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Chinese on the Target of Balochis Fighting for Independence



- Preparations on to change the names of 12 places in U.P.
- Saudi Arabia announces quota for Haj
- Ruckus in Sweden over insult to Quran
- 26 arrested for religious conversion in U.P.

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Summary

The communal violence that had broken out in many states on the occasion of Ram Navami had a similar pattern. It appeared that the violence was pre-planned. The police claimed that notorious extremist organisation Popular Front of India and some organisations linked to it were behind the violence. The most intriguing issue is that instead of condemning the violence, Muslim organisations and Urdu newspapers are targeting the BJP and Sangh Parivar. Not a single newspaper found it necessary to even discuss about the speedily growing Islamic radicalism in the country.

The Saudi Arabian government has declared the Haj quota for this year. As per the announcement, only 80,000 Indians could undertake Haj pilgrimage this year. The quota for Haj pilgrims from India is nearly 2.25 lakh every year. Saudi Arabia had banned the arrival of foreign Haj pilgrims in the past two years. The government there had reduced the Haj quota from 25 lakh to 10 lakh. This has affected the quota of Haj pilgrims from India as well.

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to change the names of 12 districts in the state. In this connection, a format of the notification has been prepared. Various panchayats in the districts and elected representatives have been demanding that the ancient names of cities and districts, which were forcibly changed by foreign invaders, should be restored. The sooner these remnants of foreign slavery are removed, the better. The governments that have come to power in Uttar Pradesh in the past two decades have changed the names of different cities. Mayawati had changed the names of several cities during her rule, which were cancelled when Akhilesh Yadav came to power. However, he also continued with the system of changing the names. The Yogi government had changed the names of two cities during its first term in power.

In Pakistan, discontent is growing day by day. The Balochis and Pashtuns have taken up arms against the domination of Punjabis. Recently, a Baloch woman suicide bomber, Shari Baloch, blew up three Chinese citizens in a suicide bomb attack on the premises of Karachi University. Important to note is that the woman was highly educated and belonged to the enlightened and affluent section of the Baloch society. The Baloch Liberation Army took the responsibility for the suicide attack. Nowadays there is huge public anger against the growing influence of China in Pakistan. Last year, more than two dozen Chinese were killed in four terrorist incidents in Pakistan. The Balochis have this grievance that the Chinese and Punjabis are together looting their natural resources. This is the reason why the demand for an independent Balochistan is growing day by day. In order to crush this dissent, the Pakistan's security agencies had kidnapped hundreds of Baloch youths and later their bodies were recovered from streets.

The bloody clashes between Shias and Sunnis in Afghanistan have taken a ghastly turn. So far, Sunni terror organisations were killing the Shias. Now, Shias have also started avenging the violence. In the past one week, more than 100 people were killed in different blasts that took place in Afghanistan, and more than 50 among them were teen students.

Preparations on to change the names of 12 places in Uttar Pradesh



Avadhnama (April 19) reports that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is preparing to change the names of 12 districts and cities in the state. In the past too he had changed the names of twodistricts. The names of the districts which are likely to be changed include Aligarh, Sambhal, Farrukhabad, Sultanpur, Firozabad, Shahjahnपुर, Agra, Mainपुरi, Ghazipur, Deoband, Rasoolabad and Sikandrabad. According to official sources, the format of the notification has already been prepared. This issue will soon be placed before the cabinet and after getting its approval, it is likely to be brought at the budget session of Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Once the Vidhan Sabha gives the green signal, it will be sent to the Governor for approval. After getting approval from the Governor, it would be sent to the Union Home Ministry. Once the approval comes from the Centre, the state government will issue a notification changing the names.

According to sources close to the chief minister, the names of the districts and cities which the government has been planning to change include Aligarh as Aryagarh, Sambhal as Prithviraj Nagar, Farrukhabad as Panchal Nagar, Sultanपुर as Kush Bhawanपुर, Firozabad as Chandra Nagar, Agra as Agravan, Mainपुरi as

Mayanपुरi, Ghazipur as Gharhipuri, Deoband as Devvrindपुर, Rasoolabad as Devgarh and Sikandrabad as Adarsh Nagar. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said it is necessary to restore the original names of ancient places which the foreign invaders had changed. In his previous term, Yogi Adityanath had changed the names of some places. Allahabad had been changed as Prayagraj. Faizabad had been changed as Ayodhya and the name of Mughal Sarai Railway Station had been changed as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction. This apart, the name of Urdu Bazar in Gorakhpur has been changed as Hindi Bazar, Humayunपुर has been changed as Hanuman Nagar, Meena Bazar has been changed as Maya Bazar and the name of Ali Nagar has been changed to Arya Nagar.

Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party are also not behind in changing names of places. In 2007, after becoming the chief minister, Mayawati changed the name of King George Medical College in Lucknow as Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical College. Sambhal has been changed as Bhim Nagar, Shamli has been changed as Prabudh Nagar and Hapur has been changed as Panchsheel Nagar. In 2012, when Akhilesh Yadav came to power, he restored the old names of these

places. Between 2012 and 2022, the names of 11 districts have been changed in which 9 were changed by Akhilesh Yadav and two by Yogi Adityanath.

As per information, this step is likely to be started by changing the names of six districts. The demand to change the names of districts include Aligarh as Harigarh or Aryagarh, Farrukhabad as Panchal Nagar, Sultanpur as Kush Bhawanpur, Badaun as Vedamau, Firozabad as Chandra Nagar and Shahjahanpur as Shahjipur. There is consensus in changing the names of six districts. Historical documents are being examined in order to change the names of eight other districts so that it could be presented in the next session of Assembly. The Zilla Panchayat of Aligarh has passed a resolution supporting the demand to keep the name of the district as Harigarh. This proposal is now under the consideration of the state government. The demand to change the name of Aligarh was raised by Vishva Hindu Parishad in 2015. It had demanded that the district should be renamed as Harigarh. The panchayat committee, during its meeting on August 6, 2021, passed a resolution demanding to rename the district as Harigarh. BJP MP from Farrukhabad, Mukesh Rajput has demanded that Farrukhabad be renamed as Panchal Nagar. In a letter to Yogi Adityanath, he stated that the original name of the place was Panchal Nagar and it was the capital of Panchal kingdom of Raja Drupad, the father of Draupadi. BJP legislator from Lambhua seat in Sultanpur, Devmani Dwivedi had also sent a proposal to the state government seeking to rename Sultanpur as Kush Bhawanpur. He claimed that the original name of Sultanpur was Kushbhawan and it was founded by Kush, son of Bhagwan Sri Ram.

Discussions are on to change the name of yet another citadel of Islamic culture, Badaun. In a function in November 2021, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had given an indication on this. He had said that Badaun was a centre for vedic studies right from ancient times. Hence from ancient times, the place was known as

Vedamau. The name Firozabad was given by Firoz Shah Tughlak. In August 2021, the Zilla Panchayat had demanded that it should be renamed as Chandra Nagar. This proposal is also under the consideration of state government. MLA from Shahjahanpur, Manavendra Singh has demanded that its name shall be changed to Bhamashah Nagar. District Panchayat of Mainpuri has demanded the state government that it should be renamed as Mayanpuri. A demand has also been made to rename another prominent centre of Islamic culture, Sambhal, as Kalki Nagar or Prithviraj Nagar. It is being said that it was Babar who renamed Sambhal. He had also converted an ancient temple of this place Harihar Mandir into a masjid. BJP MLA from Deoband, Brajesh Singh Rawat, has demanded renaming of Deoband, well-known for Darul Uloom Deoband, as Devvrindpur. It is being said that earlier the city was known as Devvan due to the Tripur Sundari Mandir located there which the invaders had changed as Devband. Alka Rai, wife of late BJP leader Krishnanand Rai, has demanded renaming of Ghazipur as Garhipur. The administration has also been asked to look into resolution seeking to rename Kasba Rasoolabad, Sikandrabad and Akbarpur Rania in Kanpur Dehat.

According to an Associate Professor of Agra College, Arunoday Vajpayee, what benefit would a common man get by changing the names? The government needs to think about providing daily meals. Instead of changing the name of Agra, the focus should be on providing basic necessities there. This is because tourists from the entire world visit there to see Taj Mahal. Similarly, the name of Agra University has been changed as Ambedkar University but is there any improvement in the quality of education being imparted there? Assistant Professor of Benaras Hindu University, Dr Amarnath Paswan said the past governments also used to change the names, but the current government wants to twist the entire history and present it from its own point of view.

Proposal seeking implementation of Uniform Civil Code



Is the Central government planning to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country? In this connection, a debate is raging once again in the political corridors of Delhi.

Salar (April 24) reports that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently pointed out in Bhopal that the Central government is preparing to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country. Addressing a meeting in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, Home Minister Amit Shah said that the BJP has been successful in Ram Mandir, Article 370, Citizenship Amendment Act and Triple Talaq issues. Hence preparations have started to implement the Uniform Civil Code. In this connection, it has been decided to implement it in Uttarakhand as a pilot project. Addressing a public meeting, he said that whether it is Article 370, Ram Mandir or any other matter, we have resolved all our controversial issues under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now our entire focus is on Uniform Civil Code. Our intention is to bring matters like marriage, talaq, succession and adoption under a single law. It is not proper to have different laws based on religion. Before independence, the British had implemented different laws for Hindus and Muslims which were

merged with India Act in 1935. The BJP has been demanding implementation of Uniform Civil Code in its election manifesto right from the beginning.

Avadhnama (April 24) reports that after the Home Minister publicly raised the issue of Uniform Civil Code in Bhopal, the BJP has started advocating the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in Uttar Pradesh as well. In a statement, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that every citizen should support the demand seeking implementation of Uniform Civil Code. This is necessary for the people of the country and Uttar Pradesh. In this connection, BJP has been making promises to the people for several decades now. Now time has come to fulfil the promises made. Addressing media persons, he said that there should be only one law in the country. This is very important. My understanding is that there is no need for different laws for different people in the country and appropriate steps are being taken in Uttar Pradesh in this connection. In other parts of the country as well, whether there is a BJP government or not, if we want development of all people, then a Uniform Civil Code is necessary.

Keshav Prasad Maurya sarcastically said that when the issue of vote bank comes, the politics of appeasement starts along with it. He said that during the election campaign in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had advocated the implementation of single law in the country. However, the Opposition parties and Muslim organisations did not support this demand. Meanwhile, chief of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party, Shivpal Yadav, has supported Uniform Civil Code. Before this, in Uttarakhand, the state government had constituted a committee to prepare the format for Uniform Civil Code. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has claimed that Uttarakhand would become the first state to implement Uniform Civil Code.

The newspaper said that it has, however, already been implemented in Goa. Even Article 44 of the Constitution directs the government to implement a Uniform Civil Code. The Supreme Court too had expressed dissatisfaction over non-implementation of Uniform Civil Code. However, experts are divided on whether the state governments have the power to implement Uniform Civil Code. Former Secretary General of Lok Sabha PDT Achari said that both the Centre and states can bring such a law. However, former law secretary P K Malhotra said that only the Central government can bring such a law. The state governments do not have the power to bring such a law.

Salar (April 25) reports that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has opposed the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country and said that not only Muslims, even other minorities are opposed to the implementation of such a law. If the government tries to implement such a law on Muslims, then we will question it in a court of law. The Muslim Personal Law Board said that there is already a separate law for

Adivasis in the country. This apart, every section of Hindus has its own different laws. The Constitution has given the right to every individual to follow his own culture, tradition and legacy and no law is forcibly imposed on anyone. Board chairperson Maulana Syed Rabe Hasani Nadwi said that we would oppose Uniform Civil Code at every platform. This is because it is a religious issue and no court in the world can forcibly impose it on Muslims. He said that hijab and Shariah are integral parts of Islam. It would be wrong to say that hijab has nothing to do with Islam. The board condemned the stopping of students wearing hijab from appearing for examinations in Karnataka. This decision of the state government is an open violation of Article 25 of Indian Constitution.

It is to be noted that earlier, on the directions of Muslim Personal Law Board, a memorandum signed by more than 3 crore people was handed over to Law Commission which opposed the forcible implementation of Uniform Civil Code on minorities. The memorandum is under the consideration of Law Commission.

Rozena Sahara (April 26) reports that Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur has welcomed the decision of Uttarakhand government to implement the Uniform Civil Code and said that every state should follow the same path. Meanwhile, Bihar government has clarified that it has no intention to implement Uniform Civil Code in the state. BJP MP Sushil Modi had declared that the Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in Bihar. However, chairman of the parliamentary board of JD-U, Upendra Kushwaha said that Bihar doesn't need a Uniform Civil Code and as long as the Nitish Kumar government is there in Bihar, it would not be implemented in the state at any cost. We will not change our policies for the sake of power.

Stone-pelting and violence mark Ram Navami processions



According to newspapers, stone-pelting and violence took place during Ram Navami processions in at least 10 states. In many places, buildings and shops were set on fire after looting them. At least 2 people were killed and dozens were injured in these incidents. Different state governments used bulldozers to destroy the properties of rioters. Now the issue of using bulldozers is being heard by the Supreme Court. In an interview to 'Hindustan TV' channel, Shahi Imam of Fatehpuri masjid in Delhi, Mufti Mukarram Ahmad appealed to the Muslims to boycott the functions of Eid in the country. He said that the Muslims in the country should take part in Eid Namaz because it is their religious duty but in order to protest the harassment of Muslims in different parts of the country, they should not celebrate while observing Eid and should not provide feast and other things.

Inquilab (April 30) reports that the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid Ahmad Bukhari as well, while addressing the namazis during Juma Namaz, said that the atmosphere of hatred and anarchy being created in the country would lead to serious consequences. Now if this danger is not curbed, then it would never be in the interest of the nation or its people under any circumstance. Both Hindus and

Muslims should come together and change the atmosphere of religious hatred.

The newspaper has published as its main story a statement issued by the organisation, 'Hindu for Human Rights' which was established in US, in which it has been stated that people wearing saffron robes have appealed for wiping out Muslims. The videos of saints and sadhus in saffron robes calling for wiping out Muslims have gone viral. The appeal also mentions about the hijab controversy in Karnataka and said that in South Asia religious violence will end only when we get united for the right to live for the development and respect for each other. Hindus have been urged to improve their relationship with Muslim neighbours and their organisations.

Salar (April 27) has published a report of United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in which it has been alleged that minorities are being discriminated in India and fake cases are being registered against them. In this connection, the harassment of Muslims is also being mentioned.

Siasat (April 18) reports that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has alleged that violence is being spread in the country in the name of Ram. He has accused the BJP of dividing the country and laying the seeds

of religious frenzy in society in order to win elections. In an article published in Shiv Sena's mouthpiece 'Saamana' he said that the chief of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena Raj Thackeray has been trying to implement the agenda of BJP by creating disturbances in society and implement President's rule.

Siasat in its editorial on April 21 has described bulldozer as BJP's new election weapon and said that the party is spreading communal violence in Delhi on the occasion of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in order to win the municipal corporation elections. The shops and houses of people are being destroyed using bulldozers over illegal constructions and taking part in riots. All these things are happening right under the nose of the Central government.

Siasat (April 22) reports that member of National Commission for Minorities Syed Shahzadi said that the commission is studying the situation in this connection and is planning to take necessary steps.

Inquilab (April 17) reports that a joint statement issued by 13 Opposition parties in the country has expressed concern over the increasing incidents of communal violence in the country and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervene in the matter.

Avadhnama (April 23) in its editorial said that the bulldozer is run over not on the shops of Muslims but on the Constitution and judiciary of the country. This is a jungle raj which no civil society can tolerate. The law of 'the buffalo belongs to the one who wields the lathi' cannot be accepted in this era. The newspaper condemned Madhya Pradesh home minister Dr Narottam Mishra for himself donning the role of judiciary and openly declaring a few people as guilty who have nothing to do with the riots and demanding that bulldozers shall be used to destroy their properties.

Inquilab (April 22) has published a news in which it has been stated that the students of Jamia Milia Islamia and Aligarh

Muslim University have condemned the use of bulldozers and described it as against the spirit of Constitution.

Inquilab (April 21) reports that Congress has blamed BJP for the riots in Jahangirpuri and claimed that the main accused in spreading communal violence, Ansar, is linked to BJP. In the edition, a statement of the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi has been published in which he has condemned the destruction of the houses of minorities in the guise of communal violence.

Inquilab (April 21) has carried an editorial which condemned the communal riots that took place in different parts of the country on the occasion of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti and said that the way the communal violence broke out in different parts of the country were in a similar pattern. From this it could be assumed that the violence was pre-planned. The newspaper also alleged that the police did not take appropriate steps to stop the riots and people belonging to only one community were being booked in different cases.

Salar (April 20) in its editorial has alleged that the BJP, in order to win the elections, is making efforts to polarise the votes of majority community by spreading anti-minority passion.

Siasat (April 18) in its editorial said that Delhi is on the target of communal elements. On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in Jahangirpuri, some mischievous elements took out Sobha Yatra without prior permission. Those who took part in the Sobha Yatra were wielding weapons and swords. They raised provocative slogans in front of a mosque, sparking communal violence. The newspaper also alleged that the Delhi Police, at the behest of the ruling party, is trapping people belonging to a particular community in fake cases. This is because the police are under political pressure.

Roznama Sahara (April 21) has expressed concern over increasing communal violence in the country and alleged that a particular party is creating an



atmosphere against Muslims in the country for political gains. This kind of campaign is a danger to the unity of the country.

Salar (April 18) has published a statement of the chief of Jamiat Ulema Arshad Madani as its main story in which it has been stated that riots do not happen on its own but are being instigated for political gains. A well-conceived campaign has been unleashed in the country in order to frighten Muslims. The police are silently watching the spectacle. It looks like today there is neither any law in the country nor any government.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 17) in its editorial has accused the BJP of creating an atmosphere of hatred and violence against Muslims and expressed surprise that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are maintaining silence on this distressing situation. The

newspaper stated that after riots broke out in many states like Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan, the police arrested hundreds of accused belonging to one particular community and later the ruling party, without any directions from the court, destroyed their houses and shops using bulldozers. The newspaper stated that the use of bulldozer is against the spirit of judicial system and the Constitution.

Aurangabad Times (April 27) has published a news on its front page in which it has been stated that preparations are on to use bulldozers in Okhla and Shaheen Bagh in the name of removing the illegal settlements of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis.

Hamara Samaj (April 22) in its editorial has condemned the use of bulldozers in Jahangirpuri and other places in the country and said that only the properties of Muslims are targeted with bulldozers and only Muslims are being trapped in fake cases. The newspaper has warned if the situation of injustice prevails then there would be serious consequences.

Avadhnama in its editorial on April 24 has appreciated the steps taken by the Yogi government against rioters in Uttar Pradesh.

Islamic and Mughal history out of CBSE syllabus

Mumbai Urdu News (April 24) reports that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced the syllabus for next year. In the new syllabus, the board has removed the portion referring to renowned Urdu poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz from the Social Studies book for Class X. This apart, in the history book for Class XI, the beginning of Islam and its spread has been removed from the syllabus. In the Class XII book also several alterations have been made in the chapters dealing with the Mughal period. As per the report of ‘Quami

Awaz,’ some professors have criticised these changes in the syllabus. While a few others have described it as beneficial to students. Professor Mousami Basu of Jawaharlal Nehru University asked on which basis these changes have been made? Whether the opinion of education experts was sought in this connection? There should be a probe to find out the reason why these chapters were excluded from the syllabus. Criticising these changes, a teacher of Indian School, Kanu Sharma, said that the chapters on Islam that



were removed from the syllabus, had provided information about the origin of Islam, Sufism and about the Prophet. In place of this, a chapter on Mongol Empire has been introduced in which Chengiz Khan has been presented as an administrator.

As per another report, in a chapter in Class X textbook on caste, religion and politics, a reference has been made about communalism. Three cartoons were given in this connection. In the first two cartoons, a poem by Faiz Ahmad Faiz was written. Whereas the third cartoon was from English newspaper The Times of India. Among them, the two cartoon poems of Faiz Ahmad Faiz have been removed. The board has also removed some portions of mathematics in the new syllabus and some new chapters have been added in their place. It is to be noted that last year also similar changes were made in the syllabus but when protests took place, the decision was withdrawn.

Roznama Sahara (April 27) reports that the differences between BJP and JD-U, the two constituents of Bihar government, have come out in the open over the issue of implementing the decision taken by CBSE to change the syllabus. Education Minister of Bihar Vijay Kumar Choudhary said that they would not introduce the new syllabus in Bihar under any circumstance. The Mughal administration is an integral part of India's history which cannot be ignored under any circumstance and there is no intention of removing it from the syllabus. If we ignore the ancient history like this,

then the new generation would remain in the dark. Similarly, it is totally wrong to remove the portion on non-aligned movement from the syllabus. Meanwhile, BJP leader and minister in Bihar government Nitin Naveen has extended support to implementation of the new syllabus.

Comment: The chapter that was removed from the history syllabus of Class XI was titled 'Central Islamic Lands.' It dealt with the rise of Islamic empire and its influence in the society and economy in Africa and Asia. The chapter was about the establishment of Islam, the rise of Khilafat and spread of Islamic empire. In the same way, the chapter that was removed from the history book for Class XII was titled, 'The Mughal Court: Reconstructing Histories through Chronicles.' The chapter dealt with the reconstruction of the social, religious and cultural history of Mughals. The cartoon that was removed was the one by The Times of India cartoonist Ajit Ninan. The cartoon depicts an empty chair adorned with religious symbols near to which it was written, 'This chair is for newly appointed Chief Minister to establish his secular credentials.' The authorities of the board, while contending about the chapters that were removed from the syllabus, said this decision was taken in accordance with the directions given by National Council for Education and Training (NCERT). It is to be noted that every year, when the CBSE makes the syllabus for classes IX to XII, it includes directions on educational material, the way of learning, exam syllabus, teachers training and evaluation.

A senior official of the board said that the syllabus for academic year 2022-23 has been prepared in accordance with it. Interestingly, this is not the first time that the board has removed some chapters from the syllabus. In order to make the syllabus logical, the board had also announced in 2020 that the chapters on federalism,

citizenship, nationalism and secularism in the Political Science book for Class XI would not be considered for assessment. This had created a huge controversy and later it was withdrawn.

Zee Hindustan (April 23) states that from the syllabus of Class XI and XII, chapters related to non-aligned movement,

cold war era, rise of Islamic empire in African and Asian regions, history of Mughal darbar and industrial revolution were removed. Similarly, in the Class X syllabus, in the chapter related to food security, portions on impact of globalisation on agriculture have been removed. ■

Haj quota for Indians

Hamara Samaj (April 23) reports that Saudi Arabia has announced the Haj quota for this year. There is a huge reduction in the quota for Indians. This year, only 79,000 Indians can go for Haj. On an average, the Haj quota for India is between 1.75 lakh and 2 lakh. Following the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and King Salman of Saudi Arabia in 2019, a decision had been taken to increase the quota for India to 2.25 lakh. However, in the past two years, Saudi Arabia imposed a ban on foreigners from undertaking Haj due to Corona pandemic. Now, after a gap of 2 years, 10 lakh people have been given permission to undertake Haj. According to sources, 55,000 Hajjis will be sent through Haj Committee of India. The rest of the part belongs to private tour operators. On an average, more than 25 lakh people from world over visit Saudi Arabia to do Haj every year. The Haj ministry of Saudi Arabia has made it clear that the quota given to different countries this year is temporary.



Earlier Haj yatris were sent through the foreign ministry and the government used to give a huge amount as subsidy to them. However, after the Modi government came to power, a decision was taken to gradually withdraw the subsidy. This apart, the responsibility of sending the Hajjis to Saudi Arabia has been handed over to Haj Committee of India instead of the foreign ministry. In November 2021, the Haj Committee had invited applications from Haj yatris and the last date to submit the applications had been fixed as January 31, 2022. This is because Muslims in the

country have not shown much interest in going for Haj this year and hence the last date for submitting the applications were extended many times. As per the latest decision, a provision has been made to submit applications till April

2022. If there is more number of applicants interested in doing the Haj, then they will be selected through lottery. This year, the Haj yatra is likely to begin on July 7, 2022.

Inquilab (April 26) reports that this year only 797 people from Delhi can go for Haj. However, the number of those interested in doing the Haj is 1,840. Hence the names of those who wanted to go for Haj will be selected through lottery system. The first Haj flight from India will take off on May 31. This time, the planes for Haj yatris will depart from 10 places instead of the normal 23 places. The states from where the Haj yatris use Delhi airport include Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh. The Haj Committee chairman of Delhi state said that since lot of people come from other states to Delhi to catch flights, this year also camps with basic necessities will be set up for them.

Avadhnama (April 23) reports that the Central Haj Committee has been reconstituted and A P Abdullakutty has been unanimously declared as the new chairman. For the first time in the history of Haj Committee, two women have been made its members. Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun have been made its vice-chairpersons. Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi congratulated the newly elected members. ■

Chinese at the target of Balochis fighting for independence



The jihad waged by the supporters of Azad Balochistan against Punjabis for the last two decades has taken a new turn. Now they are openly targeting the Chinese too. The Balochis are angry that the Chinese are also hand-in-glove with the Punjabis and have started exploiting their mineral wealth.

Hamara Samaj (April 27), reports that a Baloch woman named Shari Baloch killed three Chinese teachers and their Pakistani driver at Karachi University. It was a suicide bomb attack. Balochistan Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for this attack. A crucial fact is that the Baloch woman who was the suicide bomber was highly educated. According to Pakistani media, the blast took place when a van carrying Chinese professors was on its way to the Chinese language teaching centre located on the campus of Karachi University.

Karachi Police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon has confirmed that three teachers of the Confucius Institute (Chinese Language Institute) and one of their drivers were killed in the blast. Four other persons have also been injured in the blast,

including Pakistani Rangers' officer and security personnel. Memon said that the Chinese professors lived in the Karachi University hostel and were on their way to their department in their car when they became the target of the blast. A spokesperson for the Balochistan Liberation Army has said that the blast was carried out by their fighter, Shari Baloch.

It is worth noting that this institute of Chinese language education was established at Karachi University in 2013 in collaboration with Chinese universities. Four languages of China are taught in this institute. According to eyewitnesses, the van caught fire soon after the blast and paramilitary squads cordoned off the entire complex.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has condemned the blast, saying that Pakistan's security agencies will expose the entire conspiracy and none of the culprits will be spared. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has expressed concern over the increasing number of attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan and has called on the Government of Pakistan to make special security arrangements for the safety of

Chinese citizens living in Pakistan. It is worth mentioning that ever since the work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor was started, Balochistan has been opposing it. They have been alleging that Punjabis and the Chinese are working together to exploit Balochistan economically.



Who was Shari Baloch?

According to BBC, Shari Baloch alias Barmash was working as a teacher at the Government Girls Middle School, Kalat in Turbat district of Balochistan. Relatives of Shari Baloch told BBC that no one in her family had died at the hands of Pakistani security personnel and they have never been abducted by Pakistani security agencies. A spokesperson of the Karachi Police said that a woman's veil is respected in Pakistani society which is a reason why they are not subjected to vigorous body search. This is how Shari was able to enter the university campus with explosives hidden inside her burqa. According to Afghan journalist Bashir Ahmad Gwakh, Shari Baloch, who was involved in this suicide attack, was thirty years old. She had Masters in Zoology and was pursuing her M Phil in Education. She was a member of the 'Majeed Brigade,' the suicide wing of the Balochistan Liberation Army. She started participating in the activities of the Balochistan Liberation Army two years ago and had offered to lay down her life for the cause of independent Balochistan. It is claimed that after Shari was killed in this suicide attack, her doctor husband Habitan Bashir Baloch, posted a tweet, in which he took pride in the death of his wife and termed it a selfless act. He wrote, "Shari, my love, your selfless work has left me speechless. Today I am brimming with pride. Mahroch and Mir Hasan (Shari's children) would be proud to know that their mother was a great woman. You will continue to be an important part of our lives."

Shari Baloch belonged to an affluent Baloch family. Her father was a government official and her husband is a well-known dentist. It is difficult to say under what circumstances did Shari Baloch, who came from an aristocratic background, was forced to become a human bomb. She was not going to school for the past six months. Agencies were shocked to see the CCTV footage, in which a burqa-clad woman is seen in the presence of a Pakistani Ranger at the gate of the Confucius Institute on the Karachi University campus which was then followed by an explosion. The three Chinese professors killed in the blasts include the institute's director Huang Guiping and Ding Mupeng and Chen Sa. At present, there is a system of teaching Chinese language in five universities of Pakistan and more than 500 students are getting Chinese language education. Chinese language education in Pakistan was started in 1970 and till now 53,000 Pakistani students have received education in Chinese languages. Pakistanis have a desire to learn Chinese because they consider it a gateway to prosperity. In 2016, the Chinese government had announced scholarships for 5,000 Pakistani students to pursue education in their universities. The Pakistani cabinet has passed a resolution, which states that for the success of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, it is necessary that more and more Pakistanis understand the Chinese language.

The foundation stone for the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was laid in 2013. On February 16, 2022, during Imran Khan's visit to China, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong made a statement that 75,000 Pakistani youths were given jobs in connection with the economic corridor project. A vigorous campaign is being conducted in Pakistan to acquire proficiency in Chinese languages. The growing cooperation between Pakistan and China is being opposed by the Pashtuns and the Balochs. In July 2021, there was an explosion in the bus carrying engineers of Dasu Dam Hydroelectric Project being built in collaboration with China in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in which nine Chinese were killed. In August 2021, the Baloch Liberation Army attacked Gwadar port, in which two children were killed. In 2017, Chinese nationals engaged in road construction in Gwadar were attacked by Baloch Liberation Army fighters and ten Chinese were gunned down. In 2018 also, there was an attack on the consulate of Karachi, which was foiled by the Pakistani army. After the blasts at Karachi University, Chinese newspaper Global Times has alleged that the attack was carried out by the Majeed Brigade of the Balochistan Liberation Army, which has links with the neighbouring country of Pakistan. According to Pakistani newspaper Express News, the Majeed Brigade of Baloch Liberation Army was established in 2011. After this incident, Chinese and Pakistani media have started targeting India.

Background of dispute between Pakistan and Balochis

Before announcing the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the British government had given 600 princely states of the subcontinent the right to join either Pakistan or India as per their choice. Apart from this, they were also given the right to remain independent if they wished. This particular clause was taken advantage of by the then ruler of Kalat, Mir Ahmad Yar Khan and he declared independence.

Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan was announced as the prime minister of this newly formed state. Two houses were also constituted to run the government. The upper house was named 'Darul Umra' and the lower house as 'Darul Awam'. The independent existence of Balochistan remained intact for a year after the formation of Pakistan. Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote a letter on February 2, 1948 to the Khan of Kalat asking him to join Pakistan immediately. When he refused to join Pakistan, a contingent of Pakistani army was sent to capture Balochistan. There the Pakistani army launched a three-pronged attack from Pasni, Jiwani and Turbat and forcibly captured Kalat, Las Bela, Kharan and Makran. The Balochis never accepted the forced occupation of their territory by the Pakistani army and they raised the flag of rebellion against the Pakistani rulers. In 1955, the Government of Pakistan announced the integration of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. An armed rebellion started in Balochistan against this decision. In 1962, Nauroz Khan, the head of the Zehri tribe, started an armed rebellion against the Pakistani army. This rebellion was quelled by the Pakistani army and Nauroz Khan and his sons were hanged. In 1973, the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dismissed the elected provincial government of Balochistan and banned the activities of the National Awami Party. The Bhutto administration arrested the heads of various Baloch tribes such as Khair Bakhsh Marri, Atallah Mengal and Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo. To protest this, the Balochis started an armed struggle for their independence, which continued till 1993. According to government sources, 3,300 Pakistani soldiers and 53,000 Baloch civilians were killed in this conflict. In 2005, the head of Balochistan's ruling party, Jamhuri Watan Party and Chief Minister of Balochistan Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti had differences with Pakistan's military dictator Pervez Musharraf. In 2006, the Pakistani army attacked the fort of Akbar Bugti and shot him dead in broad



daylight. After this, the armed struggle started by various tribes of Balochistan against the Pakistani military dictatorship continues even to this day. An interesting fact is that the supporters of independent Balochistan are divided into at least five factions. The rulers of Pakistan are taking advantage of their mutual differences.

The Baloch Liberation Army was formed in 2005 and this organisation killed dozens of Pakistani soldiers during the 2005 visit of President General Pervez Musharraf to Balochistan by attacking the Pakistani Army's military camp in Kohlu. The Marri tribe is running a separate struggle for independence. After the assassination of Khair Bakhsh Marri by the Pakistani army, the tribe is now headed by his son, Hyrbyair Marri, who is living in exile in London. This clan has serious

differences with the Bugti clan and both of them claim leadership of the Balochis. It is alleged by Pakistani rulers that India is indirectly behind the campaign for independent Balochistan. It is said that the current head of the Bugti clan, Brahumdagh Bugti, who is currently living in exile in Switzerland, had sought political asylum from the Indian government in 2017, but the

Indian government has not given him political asylum yet.

Three other tribes are also fighting for independent Balochistan. The Balochs often complain that the Punjabi lobby of Pakistan is exploiting the natural resources of Balochistan and they do not spend even a single penny of the income from these resources on the development of Balochistan. It is also alleged that the rebellion of some tribes of Balochistan is also indirectly supported by Iran. The basic reason for this is that most of the Baloch tribes are Shias. The Shia-Sunni conflict in Balochistan is taking a serious turn. More than 300 Shias of Hazara tribe have been killed in blasts in Balochistan in the last one year. The Pakistani Sunni terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Jhangvi is said to be behind these blasts.

Ruckus in Sweden over insult to Quran

Protests by Muslims continue across Sweden against the burning of the Quran by anti-Muslim organisations in the country.

Aurangabad Times (April 19) reports that Rasmus Paludan, the leader of an extremist organisation called Hard Line, had publicly burnt the Quran in a town near Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. Muslims have intensified violent protests against this incident in many cities of Sweden. Significantly, this extremist organisation has claimed that there is talk of violence in the Quran

because of which it should be banned in Sweden. For the past one week, series of clashes between the police and Muslims have been taking place across the country. The protesters set several police vehicles on fire and have also vandalised them. The police have arrested 30 protesters.

Public anger has spread in Muslim countries against this incident. The governments of Iran and Iraq have protested against the incident by summoning the Swedish ambassador to their respective capitals. Saudi Arabia has



expressed outrage that extremists in some countries of Europe are campaigning against Islam, the Quran and Muslims, despite the United Nations passing a resolution against Islamophobia. Saudi Arabia has said that it will not be tolerated at any cost.

Etemaad (April 20), Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson has condemned anti-Muslim rallies organised by right-wing politician Rasmus Paludan. His party has been demanding that the entry of Muslims into Sweden should be banned and they should not be given any citizenship rights. According to Swedish media, these demonstrations were carried out after taking permission from the government and in many places, the Quran was burnt. There were nationwide protests by Muslims against the incident. Public property was set on fire by furious protesters and there was attack on police. According to official statistics released, 44 protesters have been arrested in different cities. The Prime Minister has said that those who are attacking the police are doing it with the aim of destroying Sweden's democratic fabric.

She added that such miscreants will not be tolerated and they will be prosecuted. Along with this, the decision to expel such people from Sweden are also being considered. She has alleged that foreign organisations were behind these attacks, which incited Muslims living in Sweden against the government. It is worth noting that even before this, anti-Islamic demonstrations have been organised by Hard Line. They have been demanding that Islam be banned in Denmark and that Muslims living in Sweden and Denmark be expelled from the two countries after their citizenship is revoked.

Etemaad (April 20), states that demonstrations were organised against Sweden in several cities of Iran demanding that cases be filed against those who defame Quran. Iran has alleged that Jews are behind these demonstrations. According to another news, in many places in Pakistan, students are organising protests against Sweden, Norway and The Netherlands. Recently, a parliamentarian from The Netherlands has demanded that the propagation of Islam should be banned in Europe.

Emmanuel Macron re-elected president of France



Mumbai Urdu News (April 26), reports that French President Emmanuel Macron has been re-elected President after defeating his opponent Marine Le Pen. According to the media, Macron has got nearly 60 per cent of the votes in these elections. Macron will now have to win the French parliamentary election to be held in June. It is worth noting that in 2017 also, Macron had defeated Le Pen. Both Macron and his rival had made the hijab and halal meat the main issues in their election campaign. Macron is considered anti-Muslim. During his tenure, he had taken many important steps to stop Islamic terrorism that was spreading in France. According to the media, 50 lakh Muslim migrants have become a problem for the French society.

Etemaad (April 27), states that Macron's victory is likely to further tighten the anti-Muslim policy of the French government.

Etemaad (April 27) has welcomed Macron's re-election as French president and said that it would have been difficult for Muslims to live in France if his rival Marine Le Pen had won. Because in her

election manifesto, Le Pen had announced that if she comes to power, she would ban Muslims from entering France. Apart from this, she had also promised to ban hijab and halal meat.

The newspaper said that as far as anti-Islam sentiments are concerned, politicians in Europe are now using it to come to power. France is a major member of the European Union, which has veto power in the Security Council of the United Nations. Apart from this, it is also a nuclear power. Macron is a strong supporter of the European Union. It was during Macron's rule that a Christian teacher showed the portrait of Prophet Mohammad to the students in his school. Because of this, one Muslim immigrant publicly killed him. After this, France made many stringent laws against Muslims and Islam and closed down many mosques in the country. It was supported by a number of countries of Europe. But this step was opposed in the Islamic world and many Muslim countries boycotted French goods. It needs to be seen how seriously the French government tries to implement the resolution passed by the United Nations against Islamophobia.

Blasts kill hundreds of innocent people in Afghanistan



Many innocent people have lost their lives in at least five bombings that rocked Afghanistan last week. Most of those killed belonged to the Shia sect. The hand of the Islamic State, an organisation of Sunni Muslims, is said to be behind these blasts. Now according to the latest developments, Shia Muslims have also started baying for the blood of Sunni Muslims.

Inquilab (April 30), reports that at least 10 people were killed and dozens injured in a blast at a Sunni mosque in Kabul. The blast took place in Khalifa Agha Gul Jaan Masjid during Friday prayers there. A Taliban spokesperson acknowledged that the mosque in which the blast took place belonged to the Sunni sect.

He said that the government is trying to find out which organisation is behind the blast. According to another news, at least 10 people were killed in the blasts that took place inside two buses in the town of Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan. Balkh police spokesperson Asif Waziri admitted that there have been several explosions in Mazar-i-Sharif district on the day of Friday prayers. The

government is ascertaining the number of people who died in these blasts.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 20) reports that at least 33 people, most of them teenage girls, were killed in three blasts at schools in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. More than 50 people were left injured. The deceased are said to belong to the Hazara Shia sect. According to the AFP report, Khalid Zadran, the spokesperson of the Kabul police, said that the blast took place at the Abdul Rahim Shaheed High School, which is located near a Shia Mosque. At least 27 children were killed and 11 were injured in this bombing. The second explosion took place near another school when the children were on their way to the school. The blast happened outside the school. At least six children were killed in this. An explosion took place at an English language centre located in an area where Shia population is in majority. In this also, the possibility of many students having lost their lives is being ascertained. The Kabul police said that the hands of ISIS terrorists are behind these blasts. Children's bags and shoes were scattered all around the school and their blood was strewn everywhere. The fifth

explosion took place near the Mumtaz Education Centre.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 24), reports that at least 33 worshipers were killed and 47 were injured in the blast at the Shia mosque in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz, Afghanistan. According to Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, ISIS is

behind the blasts. The mosque building was completely destroyed in this blast. He has said that this extremist organisation is targeting innocent people in various cities of Afghanistan. It is a matter of shame that these blasts are taking place in the holy month of Ramzan, in which Muslims are shedding the blood of Muslims.

Pakistan's drone attack in Afghanistan



Etemaad (April 20), Pakistani military drones struck over Afghan land and completely destroyed three Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan bases, killing several people. The Pakistan government has claimed that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan training camps were present in Khost and Kunar provinces on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. In these, terrorists were trained to carry out acts of terrorism in Pakistan.

The Pakistan government has denied the Afghanistan government's claim that the strikes were carried out by Pakistan's air force and that the planes violated Afghanistan's airspace. A spokesperson for Pakistan said the strikes were carried out by drones.

The areas that were attacked are not under the control of the Taliban

government in Afghanistan and are occupied by Pakistani insurgents. The Pakistan government carried out these attacks to weaken the terrorists operating in Pakistan. The spokesperson said that despite it being the month of Ramzan, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan militants attacked Pakistani army camps in North Waziristan and Bajaur, killing at least seven people. Among them was a Major in the army. Apart from this, several Pakistani police posts in Dera Ismail Khan were attacked with missiles, in which many Pakistanis were killed. This forced Pakistan to take such an action against the Afghan terrorists. Due to this attack by the Pakistani army, Islamic terrorists have suffered heavy losses of life and property and dozens of their people have been killed.

Saudi Arabia announces quota for Haj



Inquilab (April 24), reports that the Saudi government has announced Haj quota for 2022 and the quota of pilgrims has been fixed for each country in the world. According to the Saudi Gazette report, 10 lakh people will be able to perform Haj this year. But an age limit of 65 has been fixed for those who want to do Umrah and only those who have taken two shots of Covid vaccine will be allowed entry. Along with the vaccination certificate, pilgrims will also have to furnish the RTPCR test report which is not older than 72 hours. According to the Saudi Gazette, maximum number of pilgrims have been allowed to come from Indonesia. This year, 1.71 lakh persons will be allowed to perform Haj from Indonesia. After

Indonesia, 81,000 people have been allowed to perform Haj from Pakistan. Whereas from India, 79,000 people have been allowed to perform Haj. Bangladesh's quota has been fixed at 57,000. Whereas, Nigeria's quota is 43,000, Turkey's quota 37,000, Afghanistan's quota 13,000, Britain's quota 12,000, America's quota 9,000 and France's quota has also been fixed at 9,000. The African country Angola has the lowest quota. From there, only 23 people will be allowed to perform Haj. This year, the quota has been reduced by 45 per cent due to the pandemic. For the last two years, due to Covid, the Saudi government had banned the Haj of foreigners and only the citizens of Saudi Arabia could avail this facility. ■

Talks resume between Saudi Arabia and Iran

Inquilab (April 25), reports that talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia have resumed. The dialogue is taking place in Baghdad. High ranking officials of Iran's Supreme National Security Council have started talks with Saudi intelligence

officials. Significantly, a month ago, the Iranian government refused to hold talks with Saudi Arabia, in protest against the persecution of Shias in Saudi Arabia. Iran alleges that most of those hanged in Saudi Arabia are pro-Iranian Shias and have been



sentenced to death because they were against Saudi Arabia's Sunni government. It is worth noting that due to the activities of the Houthi rebels in Yemen, relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been strained for the past several years. Saudi Arabia alleges that the Houthi rebels are given military and financial aid by Iran and are instigated to attack Saudi Arabia. Earlier in 2016, the Saudi government hanged Shia scholar NimrBaqir al-Nimr. Then there was tremendous tension in the

relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Reacting to the execution, Iranian protesters attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy in Tehran and set it on fire. After this, diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran were severed. Later, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman insisted that Iran and Saudi Arabia should try to improve their relations since both are Muslim nations.

According to an Iranian spokesperson, some Sunnis in Iran opened fire on the car of the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. One person was killed in this attack. However, Brigadier-General Hossein Almassi, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps narrowly escaped. The campaign to establish relations with Israel by Muslim countries on the pressure of America in the Arab world has been opposed by Iran.

Slogan shouting against Pakistan PM in Ka'aba



The conflict between different political parties of Pakistan has reached even Saudi Arabia.

Roznama Sahara (April 30), reports that not only slogans were raised in al-Masjid an-Nabawi against Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his ministers, but some Pakistanis also beat up the ministers accompanying Shahbaz Sharif.

Inquilab (April 30), reports that many Pakistanis have been arrested in

Saudi Arabia in this regard. It is worth noting that these days Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif along with his ministers are on a visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Regarding what transpired, Pakistan's Home Minister Sana Ullah Khan said that the sentiments of crores of Pakistanis have been hurt by this incident.

In al-Masjid an-Nabawi and Ka'aba, slogans were raised calling Shahbaz Sharif and his ministers 'thieves.' Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Federal Minister for Counter Narcotics Shah Zain Bugti were assaulted. Commenting on this incident, Pakistan's Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that she condemns those who are using the holy land of Saudi Arabia for their vested political interests in the holy month of Ramzan.

Bloody clashes between Arabs and Christians in Sudan

Inquilab (April 29), states that at least 200 people have been killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians in Sudan's West Darfur and more than 500 have been left injured. The armed clashes between Muslims and Christians are turning into a civil war. The cause of the conflict is said to be an attempt by Arabs and Christians to take over fertile areas of Sudan. The country is under the grip of a famine for a very long time. Therefore, the aim of Christians and Muslims is to capture as many fertile areas as possible. It is said that some Arabs attacked two

Christians and killed them. After this, there has been a series of bloody clashes between the Christians and Arabs. Within a day, at least 200 people were killed and more than 500 were injured. Significantly, before this, Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan revolted and overthrew the civilian government of Sudan. This intensified the chain of bloody clashes in the country. The Arabs are said to have the support of former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. The appeal made by the United Nations to establish peace has been rejected by both.

Yemen's new government wins trust vote

Mumbai Urdu News (April 24), reports that Yemeni Parliament has passed a vote of confidence in favour of the newly formed government under the Riyadh Agreement in December 2020 at a special session of Parliament held in the temporary capital Aden. According to Yemen's government agency, Parliament has expressed confidence in the new government and has instructed them to accelerate efforts to establish peace in Yemen. With this goal, the process of negotiations between different factions has also been accelerated.



newly formed Leadership Council of Yemen.

Etemaad (April 19), reports that the American newspaper Wall Street Journal has claimed that Yemen's President Mansur Hadi resigned due to pressure from Saudi Arabia. Mansur Hadi is now under house arrest in Riyadh and is not allowed to have contact with any outsiders. Significantly, there has been a civil war in Yemen for the past several years. And until now, the United Nations has recognised only Abdul Mansur Hadi as the country's president. Mansur Hadi fled from Yemen and has for the last several years been living in exile in Saudi Arabia. Under pressure from Saudi Arabia, he has resigned from his post and handed over all his powers to the

The Wall Street Journal has claimed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman forcibly made Mansur Hadi sign the resignation letter. Eight representatives of Yemen have been included in the newly formed Leadership Council. It is said that the Saudi government had threatened Mansur Hadi that if he did not resign from his post, all his acts of corruption would be exposed. The Saudi government has also banned him from going out of the house and establishing contact with anyone even on phone. The United Nations has also announced USD 3 billion in aid to Yemen. It is worth noting that there has been a civil war in Yemen since 2015.

Clashes between Israeli Army and Arabs at al-Aqsa mosque



More than 200 Arabs have been injured in clashes between Arabs and Israeli forces over the past week over prayers at the historic al-Aqsa mosque.

According to **Etemaad (April 24)**, Israel has closed its civilian border crossing with the Gaza Strip. This decision was taken after the rocket attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip. Now traders and labourers from Gaza will not be allowed to enter Israel. Israel has claimed that two rockets were fired from Gaza at southern Israel, causing damage to some residential areas. The rockets were fired when Israeli police were clashing with Palestinian protesters at the al-Aqsa compound. In violation of the restrictions imposed by Israel on offering prayers at al-Aqsa, more than one lakh Palestinians went to the mosque and offered prayers.

Earlier, Israel had announced that Palestinians would be allowed to offer prayers in al-Aqsa mosque in a specified number. Following this announcement, Israel closed all roads leading to the al-Aqsa mosque. Israeli soldiers forcibly tried to expel Palestinians from the mosque, injuring more than 100 people.

Hamara Samaj (April 17), reports that Saudi Arabia has alleged that Israel is deliberately creating tensions by banning prayers at al-Aqsa mosque. Saudi Arabia has condemned the Israeli military's use of force against worshipers at al-Aqsa mosque and has termed it a violation of international agreements. The Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) has also alleged that hundreds of worshipers have been arrested by the Israeli army and hundreds have been injured in the lathi-charge. In violation of all international agreements, Israeli police raided al-Aqsa which is the third holiest site in Islam. Tear gas and rubber bullets were used to control the crowd, in which at least 200 worshipers were left injured. The council also alleges that Israel has heavily increased the presence of its army on the West Bank on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan and has closed all roads leading to al-Aqsa mosque. In addition to this, Jews are seen in areas surrounding the mosque in large numbers. With this, it is evident that Israel wants to forcibly occupy al-Aqsa mosque. The US has appealed that the violence should be stopped and steps should be taken to normalise the situation.

Inquilab (April 21), reports that Malaysia's Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah has sought intervention of the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to stop Israel's persecution of Palestinian worshipers at al-Aqsa mosque. The United Arab Emirates summoned the Israeli ambassador, Amir Hayek to the Foreign Ministry and demanded that the Israeli military action against Palestinian Muslims in al-Aqsa mosque be stopped immediately, failing which there will be serious consequences. The Lebanese government has also called on Israel to withdraw its troops from al-Aqsa mosque.

26 arrested for religious conversion in Uttar Pradesh



Mumbai Urdu News (April 18), reports that the activists of Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal gheraoed a church in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, accusing it of forcibly and illegally converting Hindus. After this, the local police arrested 26 people. Among them is a priest, Vijay Masih. The court released all those arrested on bail. The priest of the church told the police during interrogation that 70-80 non-Christians were also present at the time of the gherao.

Himanshu Dixit, related to Vishva Hindu Parishad, has alleged that Hindus are being lured in the churches of Fatehpur and converted into Christianity. The police claimed that 90 Hindus were being converted in the church at the time of arrest. The Vishva Hindu Parishad also claimed that the church's priest, Vijay Masih, has admitted that he was getting Hindus converted by deceit and inducement. Dixit also alleged that Hindus are being converted even in hospitals.

Movies become popular in Saudi Arabia



Salat (April 20), reports that ever since the government lifted the restrictions imposed on cinema halls in Saudi Arabia, cinema is

gaining popularity among the Saudi public. Cinemas were banned in Saudi Arabia for several decades because they were considered anti-Islamic. Three years ago, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Salman's liberal policy allowed the opening of cinemas in the country for the first time. There are currently 56 cinemas in 20 cities of Saudi Arabia. The sale of tickets in these theatres has earned an income of 30 crore Riyals. More than 1,200 films were screened in these cinemas and these films were seen by 30 million viewers. Due to the opening of these cinemas, 5,000 people have got employment.

Iftaari arranged in Bangalore Central Jail

Salar (April 17), reports that iftaari was arranged for Muslim prisoners in the month of Ramzan in Bangalore Central Jail by Jamiat Ulema. Apart from this, arrangements were also made to offer namaz five times a day in the jail. Jamiat Ulema Karnataka President Mufti Iftikhar Ahmad Qasmi said that they could not arrange iftaari for Muslim prisoners in the last two years due to the pandemic and the

resulting restrictions imposed on them by the jail administration. He added that at present there are 950 Muslim prisoners in the Bangalore Central Jail. Apart from this, iftaari was also arranged in the district jails of Ramnagara, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga and Belgaum. Because cooking meat is prohibited inside the prison, they were served only fruits and vegetarian food for iftaari.

Clashes between students and businessmen in Bangladesh

At least 50 people, including five journalists, were injured in clashes between shopkeepers and students in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, according to **Siasat (April 20)**. It is said that for shopping in the month of Ramzan, the students had demanded a discount from the shopkeepers,

which they refused to accept. After this, the students became furious and they set several vehicles on fire and looted some shops. The police fired rubber bullets in the air and used tear gas to disperse the agitated crowd. More than 50 students and shopkeepers have been arrested.

World's largest sound system in Ka'aba




Hamara Samaj (April 16), reports that the Saudi government has installed the world's largest sound system in Mecca. There are 7,500 speakers in this system which broadcast the sound of azaan and namaz. According to the director of Mecca, more than 200 engineers have been appointed to take care of this sound

system. This entire audio system is connected to the UPS system. All these sound systems are controlled from a central control room. Over 250 fans have also been installed for the travellers coming to Ka'aba to keep the atmosphere of Ka'aba and al-Masjid an-Nabawi cool by sprinkling water.

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- Dubai order to give 50 crore pounds to divorced wife
- Taliban imposes restrictions on women's travel
- Pakistan to conduct page at Qasr-e-Munim Islamabad

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Saudi Arabia Bans Tablighi Jamaat



- Overhaul in UIC to include Sultan Hospital
- Israeli military gains orders to be ready for attack on Iran
- Sri Lanka banned allow over alleged Israeli in Qasr
- Iran against publisher the death of Prophet



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