman Rushdie and the person who was interviewing him. The one who was interviewing him suffered minor injuries on his head. According to witnesses, Salman Rushdie was stabbed 10 to 15 times in 20 seconds. The attacker was wearing a black dress and had covered his face with a black mask. There were nearly 2,500

people in the audience when the attack took place. The security personnel present on the spot immediately nabbed the attacker.

It is to be noted that the controversial essay of Salman Rushdie, 'The Satanic Verses' was published in 1988. A fatwa was issued for his killing following the publication. Iran had announced a reward of 30 lakh dollar to those who kill Salman Rushdie. In fact, Rushdie had delivered speeches many times in the same hall in the past. As of now, it is not clear whether the attacker is linked to any organisation in Iran or not. Indian-origin British citizen Salman Rushdie is staying in the US for the past 20 years. In 2007, British Queen Elizabeth had honoured him with the title 'Sir'. In 2012, a semi-government organisation in Iran had announced a reward of 50 lakh dollar to anyone who kills Rushdie. It is being said that he had insulted the Prophet through this essay. Many people who have published this book or those who translated it were attacked across the world and many were even killed. Protest marches had taken place in many countries of the Islamic world. In the protest that took place in Mumbai, 12



custody, he still tried to attack Rushdie and even five persons could not control him. According to the police, the attacker's name is Hadi Matar and he stays in New Jersey in the US. He got his education from California. Till now, the police were unable to find out to which organisation the attacker is linked to.

Inqilab (August 20) reports that a court in US had refused to grant bail to the accused who

attacked Salman Rushdie. The accused has refused to plead guilty in the court.

Inqilab (August 17) reports that the Iranian government has rejected the claim that it has any kind of role in the attack on Salman Rushdie. According to latest reports, there is improvement in the health condition of Rushdie and he has been taken out of ventilator. The secretary of Iran's foreign affairs ministry said that Iran has no role in the issue. Rushdie and his supporters alone are responsible for the atmosphere that has been created against him across the world.

people who were involved in violence and set fire to public property had become the victims of police firing.

Siasat (August 14) reports that the attack on controversial English writer Salman Rushdie took place in New York when he was being to his audience on the dais. According to sources in the hospital, he was unable to talk still late. One of his eyes got damaged and the veins on his hands were cut off. Since he was attacked on his stomach with a knife, his liver and heart suffered serious damages. A woman who attended the function told New York Times that though police took him into

Nod to admit Finland and Sweden into NATO



Hamara Samaj (August 6) reports that the upper house of the US Congress, Senate, has given its nod to admit Finland and

Sweden into the US-led military alliance NATO. There are 30 nations in this alliance. It is being said that Finland and

Sweden have taken this step as a reaction to the Russian attack on Ukraine. The two countries had filed an application to join NATO on February 24, soon after the Russian attack on Ukraine. Few countries like Turkey opposed their inclusion into this alliance and alleged that these countries give refuge to anti-Islam people. Now this resolution of the US Senate has to

be confirmed by the Parliaments of all member nations of NATO which will be a lengthy process and may take approximately one year. The Parliament of many countries like Canada, Germany and Italy have already confirmed the inclusion of these two nations into the NATO alliance and their inclusion will further strengthen the NATO alliance.

Sunnis launch attack during Muharram procession



Roznama Sahara (August 7) reports that Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS has launched an attack on the annual Muharram procession in the Shia-majority area in Afghanistan capital Kabul, and killed nearly one dozen people and injured more than two dozen others. ISIS has taken responsibility for the attack. The Deputy Information Minister in Taliban government said that explosives were planted on the cart carrying the tazia procession, resulting in explosion. He said that Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan condemns this cowardly act. This was done by those people who are enemies of Islam and the Muslim community.

Spokesperson of Kabul police Khalid Zadran said that the explosion took place when the Shias were taking out tazia procession for the mourning. He said that some bombs were placed on a cart selling vegetables as well. The local people used to buy food items from there. A police spokesperson said that the enemies of Islam

are playing with the blood of innocent Muslims. We will trace the attackers and take revenge on them. Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS on their Telegram channel said that the explosion was carried out by their fidayees. Our campaign against Shias will continue. At least two dozen people were killed and more than 50 people were injured in this attack, including women and children.

Roznama Sahara (August 19) reports that at least 30 people were killed and more than 40 others were injured in a bomb explosion that took place in a masjid in Kabul. Among those killed included a major scholar of Afghanistan, Mohammad Kabuli. So far, no terrorist group has taken responsibility for the blast. Taliban claims that Islamic State was behind the blast. Before this, within two weeks, at least 10 people were killed in an explosion that took place in Kabul and three dozen others were injured. Islamic State had taken responsibility for this explosion.

Turkey announces establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel



Roznama Sahara (August 19) reports that Turkey has announced establishment of diplomatic relationship with Israel. Both the countries will appoint embassy officials in their respective capital cities. It is to be noted that four years ago, Turkey had ended diplomatic relationship with Israel following the killing of 60 Palestinians by the Israeli military and had also called back its Ambassador. Following this, Israel also withdrew its Ambassador from Turkey.

According to government sources, the President of Israel will visit Turkey in March. The US has welcomed the re-establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries. President of Turkey, Tayyip Erdogan said that after the visit of Israel President to Turkey, a new chapter will begin in the relationship between the two countries. Knowledgeable

sources have described this as a success of US's diplomatic efforts. The indication that one gets from this new initiative of Turkey is that it has severed its friendship with Russia and is once again making efforts to improve its relationship with the US. It is to be noted that before this, due to the efforts of US, Israel established diplomatic relationship with seven Muslim nations. They are Qatar, UAE, Sudan, Bahrain, Dubai, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt. Meanwhile, though the Israeli Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia, the two countries have not announced establishment of genuine diplomatic relationship between the two countries. However, the two countries have signed more than a dozen agreements on different sectors, including on trade, tourism and promotion of industrial cooperation. ■

Protest against military rule in Sudan

Inquilab (August 2) reports that people have come out on the streets in Sudanese capital Khartoum in order to end the military rule in the country. The people

demanded that the raging bloody clashes between the different tribes in Sudan shall be stopped immediately. So far, hundreds of people have been killed in these clashes.



The protesters have held a huge rally against military dictator Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, who had captured power after overthrowing the civilian government.

Despite strong action from the military, the protests have continued unabated in the past one year in which hundreds of people were killed. The protesters demanded the military to hand over power back to the people and return to the barracks. Last year, following the military coup, Sudan landed in a huge financial crisis, and the bloody

clashes that erupted between the tribes in different regions are consistently on the rise in which at least 500 people have been killed.

Baha'i members held on charges of spying in Iran

Inquillab (August 2) reports that the Iran's intelligence wing had arrested dozens of Baha'is on charges of spying. According to the government television, the arrested accused were linked to the Baha'i centre in Israel. This group's international headquarters is located there. It is being said that the arrested people had collected secret information about Iran and sent them to Israel. It is to be noted that at the behest of America, an Islamic scholar named Bahauallah had

established Baha'i religion in the middle of 19th century in Iraq. After the Islamic revolution in Iran, the fundamentalist Islamic government awarded death sentence to Bahauallah and many of his colleagues. Following this, majority of the followers of Baha'i religion fled to Israel and many other supportive nations. Even in India, the Baha'i followers are present in huge numbers. The Lotus temple in south Delhi was established by Baha'i followers, which is worth seeing.

Modern missile defence system sold to Saudi Arabia and UAE

Roznama Sahara (August 4) reports that the US has announced the sale of aerial missile defence system to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. The US military headquarters Pentagon has confirmed that the US State Department has decided to sell Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile interceptors to the UAE and Patriot Missile Defence System in separate agreements. The two agreements were worth 5.3 billion dollars. Apart from selling Patriot Defence System worth 3

billion dollars to Saudi Arabia, support system repair and technical aid are also being extended to the country. On the other hand, UAE is being sold 96 missile defence system worth 2.25 billion dollars and its support system apart from spares and technical help. The decision to sell modern arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia and UAE was confirmed by US President Biden during his visit to both these countries last month. During the visit, pressure was exerted on Saudi Arabia to reduce the oil prices.



Inquilab (August 4) reports that the US has decided to sell most modern security system to the two countries so that they could stop a possible missile attack from Iran. During the visit of Biden, talks were held with the governments of the two countries on the possibility of this as Iran has developed missiles armed with nuclear warheads, for the defence of which it is necessary that the US provide its allies with most modern defence system. According to news agency AFP, Saudi Arabia has decided to buy 300 Patriot MIM missile system. This defence system helps to destroy fighter aircraft and incoming

ballistic missiles and cruise missiles while in the mid-air itself. According to US defence department, the deal is worth 3.5 billion dollars. It is to be noted that the attacks by Houthi rebels in Yemen have increased. It is being said that Iran is helping them with rockets and technical aid. According to the US State Department, this defence system has been given to Saudi Arabia so that the ballistic missile attacks from Yemen and the attack from pilot-less planes could be destroyed in mid-air before they hit Saudi Arabia. Similarly, UAE has also been provided with defence system that destroys missiles.

Civil war begins in Iraq

Inquilab (August 31) reports that at least three dozen people were killed and more than 500 were injured in fierce clashes that took place between military and the Shias in Iraq capital Baghdad. Later, a curfew was imposed in the entire country. Violence broke out in Iraq ever since Shia scholar Muqtada Al-Sadr announced his permanent withdrawal from politics. Al-Sadr started a hunger strike against this violence. Several explosions took place in different regions of Baghdad. The government agencies are mum on the number of people killed in these

explosions. The Iraqi news agency, quoting security agencies, said that four missiles were fired from the green zone. Among them, one missile fell on a residential area in which a number of people were killed. Media reports said that Iraqi security personnel have taken out one by one the supporters of Shia scholar near Republican Palace where the office of the Prime Minister is also located. In Najaf, Shia scholars were urged to intervene in order to stop this civil war.

According to BBC, the caretaker Prime Minister of Iraq has urged the people



of the country to maintain peace and the military has strictly enforced curfew across the country. According to the media, this was the biggest violence that took place in Baghdad. A spokesperson of the military admitted that clashes erupted between the members of ‘Aman Brigade,’ a militia loyal to Al-Sadr and the Iraqi soldiers, in which rockets and hand bombs were used. Iran closed all its borders with Iraq. On the other hand, Kuwait had directed all its citizens that they leave Iraq immediately. According to BBC, the doctors have confirmed that the military has shot dead more than 30 supporters of Al-Sadr.

The US has appealed to all political organisations in Iraq to start holding talks to establish peace in the country. This apart, the US has denied the news that the US embassy in Iraq has been vacated following violence in the country. In social media, a video had gone viral that shows the officials of different embassies leaving the green zone and shifting to other secure places. The US government said that the US would take all possible step for the security of its citizens.

Inqilab (August 30) reports that a frenzied mob of Shias forcibly occupied government offices. The crowd also occupied the President’s house and the offices of ministers. This included the Republican Palace situated in the most

secured areas like the green zone. The mob killed many soldiers. In a tweet, Muqdata Al-Sadr said that there is no government in Iraq for the past 10 months and hence he decided not to take part in politics any more. He admitted that he has made an appeal to improve the situation but other Shia leaders have not extended any cooperation. Iran has directed its citizens not to visit Iraq and also cancelled all flights to Iraq due to the violence erupted in that country. The Iran government is also sending special planes to Baghdad to evacuate its citizens trapped in Iraq.

It is to be noted that in the elections that took place in Iraq in October, the majority of the seats were won by the supporters of Al-Sadr but they still did not get a majority. Later, he refused to hold talks with Iran supported Shia groups for the formation of government. Due to this, there is political instability in Iraq for the past one year. The 48-year-old Al-Sadr has been playing a significant role in the people’s life and political sphere of Iraq for the past 20 years. His supporters have emerged themselves as the strongest militia by the name ‘Mehdi Sena,’ which fought a war against the US and the US-supported Iraqi army over the attack on former President Saddam Hussain. Later, it was named as a ‘peace brigade’ and it has been merged with the Iraqi Army.

BJP's Minority Morcha delegation visits Darul Uloom Deoband



Hamara Samaj (August 12) reports that a delegation of BJP's Minority Morcha visited the world-renowned Sunni educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband. The delegation was led by the national president of BJP's Minority Morcha Jamal Siddiqui. The visit was in connection with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Har Ghar Tiranga campaigns. He sought the cooperation from the managers of Darul Uloom Deoband for the campaign. Praising the

activities of Darul Uloom Deoband, Siddiqui said that this organisation had made important contributions to the Independence of the country.

In another news published in **Siasat** (August 14), national flag was hoisted on all the four main gates of Darul Uloom and conveyed the message of nationalism and social harmony. A 'morning walk' was also organised in the town in which the students of Darul Uloom actively took part.

Former Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami passes away

Siasat (August 27) reports that world-renowned Islamic scholar and former Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami and vice-chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Jalaluddin passed away at the age of 87 years. His death took place at the Al-Shifa Hospital in



Jamia Nagar in Delhi. He was a great Islamic scholar of India and Pakistan and was the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami during the 2007-2019 period. He was born in a village in North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu in 1935.

Love affair with Hyderabad youth proves costly for Pakistani girl

Siasat (August 12) reports that falling in love proved costly for a young girl named Khadija Noor, who was staying in Faisalabad Nagar in Pakistan. She came in contact with a youth named Syed Mahmood on Facebook, who was working in a hotel in Saudi Arabia. The two got trapped in a love affair, but their relatives did not like the relationship. Noor made a plan to visit her lover in Hyderabad for which Mahmood also extended his



cooperation. The girl reached Nepal and the two entered India in an illegal manner. The Border Security Force personnel near India-Nepal border found the documents with Noor to

be fake and they took into custody Noor, one Jeevan Kumar and Mahmood and questioned them. Later the three were handed over to the local police. The three were caught near Sursand town in Bihar.

IAS officer Shah Faesal returns to administrative service

Mumbai Urdu News (August 14) reports that the Central government has reinstated controversial IAS officer Shah Faesal once again in IAS and appointed him as Deputy Secretary in the Tourism ministry. It is to be noted that Shah Faesal was the IAS topper of 2010 batch, but in January 2019, he resigned from the IAS and entered politics. However, when he could not display any charisma in politics, he left politics in



August 2020. It is to be noted that after resigning from government service, he had formed a political party named Jammu Kashmir People's Movement. After the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and

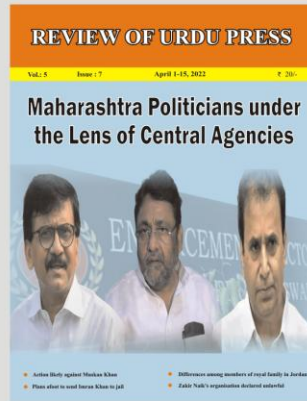
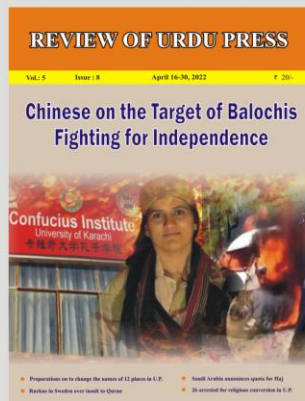
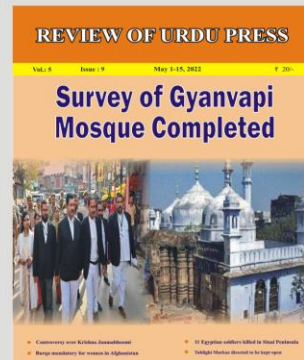
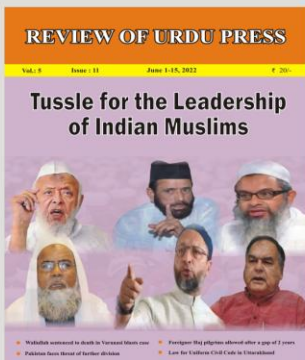
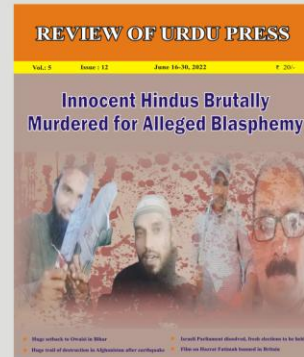
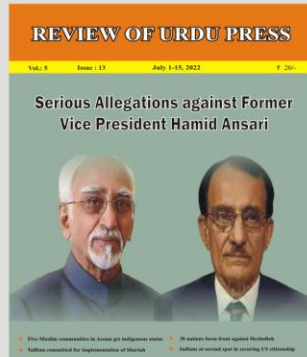
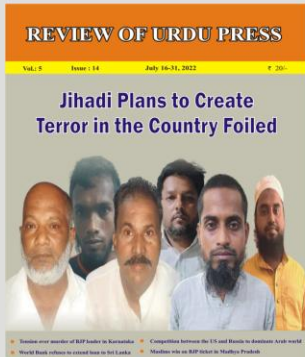
Kashmir, the government had arrested him but after being released on bail, he expressed his wish to join the IAS once again, which was accepted by the Union government.

Madrasa at the centre of anti-national activities razed in Assam

Siasat (August 5) reports that the Assam government has also started taking strong measures against those elements involved in anti-national activities. Recently, the manager of a madrasa in Morigaon village in Assam, Mufti Mustafa, was arrested for taking part in anti-national activities and his madrasa Jamatul was razed using a bulldozer. It is



being said that the mufti was arrested on charges of links with Bangladeshi terrorist organisation Ansarullah. Earlier on July 12, the Dibrugarh district administration has razed the house of his colleague Baidullah using a bulldozer. This man was also said to be linked to the Bangladeshi terrorist organisation.



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