

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 6

Issue : 16

August 16-31, 2023

₹ 20/-

Muslim Strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections



- Congress's hand behind Nuh riots
- War likely between Israel and Hezbollah
- Attacks on churches and Christian colonies in Pakistan
- Efforts to resolve Gyanvapi dispute outside court fail

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

Printed and Published by Manmohan Sharma on behalf of India Policy Foundation published at D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016. Printed at Sai Printo Pack Pvt. Ltd., A-102/4, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020

Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Controversy over slapping of Muslim student in Muzaffarnagar school	04
Congress's hand behind Nuh riots	06
Efforts to resolve Gyanvapi dispute outside court fail	07
Scam worth crores in minority scholarship scheme	09
Muslim strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections	11
Maliana massacre verdict questioned in high court	14
<u>World</u>	
Attacks on churches and Christian colonies in Pakistan	15
Ban on political parties in Afghanistan	17
Quran desecrated in Sweden and Netherlands	18
Journalists sentenced for plotting to kill Sheikh Hasina's son	19
Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan a threat to neighbouring countries	20
<u>West Asia</u>	
War likely between Israel and Hezbollah	21
New chapter in Iran-Saudi Arabia relations	22
Libyan foreign minister suspended for meeting Israeli minister	24
Saudi security personnel kill hundreds of Ethiopian refugees	25
Iran court imposes 33 crore dollar fine on the US	26

Summary

The manner in which some communal elements raked up the incident of a handicapped teacher, Tripti Tyagi, forcing the classmates of a Muslim student to slap him in a private school in Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, can't be considered graceful. The woman teacher said the uncle of the student had complained to her that he was not serious in his studies and hence he should be taught a lesson. The interesting thing is that when the student was slapped by his classmates at the behest of this teacher, the student's uncle was present on the spot and he had made a video of it. Later a Muslim journalist caught hold of the video and he gave a communal colour to the incident. Taking the incident seriously, the Uttar Pradesh government shut down the school and filed a case against the teacher.

This apart, the incident in which the Muslim student was slapped by his classmates in a Muzaffarnagar school has been made an international issue. Urdu newspapers also actively took part in this campaign. On the other hand, the incident in which a Muslim teacher had brutally thrashed a Hindu student in Katua in Jammu and Kashmir had been totally ignored by Urdu newspapers. As per media reports, a Muslim teacher and the principal had brutally beaten up a Class X student for writing 'Jai Sri Ram' on the blackboard at Government Higher Secondary School in Bani tehsil in Katua district in Jammu and Kashmir. This student was thrashed to the extent that he had to be admitted to a hospital. A huge protest was held in the town against this incident and it was demanded that action should be taken against the Muslim teacher, Farooq Ahmad, and Principal Mohammad Hafiz. Later, the accused teacher Farooq Ahmad was arrested.

Two arch foes in Arab world, Saudi Arabia and Iran, have once again got into the bond of friendship due to the efforts of China. It is to be noted that Iran is a Shia-majority nation. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia is a fundamentalist Sunni nation. In 2016, when the Saudi Arabian government awarded death sentence to a few Shia maulanas, a huge mob of Shias attacked the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran as a retaliatory step and set fire to it. Following this, the diplomatic relationship between both the countries broke off. Recently, Iran's foreign affairs minister visited Saudi Arabia. The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia admitted in a joint press conference that China had played an important role in establishing diplomatic relationship between the two countries. In the Middle East, the US is majorly worried due to the increasing influence of China.

The Taliban government in Afghanistan has imposed a ban on all political parties in the country saying that in Islamic Shariah, there is no scope for any political activities. Taliban government spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said in clear terms that the doors of education will remain closed to women and they will also not be allowed to take up employment or visit parks. He said they were committed to run the administration of the country as per Shariah and will not tolerate any foreign interference in this connection.

In Pakistan, the torture of minorities is continuing. Recently, a huge mob of Muslims set fire to more than a dozen churches and dozens of buildings in four Christian colonies at Jaranwala tehsil in Faisalabad district in Punjab province. It is being said that two Christians had insulted Quran. Peeved over this, a huge mob of Muslims attacked the churches and buildings of Christians.

Controversy erupts over slapping of Muslim student in Muzaffarnagar school

Urdu newspapers have raked up the incident where a Muslim student was slapped by his classmates at the behest of his handicapped teacher in a village in Muzaffarnagar.

Hindustan Express (August 27) states that the police have filed an FIR against a teacher in a private school in Mansurpur police station area in Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh after a video went viral which showed a Muslim student being slapped by his classmates at the behest of the teacher who also made communal remarks. The name of the woman is Tripti Tyagi and she runs a private school in the name of Neha Public School. The viral video shows her telling the students to slap a Muslim student who is their own classmate. On the basis of a complaint filed by the father of the student, a case has been registered against the accused teacher in Mansurpur police station.

In his complaint, the father of the student had also accused the teacher of making objectionable comments against a particular community. On the other hand, the teacher, while talking to media persons, said there were communal overtones in the entire incident and the video was presented after distorting it. The teacher said the uncle of the student concerned had complained that the student was not taking interest in his studies and hence he should be taught a lesson. The student concerned also admitted in the viral video that he did not remember what was taught. On this, his teacher got him punished. The teacher also said that since she was handicapped, she told the classmates of the student to slap him.

The interesting thing is that initially the father of the student had refused to file a complaint against the teacher with police and the two sides had reached an agreement. Later, due to the pressure from

some Congress leaders, the person filed a written complaint with the police against the teacher. A lawyer in Muzaffarnagar, S M Haider Rizvi, sent a letter to the National Human Rights Commission and sought action against the accused teacher. He also demanded that a fair investigation shall be conducted into the incident by the CBI or the ATS under the supervision of National Human Rights Commission. Chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, said the flames of hatred have now reached educational institutions and it is quite dangerous. This cannot be overlooked. Taking a dig at the Central government and the BJP which is ruling the state, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, said this agenda of hatred has now reached the schools. BJP MP Varun Gandhi has condemned this incident and described the action of the teacher as shameful.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 27) states that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani, had also written a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Education Minister and National Child Rights Protection Commission and demanded stringent action against the accused teacher. In another news, it has been said that the National Child Rights Protection Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of the issue. Leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union, Naresh Tikait visited the village and made the students who slapped the boy to embrace him.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 26) reports that the leader of Rashtriya Janata Dal, Lalu Yadav, said that two persons in the country had opened so such poison of hatred and it will take decades to remove them. Senior journalist Ravish Kumar said the government is making innocent children as rioters in the name of Hindu-Muslim.

Etemaad (August 28) reports that the Uttar Pradesh government, taking cognizance of the issue, closed down the school and registered a case against the accused woman. The chairman of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, condemned this incident and said that this is the result of the poison of hatred being spread by the BJP. The father of the victim student has admitted that he did not want to give communal colour to the incident. This is because due to it, the atmosphere in the village will deteriorate. However, due to the insistence of some Congress leaders he has now filed a written complaint with the police. A youth named Imran Siddhiqui, who belongs to the village, said he and many Muslim children of his family had studied under the same teacher and she had never discriminated against anyone on the basis of religion.

Aurangabad Times (August 27) has published this news on its front page and headlined it as “Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh fills even schools with hatred.” “Saffron teacher made other children beat up innocent Muslim student.” “Kerosene spread by BJP sets fire to country: Rahul Gandhi.”

Inquilab (August 29) states that an FIR has been registered against journalist Mohammad Zubair on charges of revealing the identity of the victim student. In his twitter account, Mohammad Zubair had shared a video of the Muslim student being slapped by his classmates. Zubair said he has been deliberately targeted for being a Muslim.

Urdu Times (August 27) in its editorial said that the poison of hatred has enveloped schools as well. It is said in the editorial that the Muslim is not safe anywhere in this country. Recently, in a village in Muzaffarnagar, a teacher had ordered Hindu boys to thrash a Muslim student. After a video of it went viral, the incident has been condemned across the country. The accused teacher has also now sought an apology. But can this incident be



forgotten just by seeking apology? A teacher full of communalism and hatred should immediately be suspended from the job so that the Constitution of this country remains safe.

Hamara Samaj (August 27), while condemning this incident, said the name of this witch in the dress of a teacher is Tripti Tyagi. Hasn't this child beaten up just because he is a Muslim? Will this innocent child be able to come out of this quagmire of hell in his entire life? Who will douse the poison of hatred created in him? It is a pity that a video of the entire incident has been made and it has been made viral so that the poison of hatred shall spread further. The virus of religious hatred and islamophobia is spreading fast throughout the country including Uttar Pradesh. The funeral procession of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood has been taken out in Hindustan. How can a teacher show so much hatred to her own student in the name of religion? Finally, which Rakshas has seized Uttar Pradesh?

Siasat (August 27) in its editorial expressed concern that the atmosphere of hatred that the Sangh Parivar had created between Hindus and Muslims has made Muslims the victims of mental and social harassment and the government is also not taking any action to stop it. In any case, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is famous in the entire country for his anti-Muslim stance. He always targets Muslims. Those responsible for shaping the future of the country is filling the minds of school children with poison. This illegal activity is not against any Muslim child, but against the Muslims in the entire country.

Congress's hand behind Nuh violence

Tribune (August 31) states that Haryana's Home Minister Anil Vij has alleged in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha that Congress hands were behind the communal riots that took place in Nuh last month. He also said the riots were linked to Pakistan and the video of the riots that took place in Nuh was made viral in Pakistani media that time itself. He said that till now more than 500 people have been arrested. Their interrogation has revealed that the Congress leaders had made preparations for the riots long time back. He said we are conducting an investigation into the background of this riots through the intelligence agencies on a wider scale. In this connection, 160 cases have been registered. He said that nobody will be spared who conspired for this riots. In this connection, Anil Vij has specially discussed the names of two Congress legislators from Mewat region and said that wherever Congress legislator Mamman Khan went, riots broke out there. It is clear from it that the conspiracy behind this riots had been hatched by Mamman Khan and his colleagues.



Inquilab (August 29) reports that on an appeal by Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Sarva Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat and Bajrang Dal, some people are again getting ready to take out Brajmandal yatra in Nuh region in Mewat. However, due to the adamant stand of the government, the yatra could not be taken out on a large scale. The Haryana government has sealed the borders of four districts. Later on a request by Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the police took 51 people in three vehicles to Nalhar Mahadev temple where they did jalabhishek. Whereas 11 people were given permission to take out a symbolic yatra. Under the leadership of Mahamandaleshwar of Pataudi Ashram, Swami Dharmadev Maharaj and the working president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Alok Kumar, a *jalabhishek* was held in the temple. Later they reached Ferozpur Jhirka or Shringar

and after *jalabhishek* at the Radhakrishna Mandir there, they concluded the yatra. The newspaper said that there was a curfew-like atmosphere in Nuh and all schools, colleges, markets and offices remained closed. This time Muslims took utmost care and announced from mosques that no Muslim shall step out of their homes on the day. An interesting aspect of this is that the administrator of Haryana Waqf Board Chaudhary Zakir Husain also reached the temple and took part in the yatra.

Urdu Times (August 24) states that the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Nuh, said that the request for permission to take out Brajmandal Jalabhishek yatra has been rejected. Whereas a leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Devendra Singh, said that we do not need any permission to take out a religious yatra. It is to be noted that a mahapanchayat was organized in Palwal on August 13 in which it had been announced that Brajmandal yatra would be taken out on August 28. Following this, the Haryana chief minister had announced that the Haryana government would not grant permission to take out the yatra under any circumstance. However, later the government allowed to take out the yatra in a symbolic manner.

Urdu Times (August 29) had given the headline for the news on Brajmandal Jalabhishek yatra as 'Vishwa Hindu Parishad's jalabhishek yatra amid eerie silence in Nuh.' 'Permission given for yatra comprising only 11 people.' 'Outsiders banned from entering Nuh.' 'Tight vigil by police on masjids'



The newspaper said those Sadhu-Sants who had arrived from Ayodhya and other places of the country to take part in this yatra were not given permission by the police to enter Mewat. Following this, they staged a dharna on the border itself. The Haryana government had also sealed its border with Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 29) has given the headline 'VHP's yatra not taken out in Nuh' 'Over 200 people arrested.' 'Police take 51 people to mandir and offered *jalabhishek*.'

Urdu Times (August 29) has given the headline for this news as, 'Aggressive

stand by VHP leader Alok Kumar who reached Nuh, says ban on yatra not acceptable to us and it will definitely be taken out.'

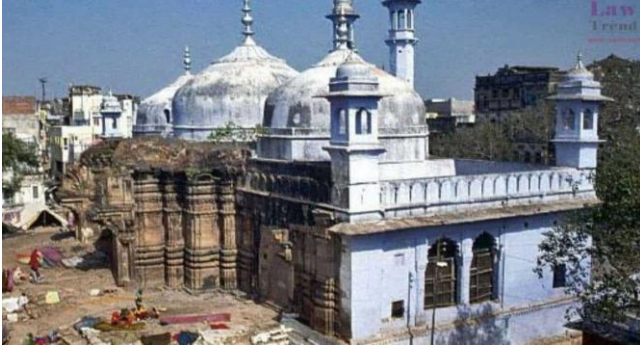
Urdu Times (August 24) in its editorial said the Haryana government has transferred the Deputy Commissioner of Rewari, Mohammad Imran Raza. His crime was that he had sought a reply from the 50 panchayats in Rewari for their decision to boycott Muslims. The newspaper said that thanks to the BJP government, communalism is on the rise in Haryana. It was for the first time in the history of Haryana that such a decision of the panchayats has come to the fore. This decision by them was illegal and against the Constitution. Imran Raza had just sought a reply from them. He has been punished for this step and he has been transferred from Rewari to Jind. This incident is enough to clear the misconception of Muslims, who live with the dream that if a Muslim becomes an IAS officer, then he will be treated as different from the Muslim community.

Efforts to settle Gyanvapi issue outside court fail

Roznama Sahara (August 18) reports that the efforts launched by Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh to settle the dispute over Gyanvapi premises outside the court have failed. According to sources, Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh has presented this solution that both the sides hold talks outside the court and resolve the dispute and the institution had sent invitations to both sides to hold discussions in this connection. In the letter sent to both sides, the institution said that everybody knows that both Hindu and Muslim sides are fighting a legal battle in the courts to validate their contentions on the Gyanvapi controversy. Some anti-social elements wanted to use this controversy for their political interests which is harmful to both the country and the society. In such a situation, the responsibility of people like us is to resolve this issue in a peaceful manner through

mutual talks in the interests of the society and the country. On behalf of Muslim side, general secretary of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee Maulana Abdul Batin Nomani has welcomed this proposal and said that we are ready to hold discussions on this issue.

On the other hand, on behalf of Hindu side, lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain said that it is not possible. We will not sit on the table in this connection and neither will grant an inch of land. Our case is very strong and we will definitely win in the court. Talking to journalists, he said that the Hindu side did not send any invitation to masjid committee for talks and neither could any talks be held in this connection. On behalf of Rakhi Singh and her lawyer Jitendra Singh Visen, a proposal was sent to the masjid committee to resolve this issue through talks outside the court.



Vishnu Jain said that as per the Act under which the case has been going on in the court, none of the sides could initiate a settlement outside the court. He said that at a time when the Archeology department is undertaking the survey, it is inappropriate to conduct any kind of talks outside the court and the Hindu side will never accept this.

Salar (August 18) states that the lawyer for the Hindu side, Vishnu Shankar Jain, said a survey is currently on. On the other hand, the question of holding discussions outside the court does not arise at all. We are not ready to compromise with even an inch of land of Gyanvapi premises. This is a land of Devas. Our demand is that the Muslim side withdraw their petition and vacate the Gyanvapi masjid and hand it over to us.

In any case, on what basis should we reach an agreement with Muslim side? The meaning of agreement is to give something and take something. We are fighting for the property of our devata. The land which was the property of our devata till 300 years ago had been forcefully converted into a masjid. Jain said that now both the sides are fighting their own case in the court and the court alone will take the decision. We are not ready to reach on any agreement outside the court under any circumstance. Our fight is not limited to Gyanvapi. Our fight is for all such religious structures which were once temples in the past and were destroyed for the construction of

masjids. Our fight is also against the Places of Worship Act, 1991. In such a situation, where is the question of reaching on any agreement?

Urdu Times (August 19) reports that at one level, the survey of Gyanvapi premises is on. On the other hand, some other petitions related to it are also pending in the court. One petition is seeking to limit the number of namazis on the premises of Gyanvapi. In an appeal by Rakhi Singh, it has been demanded in the district court that arrangements should be made to ensure the safety of Hindu symbols on the premises and ensure that the Intezamia Committee of the masjid and those who come to offer namaz do not damage them. Two lawyers arguing for the masjid committee, Mumtaz Ahmad and Rais Ahmad, said they have not yet been provided with a copy of the petition filed by the Hindu side. Only after receiving the copy they can study the same and file a reply. Another lawyer of the Hindu side, Vishnu Shanker Jain, has also sought a copy of the petition.

The newspaper said that on the directions of the Supreme Court, a scientific survey is on to find out when did the construction of Gyanvapi Masjid take place? Whether there was any other pre-existing building on the spot before its construction? Had it been there, then when did its construction take place? What kind of construction was on Gyanvapi premises? The district court of Varanasi has directed the ASI to submit its report in the court by next month. The Hindu side is trying to encircle the Muslim side. Till now, whatever arguments had been submitted in the court, they were all meant to establish the masjid as mandir. The complaint of the Muslim side is that due to political reasons the Hindu side wanted to raise this dispute to the same level of Babri Masjid.

Scam worth crores in scholarship of minorities

Roznama Sahara (August 20) reports that a huge scam was unearthed in the scholarship scheme for minorities recently. As per an investigation by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, nearly 53% beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme were found to be fake. As per a report of the ministry, a scam worth Rs 1 billion and 44 crore took place in the past five years. During the investigation, it has come to light that manipulations and corruption took place in 830 institutions which were part of the scheme. The benefits of this scheme were being obtained by 1.8 lakh minority institutions. In many states, the beneficiaries and even the institutions were found to be fake. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani handed over the responsibility of investigation to the CBI.

As per departmental information, a survey has been conducted into the beneficiaries of this scheme in 100 districts in the country. Among the 1,572 minority institutions in 21 states, 830 institutions were found to be fake who obtained Rs 144 crore in an illegal manner. The interesting thing is that nearly 53% students who were claimed to be receiving these scholarships under this scheme were found to be fake. Sources in the ministry said there was huge corruption in the scheme. Majority of those institutions which received money under this scheme either do not exist or have become inactive and their entire work has stopped. For example, an enquiry was conducted with 62 institutions in Chhattisgarh and all of them were found to be fake. In Rajasthan, 128 institutions were investigated, among which 99 were found to be fake. In Assam, 68% institutions were found to be fake while in Karnataka, the number of such institutions is 64%. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh nearly 44% and in West Bengal, 39% educational institutions were found to be fake.



It is to be noted that the minority scholarship scheme was launched in 2007-08 and nearly 1.8 lakh institutions were receiving money under this scholarship scheme. According to sources in CBI, an investigation will be conducted into the nodal officers of these institutions who had given permission to grant scholarships to these fake institutions. Fake candidates were receiving money for several years under this scheme in many states. The CBI has also been directed to investigate who had given permission to open fake accounts in banks on the basis of fake Aadhaar cards and KYC documents of candidates.

Till now, many sensational issues have come to the fore in the inquiry conducted by the minorities affairs ministry. For example, in Malappuram in Kerala, one branch of a bank had accepted 66,000 scholarships, which is almost two times the number of registered students under the scheme. In one college in Anantanag in Jammu and Kashmir, the total number of registered students is only 5,000, but it has obtained scholarships for 7,000 people. The mobile number of one parent has been linked to 42 students and all of them are Class IX students. In another minority institution, though there was no hostel, all the students were claimed to be given hostel scholarship. From one branch of a bank in Assam, 60,000 beneficiaries were given money under the

scholarship scheme. However, during the investigation, all these were found to be fake. In Punjab, the scholarships given to minority students were delivered without confirmation. The newspaper said that there is a possibility that this scam is worth thousands of crores. These scholarships were given to students from Class 1 to PhD.

Urdu Times (August 22) states that Samajwadi Party leader Abu Asim Azmi said the scam took place due to the negligence of the Modi government at the Centre and many officials of the ministry are involved in it. He said that if the CBI is asked to conduct an inquiry into the different schemes of minority affairs ministry, then scams worth billions of rupees will come to light. He expressed doubt that now, on the pretext of this scam, the genuine scholarships being given to the students of the minority community would also be withdrawn. He asked how come the government accept dozens of scholarships in one mobile number and on what basis was the verification done? Aren't government officials guilty for this?

Mumbai Urdu News (August 18) in its editorial said that ever since the Modi government came to power, the scams are abounding. The newspaper said the Modi government came to power on the pretext of Manmohan Singh government's scams. Recently, in the CAG report, Modi government's scams worth billions of rupees have come to light. However, due to the huge majority in Parliament, the government has been maintaining silence on the issue of conducting an inquiry into these scams. Now since the Opposition is divided, it is unable to corner the government. A look into the scams of the Modi government that have come to light will pale the scams under Congress regime.

The newspaper said that the intriguing thing is that when the Opposition MPs raised the issue of the scams in the House, their microphones were either switched off or their allegations were removed from the records of the House. In the beginning of this year, the scam of

Adani had come to the fore. There is an amazing relationship between Modi government and Gautam Adani. The surprising thing is that there was no discussion about this scam in the media. The scams include Ayushman scam, scam over construction of roads etc. If these scams are put together, then it comes to scams worth lakhs of crores. Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have exposed these scams through their own press conferences. However, media maintains a silence on them. The tongues of those who raise their voices against the scams of the government are tied by the raids of CBI and Income Tax department. Now this voice cannot be suppressed. The truth is that Prime Minister Modi and his party BJP are not interested in stopping corruption. All those so-called scams which were made into an issue in order to come to power did not pass the legal scrutiny in courts. Secondly, other than being a political weapon, the issue of corruption is not an issue for the BJP. The sins of all those corrupt people who took refuge in BJP have been pardoned. The action being taken against Opposition leaders over corruption charges, or the plans there of, were aimed at just silencing them.

Avadhnama (August 21) has published a detailed article on the CAG report. The CAG report has exposed the scam in the cost of construction of roads. In the same way, on the issue of toll plaza also embezzlement worth billions of rupees have come to the fore. There is a similar scam in the Ayushman Bharat scheme as well where 7.5 lakh beneficiaries were registered on a single mobile number and the surprising thing is that this number itself was wrong.

Jadid Markaz (August 20) said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had claimed on August 10 that his government was a scam-free government. On the other hand, Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, quoting the latest report of CAG, said that in the history of the country, Modi government is the biggest dishonest and scam-ridden government. As per the CAG

report which has been placed in the Parliament, scams worth billions of rupees took place in Ayushman Bharat scheme and in the projects for construction of highways. This apart, a huge scam was also unearthed in the pension scheme meant for elderly persons. Prime Minister Modi had been proclaiming about free treatment for the needy through the Ayushman Bharat card. However, as per the report of the CAG, the entire scheme has come under the cloud of a scam. This is because, as per rule, only one card can be issued in one mobile number. But the CAG report states that 10 lakh cards were issued in just three mobile numbers. Though this report was presented in the House on August 8, no

discussion took place on it in either houses until the Parliament session was adjourned.

The newspaper has written that it was quoting the CAG report that the Manmohan Singh government was accused of not auctioning the 2G spectrum and coal blocks and thereby causing losses to the tune of Rs 3,000 crore to the government. Then the BJP and Anna Hazare had lifted the sky above their head in the guise of a scam. Anna Hazare was brought to Delhi and put on hunger strike and the entire media in the country was after the life of Congress. Now, in a similar CAG report, nobody is willing to open their mouth and the news channels have become the slaves of the government.

Strategy of Muslims for 2024 Lok Sabha elections



Urdu Times (August 18) in its editorial said that keeping the 2024 general elections in mind, Muslims need to adopt a clear strategy so that no party should be able to form a government at the Centre without their consent. For this, it is necessary that the Muslims should get united. Till now, the Muslims have failed to prepare a clear election strategy and adopt the same. This is the reason why they embrace different parties. Due to this, their votes get divided and its entire benefit goes to the BJP. In the

Assembly elections held in Karnataka recently, the main reason for BJP's defeat was the clear policy of Muslims that they had to defeat the BJP under any circumstance. This is the reason why the Congress came to power on the strength of Muslim vote. However, the Congress has failed to break into the traditional vote bank of BJP. In Karnataka, the BJP got the same percentage of votes that they got in 2017. However, the Muslims got united and voted in favour of Congress and that is

the reason why the BJP got defeated in the Karnataka elections.

Till now, the Muslims have not been able to make a similar clear election policy for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Only the future can tell how much effective the INDIA alliance will be. However, until the Modi bhakts are weakened and are not separated from the BJP, it will be difficult to defeat BJP. The vote bank of BJP is very strong. It was on seeing this that Prime Minister Modi has been announcing from the Red Fort that next year also he will be unfurling the national flag from the Red Fort. It is not the Prime Minister's bragging, it is his election strategy. Even if they are in the form of EVMs. Hence it is more important to adopt a similar strategy, instead of screaming and creating a ruckus, resulting the Modi bhakts getting separated from the BJP and the BJP gets scared of doing anything against the Muslims. Here another strategy can also be adopted where Muslims join BJP in large numbers. When the number of dhadi-topi wallahs and the burqa-clad women increase in the party, the ears of staunch Hindutvawadis will perk up and they will start saying that now the BJP has also become like Congress and they will get angry and walk away from the BJP. This was the strategy of Jews and they worked on it for 50 years. Then they started dominating the entire world. Muslims should also adopt this kind of secret plan. Without this, it would not be possible to defeat BJP in the elections.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 21) in its editorial said that the coming together of Opposition alliance under the banner of INDIA has given sleepless nights to the ruling alliance at the Centre. Hence the BJP has decided to run a counter campaign. Now news has come from Uttar Pradesh that the preparations to siege the BJP has been complete and the format for Opposition unity has been prepared. Uttar Pradesh has an important place in the politics of the country. In 2004, the Atal Behari Vajpayee had to face defeat because the BJP did not get the expected results in Uttar Pradesh. In 2014, Modi got a huge

mandate because the BJP managed to put an excellent show in Uttar Pradesh. It is assumed from the picture that has emerged in Uttar Pradesh on the basis of castes and creed that if there is coordination among Opposition parties, then the BJP would be in trouble.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Muslim vote is nearly 19%. Earlier, Congress, Samajwadi Party and BSP used to get these votes. The party that got the Muslim vote used to win. This year, in the Karnataka Assembly elections, Muslims got united and voted for Congress. However, the same would not be possible for the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh. Here the Muslim vote can get united only when there is better coordination among Opposition parties and Mayawati also joins the alliance. If there is coordination among important Opposition parties namely Congress, BSP, Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal, then the Muslim votes will stop getting divided. However, for this it is necessary that Mayawati becomes active in the politics of the region. Mayawati has a huge portion of Dalit votes. If Mayawati doesn't become active in elections, then this Dalit vote will go to the BJP. Hence it is necessary to bring Mayawati to the Centre of the Opposition.

Hindustan Express (August 23) in its editorial said that only time can tell about the future of INDIA alliance which wanted to unite the Opposition parties and give a tough fight to the BJP in the forthcoming elections. However, the way the news has come about the differences between the two parties which are part of the alliance namely Congress and Aam Aadmi Party, it cannot be said to be good news for Opposition unity. There are no two opinions on the fact that it is not an easy job to unite the Opposition parties against the NDA or the BJP and its allies. When an effort is made to bring the small and big parties of Opposition on one platform, it is necessary that each party respects the sentiments of others. Being the biggest political party, it is necessary that the Congress plays the role of big brother and respects the sentiments of smaller

parties. If the Congress doesn't do so, then this dream of INDIA coming to power will be destroyed. Hence the Opposition parties should act wisely and make efforts to resolve the internal differences between them.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 24) in its editorial said that the biggest crime of Muslims in Hindustan is their affinity to Congress party. Hence every other political party ignores them. The latest example is the anti-BJP alliance of INDIA alliance. Till now, 26 political parties have joined this group. However, no other Muslim party other than Indian Union Muslim League has been included in this alliance and perhaps there is no thought of including any Muslim party in this alliance. This is because Asaduddin Owaisi's party All India-Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and Maulana Badruddin Ajmal's party All India United Democratic Front had been denied inclusion in this alliance in the beginning itself. It has been alleged that these two parties are with the BJP internally. Nitish Kumar has expressed the hope that many other parties would join the alliance. However, there is no sight of any Muslim party among them. For example, the two political parties in Uttar Pradesh, Ulema Council and the Peace Party of India or even Welfare Party had been taken into account, they could have thought of including them in the INDIA alliance.

The newspaper said that till now Muslims have been voting for Congress with an open heart and wherever they find the Congress weak, then their votes are distributed among Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Janata Dal (United). It has got stamped among Muslims that they give their votes to these parties so that BJP could be defeated. The result from this is that those parties which consider themselves as secular think that if Muslims go, till where they go? They will vote for us under any



circumstance to defeat the BJP. This thinking has ended the importance of the vote bank of Muslims. Due to this thinking, Muslim politics and Muslim leadership is vanishing from the country. Secondly, the strategy of the BJP is to unite Hindu votes without thinking about Muslim votes.

New strategy of BJP

Taasir (August 20) in its editorial, while discussing about the new election strategy of BJP, said that the Prime Minister has given the mantra for winning the elections to the BJP cadre. He said that the party worker should reach out till the last man in the society. Instead of sitting in the rooms and working, they should sweat out in the open. Then only the graph of the BJP will go up. This message of the Prime Minister has come to the workers of the BJP at a time the Assembly elections are fast approaching in five states in the country and the Lok Sabha elections are also scheduled to take place in another seven months. It is true that the BJP has tasted success in the general elections again and again with Modi's face. They had never made any effort to focus on local issues or to find solutions to them. The recently held elections in Karnataka showed the Congress raising local issues and stopping the victory streak of BJP.

The Prime Minister has also told party workers that the party is not just paying lip service to win the elections, instead working to make Bharat a developed nation by 2047. For this, it is

necessary to make a list of traditional artisans in villages and open a path to extend help to them. In order to resolve the local issues of people, credible steps need to be taken. The Prime Minister said that in order to achieve the cooperation of people, we need to look out for four or five opportunities every year in which people of the entire district take part under the leadership of government and the panchayats. Van Mahotsav is an example

of this. The function shall not be limited to the government-level, instead there should be cooperation of people. To the observers who keep an eye on the BJP, let this be clear that the party has not started focusing on local issues all of a sudden, instead an indication has been getting for some time now that this time it would not be possible to win the elections only on Modi's face. Hence the BJP has decided to form an electoral strategy based on local issues.

Lower court verdict in Maliana massacre case questioned in high court



Urdu Times (August 22) states that the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to question the verdict of Meerut Additional District Judge Lakhwinder Singh Sood in the Maliana massacre case before the Allahabad High Court. It is to be noted that this court in Meerut on March 31, 2023 had released the 39 accused in the 1987 Maliana massacre case. These people were accused of killing 72 Muslims with the help of security personnel. According to Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Sachin Mohan, the district magistrate did not agree with the judgment of the lower court and he urged the Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh to question the judgment in the high court. The Allahabad High Court will hear the next hearing in this case next month. Veteran journalist Qurban Ali and former DGP Vibhuti Narayan Rai have welcomed this decision of the state government. Qurban Ali said that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure punishment to

the accused. Hence I welcome this decision of the state government. He said that 10 witnesses had testified in the court. However, despite that, the government side has failed to prove charges against the accused in the court.

The state government had filed a criminal appeal against this judgment on June 27. On this, a hearing took place on July 11. Justice Surya Prakash Kesarwani and Justice Nand Prabha Shukla had directed issuing of notice to the state government and 39 accused. This appeal was filed by Mohammad Yakub, Wakil Ahmad and Ismail Khan. Among them, the FIR was filed by Yakub. Whereas Wakhil Ahmad was injured in the shooting. On the other hand, 11 people of Ismail Khan's family were killed in this massacre. Important witness Yakub said he was surprised over the March 31 verdict of the sessions court. Hence we filed an appeal in the high court under Section 372 of CrPC Act.

Attack on churches and Christian colonies in Pakistan



Inquilab (August 18) states that a huge mob of Muslims set fire to more than a dozen churches and dozens of buildings in four Christian colonies after two Christians allegedly insulted the Prophet and the Quran in Jaranwala city in Pakistan's Punjab province. Deputy Commissioner of Jaranwala, Ali Annan Qamar, said cases have been registered against more than 400 people in connection with this attack and 128 people have been arrested so far. Section 144 has been imposed in the entire district. In view of the tense situation, paramilitary forces have been deployed in Faisalabad district. The Deputy Commissioner said that after two Christians were accused of insulting the Prophet, a huge mob set fire to more than a dozen churches and nearly 100 buildings.

The Punjab government has announced a high-level inquiry into the Jaranwala incident. A government statement said these Christians had hurt the sentiments of Muslims by insulting Quran. The incident took place as a reaction to it. The government has issued a red alert in entire Punjab. The director general of police in Punjab said a high-level inquiry is

being held in to the entire incident. Forty-two members of peace committee have been arrested. In this connection, more than 200 cases have been registered under different sections. The police are arresting the rioters after identifying them. Inspector General of Punjab Police Usman Anwar visited the spot and directed that a high-level inquiry be conducted into the entire incident through intelligence agencies.

Pakistan's National Human Rights Commission has admitted that a huge mob set fire to many churches and dozens of buildings after looting them. The commission said that it was a shameful incident. Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakkar said the government will take stringent action against those who took law into their hands and targeted the minorities.

Urdu Times (August 17) reports that a priest in Jaranwala, Imran Bhatti, told journalists that the mob set fire to Salvation Army church, United Presbyterian church, Elite Foundation church and Shahroonwala church located in Essa Nagari after damaging them. They also destroyed the house of a man, who

was accused of insulting Quran, after looting it. Police chief Usman Anwar said that talks between the two sides are still on. The Pakistani Rangers has taken control of the entire area and the police have been put on alert in the entire city. He said that the Christians have accused a police officer of bias and he has been suspended.



According to Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn', Christian leaders have alleged that when the huge mob was targeting the churches and Christian colonies, the police remained mute spectators. They did not make any effort to stop the rioters. The head of Church of Pakistan, Bishop Azad Marshall, said that Christians have been falsely accused of insulting the Quran and they have been harassed on the pretext of this false allegation. The Bible has been taken out from at least four churches and desecrated. He said that it has been proved from these incidents that minorities, especially Christians, are not safe in Pakistan.

Aurangabad Times (August 17) states that violence broke out in Jaranwala when some people alleged that two Christians had burnt Quran. Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister said that no accused person will be spared. Pakistan government is extremely sensitive regarding the protection of the minorities.

Hindustan Express (August 19) in its editorial has condemned the burning of churches and Christian colonies in Pakistan. The newspaper said that on seeing the video of the violence that broke out after the Holy Quran was burnt by two persons, it is assumed that thousands of Muslims came out on the streets and they targeted the places of worship of Christians

and their houses. Due to this incident, Pakistan got a bad name in the entire world and the bitterness that has arisen in the relationship between Muslims and Christians is unfortunate.

The newspaper said that in Pakistan, incidents of torture of minorities take place quite often on the pretext of insulting the Prophet and Quran. Islam is a religion of peace and these kind of incidents committed by its followers do not suit the religion. The newspaper complained that the stand of Pakistan government is always biased. It does not take any strong action against those who target the minorities in the country. However, Pakistani leaders definitely give long speeches through newspapers on the need to protect minorities. However, the truth is that in Pakistan there is no dearth of such fundamentalist elements who try to make minorities a second class citizens. Even here, the saffron brigade is taking out the funeral procession of secularism and are trying to change the country into a Hindu Rashtra. The total population of Christians in Pakistan is 26 lakhs. However, Christian leaders allege that their number is deliberately understated. There are several sections in Pakistani constitution for the protection of minorities. However, these are mostly on paper, like in Bharat.

Ban on political parties in Afghanistan



Roznama Sahara (August 18) states that Afghanistan's Minister for Justice Shaikh Abdul Hakim Sharei has announced that no political party will be allowed to function in Afghanistan and a legal ban has been imposed on all political parties. He said that in Islamic Shariah, there is no scope for political activities and political parties. Maulavi Sharei said that Taliban will keep control of the government and no political party will be allowed to take part in any political activity in the country. If political leaders make any effort to form political parties by violating Shariah, then stringent action will be taken against them under Shariah law. He said that a propaganda has been unleashed by foreigners to give a bad name to the Taliban government. However, we are not worried about it, because the basis of our rule is Islamic Shariah.

Spokesperson of Taliban government Zabiullah Mujahid has made it clear that the Afghan government has no intention to open educational institutions for girls and women. We will not succumb to foreign pressure. In Islamic Shariah, women have been directed to remain in purdah and we will never allow its violation. He said that the ban on entry of women in parks will remain and permission will not be given for them to take up employment or receive education from educational institutions. We are not worried about what the world says about us. We

will continue to rule as per the directions of Islam and Shariah.

Roznama Sahara (August 25) states that the Afghan government has stopped students from leaving for Dubai and take admissions in educational institutions there. It is to be noted that the chairperson of a business group in United Arab Emirates, Khalaf Ahmad Al-Habtoor,

has offered to make arrangements for free education and accommodation for 100 Afghan girls in United Arab Emirates. In order to bring these girls to United Arab Emirates, a special plane was also sent to Kabul. However, the Afghan government did not grant permission for these girls to leave for UAE to receive education and they were forcefully deplaned from the aircraft. However, they were accompanied by the male members of their family. The Afghan government refused to make any kind of comment on this incident and said that we will not tolerate any kind of interference in our internal affairs.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 16) reports that a special ceremony was organised on the occasion of completion of two years of Taliban government in Afghanistan. The flag of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was hoisted on government buildings across the country and on the streets. A government statement said that till today no invader has managed to keep Afghanistan as their colony. No invader will be allowed to put the country's independence and sovereignty in trouble. Armed Taliban men held rallies in many places in Kabul. On this occasion, they were playing the national song of Afghanistan and youths were seen selling the white flag of Taliban with *kalima* written on it.

Hindustan Express (August 17) states that despite the passing of two years, the Taliban government remains isolated from the world. Till now, no country in the world has granted it recognition. Two years ago, when Taliban captured power in Kabul after the expulsion of US military from Afghanistan, it looked like the new government would be recognised by the United Nations and other countries. However, till now no country in the world has granted recognition to the Taliban government. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the promises that Taliban had given to the world were not fulfilled. Despite warning by United Nations, all kinds of restrictions have been imposed on women in Afghanistan and these restrictions have not been removed till now. However, some countries have opened their embassies in Kabul and they include India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkiye etc. Son of Ahmad Shah Masood, Ahmad Masood, had taken up arms against Taliban in Panjshir region in Afghanistan. However, Taliban has crushed him. ISIS and Al-Qaida have wreaked havoc in Afghanistan. Recently, the activities of Tehreek-e-Taliban belonging to Pakistan has also gone up in

Afghanistan. The Pakistan government's allegation is that the Taliban government has given a free hand to Islamic terrorists to organise anti-Pakistan activities and the soil of Afghanistan is used for attacks on Pakistan.

Etemaad (August 18) in its editorial said that when Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, different countries in the world expressed the hope that the attitude of Taliban would be soft this time and they would not adopt a fundamentalist regime like in the past. But now it has become clear that the Taliban is adamant on its stand and they wanted to run the administration as per Shariah.

Etemaad (August 25) reports that Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai said the US has been putting hurdles regularly on the path of different countries in the world over granting recognition to Afghanistan. He said there were no benefits from the efforts made to hold talks with the United States. He admitted that the anti-government armed gangs are offering resistance to the government in Panjshir and Andrab regions. He expressed hope that the Afghanistan military will soon be able to defeat these rebels.

Quran desecrated in Sweden and Netherlands

Inquilab (August 17) states that despite huge presence of police in front of the Royal Palace in Swedish capital Stockholm, many copies of Quran were burned. Qatar's television channel Al Jazeera said those who burned the Quran include 37-year-old Salwan Momin and 48-year-old Salwan Najem. Both of them are of Iraqi origin. Earlier on July 31 also Quran was trampled under the feet outside the Swedish Parliament. However, some people had even held a counter protest as well and they were raising slogans seeking to curb hatred. Al Jazeera said when some people tried to attack those who were burning Quran, the police arrested them. Pakistan's former prime minister Shehbaz

Sharif said that anti-Islam elements are behind these incidents who wanted to hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. The United Nations General Assembly had also condemned such incidents. However, despite it, incidents of insulting the Quran and Islam continue to take place. The intriguing thing is that in the name of freedom of speech, courts are also giving permission to insult Quran and Islam.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 20) states that a Dutch man held a protest outside Turkiye embassy in Hague in Netherlands and trampled upon Quran. There were some people also with him. Some people held counter protest against him and pelted stones at him. Netherlands



justice minister of Turkish origin described the insult to Quran as quite unfortunate and said the law in the country is such that we are unable to stop such incidents.

Urdu Times (August 26) states that Denmark has decided to make a law in which burning of Quran in public will be declared as an illegal offence. The Justice Minister of Denmark said that under this law, a provision has been made to award a two-year jail term apart from imposing a fine on anyone found burning or insulting any religious book or symbols. Arab League has welcomed this decision of the Denmark government and said incidents of insulting Quran and Islam could be curbed due to the formation of this law. He urged other nations in Europe also that they make stringent laws to stop incidents of burning Quran.

Journalists sentenced for plotting to kill Sheikh Hasina's son



Roznama Sahara (August 19) states that a court in Dhaka has awarded a seven-year jail term each to two senior editors of a newspaper on charges of plotting the murder of the son of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. According to government lawyer, two journalists of Bangladesh -- 88-year-old Shafik Rehman and 70-year-old Mahmudur Rahman -- had conspired to kidnap and murder the son of Sheikh Hasina, Sajeeb Wazed, nearly a decade ago. The journalists who were

awarded the punishment belong to a Bengali newspaper. Apart from the two journalists, three other persons were also awarded a five-year jail term each.

It is to be noted that these two journalists were arrested in 2013. They fell ill in the jail. Later, on the orders of the court, they were sent abroad for treatment. However, they did not return to the country. Both the journalists were awarded punishment in their absence.

Shafik Rehman was also an advisor for the Opposition party and he has been considered as the biggest critic of Hasina government. According to the government lawyer, a gang of these five persons had conspired to kidnap and murder Sheikh Hasina's eldest son Sajeeb Wazed in the US nearly a decade ago. Later, the Bangladesh government registered a case against these gang of five persons including the two journalists in the court.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan a threat to neighbouring countries



Avadhnama (August 28) states that as per a report of United Nations Security Council, banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Al Qaida and ISIS in Pakistan are getting weapons from foreign sources. As per a report in Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn,' there is a possibility of these organisations spilling blood in many neighbouring countries. As per this report, recently Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Al Qaida and the Khorasen chapter of ISIS have carried out attacks in many places in Pakistan. In July, they carried out an attack on the meeting of Pakistani party Jamiat Ulema Islam in which 40 people were killed and more than 100 people were injured. The spokesperson of Taliban government in Afghanistan said these claims were baseless. Zabiullah Mujahid said that after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, the activities of ISIS have come down in Afghanistan. He said that foreigners are levelling these kind of allegations in order to bring a bad name to Afghan government.

It has also been claimed in this report of United Nations that after the expulsion of US soldiers from Afghanistan, the arms and ammunition which were left behind in Afghanistan, have been supplied to terrorist groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and those linked to Al-Qaida. Recently, these American-made weapons were provided to the fighters of Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement. There is a huge increase in the violent activities of

ISIS and Al Qaida after terrorists caught hold of these American-made weapons and ammunition. As per a report of United Nations Anti-Terrorism Committee, there are more than 20 Islamic terrorist groups active in Afghanistan, who have the weapons left behind by the US.

Roznama Sahara (August 22) states that a US court has awarded a jail term of 18 years to a Pakistani origin doctor on charges of being a member of terrorist organisation ISIS and for conspiring to carry out attacks in the US. It is being said that 31-year-old Pakistani doctor Mohammad Masood tried to enter Syria on his way to Jordan from the United States in March 2020. The secret agents of US intelligence agency FBI caught Dr Masood in March 19, 2020 when he was trying to board the plane. Dr Masood has been staying in the US on a work visa. In January 2020, he contacted a few FBI officials mistaking them to be commanders of ISIS and he took an oath owing allegiance to ISIS. Dr Masood wanted to go to Syria to extend medical aid to the cadre of ISIS. He was also accused of recruiting nearly three dozen people for ISIS from Minnesota state in the US and they were sent to Africa to fight on behalf of African Islamic terrorist organisation Al-Shabab. Those people whom this doctor sent to Africa for fighting were of Somalian origin. The doctor has accepted his crime. Following this, he was awarded a jail term of 18 years.

War likely between Israel and Hezbollah



Avadhnama (August 24) states that a war could break out any time between Israel and Iran-supported Islamic terrorist organisation Hezbollah. The newspaper claimed that the Israeli military is trapped in the political tug-of-war and internal conflicts taking place in the country. On the other hand, Hezbollah is constantly increasing its strength with the help of Iran. Secretary General of Hezbollah (Lebanon) Syed Hassan Nasrallah has claimed that earlier the general thinking was that it was not possible to defeat Israeli military in a war. But now this claim has bitten the dust. Israel is walking on the path of destruction. Recently, the military has strongly reacted to Israeli Prime Minister's decision to curtail the powers of judiciary and the thousands of soldiers of reserve force, who are the backbone of Israeli Army, have indicated in writing to the Israeli government that they will not take part in war on behalf of Israel. Following this announcement by them, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to arrest them under martial law and register cases against them.

Etemaad (August 30) reports that the secretary general of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, said that if Israel makes any effort to kill any Lebanese or Palestinian

leader on the soil of Lebanon, then it will not be tolerated under any circumstance and it will be given a befitting reply. He said that Israel had secretly killed many Arab and Palestinian leaders. Now that time has passed. Recently, the increased activities of Hezbollah in West Bank has made Israel worried. Israel has forgotten that the Palestinian people have been fighting for the past 75 years for their rights.

It is to be noted that two days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to kill the deputy chairman of Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas, *Saleh al-Arouri*. Mentioning about this threat, Hamas said that we are not the kind to get scared of such threats and we will keep our fight till the last breath to liberate the people of Palestine from Israel. The chief of Hamas said that if we start our retaliatory action, Israel's existence would be in danger.

Netanyahu has alleged that Hamas leader Al-Arouri's hands were behind the huge increase in the attacks on Israel in West Bank in the past few weeks. He said that we know it very well that where Al Arouri is hiding. During the meeting of the Israeli Parliament, Netanyahu announced that those who try to inflict damages on

Israel or extend financial help for terrorist activities against Israel will have to face its serious consequences. We know Hamas and Iran's agents very well and we will die only after destroying them.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 24) reports that a huge blast took place inside a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon in which at least two dozen people were killed and 40 others were injured. It is being said that Israel's hands were behind this blast.

Urdu Times (August 16) states that the secretary general of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, has warned Israel that if it takes any action against Hezbollah or Hamas, then it will be wiped out. Israel is hiding behind the walls in Lebanon and Gaza. In West Bank, it is building a wall near Jordan so that it could resort to action



against Jordan. He said they have all the information regarding Israel's airport, military outposts, oil refinery and we will take them out using missiles any point of time. We will die only after destroying Israel. We know very well how to kill and die.

New beginning in Iran-Saudi Arabia relationship

Hindustan Express (August 20) reports that Iran's foreign affairs minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, during a visit to Saudi Arabia, held a meeting with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. Following this meeting, the Iran's foreign minister said the discussions that he held with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia would be of huge benefits to the Muslim world and would provide good results. He also carried a special message from Iran President Ebrahim Raisi to the King of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdul Aziz. Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs minister Faisal bin Farhan told media persons after a meeting with Iran's foreign minister that there would be a new beginning in Islamic world after this meeting.

Inqilab (August 22) states that China's foreign affairs minister Wang Yi said the bond of friendship established between Saudi Arabia and Iran on the initiative of China will give a new direction to world politics. There will be a new wave of friendship in the Middle-East due to this step. He said that China will extend all

possible help to the Arab countries in the Middle-East for economic development.

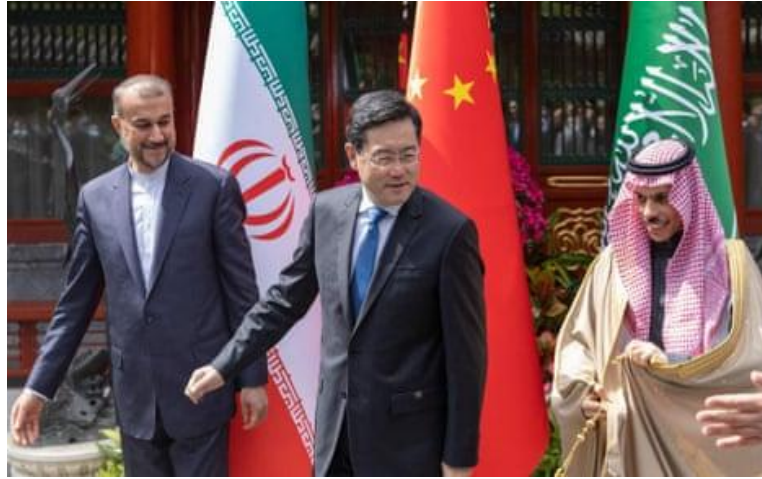
As per another news, spokesperson of Egypt's foreign affairs ministry, Ahmed Abu Zeid said that efforts are being made to improve the relationship between Iran and Egypt. Iran is a big nation in this region. Egypt wants a friendly relation with Iran and there should be improvement in the trade and tourism between the two countries.

Etemaad (August 20) states that Iran's foreign minister said that China has played a special role in re-establishing friendly relations between two brothers and we were grateful to them for this. We want to resolve the problems of this region with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia. We also want to reactivate the agreement reached between the two countries in the field of security in 2001.

Urdu Times (August 24) states that the Saudi Arabian cabinet, while appreciating the efforts of China for the re-establishment of its diplomatic relationship with Iran, said that due to these efforts, a

new era has started in the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

It is to be noted that the diplomatic relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran broke off in 2016. This is because Saudi Arabia hanged to death a few Shia scholars. In retaliation to this, a huge mob in Iran attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy in Tehran and set fire to it.



Following this incident, there was lot of bitterness in the relationship between the two countries. In March this year, China had called the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran to Beijing and made them sign an agreement.

In June this year, Iran opened its embassy in Saudi Arabia and in the same month Saudi Arabia also opened its embassy in Iran. Before this, Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs minister Faisal bin Farhan visited Iran and signed an agreement in which both the countries agreed to revive diplomatic relationship after forgetting decades-long enmity.

Etemaad (August 19) in its editorial, while mentioning about Iranian foreign minister's Saudi visit, said that the efforts made by the US to strengthen Israel's relationship with Arab countries were spoiled by China. In March, the game played by Chinese President Xi Jinping to bring the two countries together proved to be a success. Due to this, the importance of China has gone up in Middle East and among Arab countries while all the strategies of the US turned into dust.

The newspaper said that in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Iran used to be sworn enemies in the past one decade. However, recently Iran took efforts to

improve its relationship with Arab nations. Saudi Arabia has also improved its relations with Syria apart from Iran and stepped up efforts to bring peace by stopping the civil war in Yemen. Iran has been facing the economic sanctions imposed by the United States since 2018. This economic sanctions were imposed by the former President of United States, Donald Trump. The most troubled and surprised nation over the friendship between Saudi Arabia and Iran is Israel. For the past many years, Israel has established diplomatic relationship with seven Arab nations with the help of United States. After establishing diplomatic relationship with Bahrain, Yemen, UAE and Qatar, it felt like that Israel has isolated Iran and has succeeded in getting the support of all Arab nations. However, this dream of Jews has not been fulfilled. The US has been exerting pressure on Saudi Arabia for a long time to give recognition to Israel which has failed to succeed due to the intervention of China. Saudi is now maintaining the policy of as less dependency as possible on US and in the current circumstance, there is no sight of the country establishing diplomatic relationship with Israel or reaching on any agreement with it.

Libyan foreign minister suspended for meeting Israel's foreign minister



Hindustan Express (August 29) reports that Libyan foreign minister Najla El Mangoush's meeting with Israel's foreign minister Eli Cohen in Rome last fortnight proved costly for the former. Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh suspended the foreign minister and ordered an investigation against her. This decision was taken by the presidential council of Libya. The Prime Minister said that the foreign minister has been temporarily suspended. In order to conduct an investigation against her, a commission has been formed under the chairmanship of justice minister.

It is to be noted that as soon as the news of Libyan foreign minister's meeting with Israel's foreign minister appeared in media, people took to the streets in Tripoli and its surrounding areas and they started a protest against the Libyan government. Slowly this huge protest spread to other cities. Huge mobs blocked roads and waved Palestinian flags in every place. This apart, the protesters stormed the foreign ministry located in Tripoli.

Libya's suspended foreign affairs minister Najla El Mangoush refuted meeting Israel's foreign affairs minister and claimed that a meeting was organised by Italy's foreign ministry in which she came face-to-face with Israel's foreign minister. Libya has alleged that Israel is presenting this incident from their own perspective. It wanted to take political

benefits out of this meeting. In this meeting, no talks, agreement or discussions took place. Libya is against establishing any kind of relationship with Israel. On the other hand, Israel's foreign minister claimed that during this meeting, a discussion was held between the two sides on the issue of protecting the properties of Jews in Libya and it has been decided that maintenance work on the places

of worship and the Kabristans of Jews in Libya shall be done and they shall be beautified. This apart, talks were also held on improving the relations between the two countries and broaden the cooperation.

Israeli foreign ministry said that the arrangements for this meeting were made by Italy's foreign minister where discussions were held on Israeli aid in agriculture and water resources sector. The Italian government has not made any comments till now regarding the meeting between the two leaders. But as soon as the statement of Israel's foreign ministry was aired on the media, the presidential council of Libya sought a clarification from the government. The council comprises of three members who represent the three provinces of Libya. Libya's foreign ministry said that this meeting of Libya's foreign minister is not a part of our foreign policy and we consider it as against the law and principles of Libya. In our eyes, it is a crime to establish relationship with any Jewish institution and in case such a meeting took place, then the foreign minister has to bear the consequences.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 30) has claimed that due to Israel foreign minister's talks with Libyan foreign minister before the scheduled time, the Opposition leaders in Israel started targeting Israel's foreign minister and said



that due to this action of Eli Cohen, there was a huge setback to Israel's diplomacy. The countries which trust Israel received a serious setback due to it. These opposition leaders described Eli Cohen as immature and said that Netanyahu government is fully responsible for this. Since the Israeli government has failed in its domestic and foreign policies, these types of news are being published in order to distract the attention of people.

Israel's foreign ministry has accepted that the US administration has expressed anger over the meeting and due to this action of the foreign minister, the efforts being made to deal with Libya for the past two years under the Abraham Accord have received a serious setback.

The foreign minister should have acted wisely on this secret meeting. Instead, he started the talks in a public manner. Due to this, the efforts made by the US got spoiled.

Urdu Times (August 29) states that the foreign minister of Libya has disappeared all of a sudden. It is being said that she left for Turkiye from Libya and is on exile there. The Libyan people have stepped up their protests

against the government and are demanding the resignation of the Prime Minister. The foreign ministry of Libya said that this meeting was casual and it is against establishing any kind of relationship with Israel. In this connection, the Supreme Council of Libya has sought a reply from the former foreign minister. Israel government said that like the other nations in North Africa, valuable properties of Jews are located in Libya as well. During the regime of Colonel Ghaddafi, thousands of Jews were forced to pack their bags and leave for Israel and their places of worship were destroyed. In 2011, ever since the collapse of the Ghaddafi government, Libya has become a victim of civil war.

Saudi security personnel kill hundreds of Ethiopian refugees

Avadhnama (August 23) reports that International human rights organisation Human Rights Watch has claimed that Saudi border forces had been opening indiscriminate firing on Ethiopian citizens trying to enter Saudi Arabia from Ethiopia in which hundreds of people were killed in past one year. As per a report in *Dawn*, the officials of Saudi Arabia have described this allegation as baseless. However, they admitted that misbehaviour took place with lakhs of Ethiopian citizens working on the dangerous routes from Africa to Saudi Arabia. A 20-year-old woman, a resident of



Oromia region in Ethiopia, said that when she tried to enter Saudi Arabia with hundreds of people, they were fired upon. I

saw a person calling for help, who had gunshot injuries on both legs. He was shouting and asking whether he would be abandoned there? However, we could not extend any help to the injured as we were fleeing to save our lives. An official of Saudi Arabia said there was no solid basis for this allegation. Secondly, this organisation has published a detailed report on hundreds of Ethiopian refugees who fell victim to the indiscriminate firing by the Saudi border security force.

As per a news published in **Roznama Sahara** (August 23), a 73-page report of Human Rights Watch was released in New York. In this report, it has been claimed that in order to stop those who are fleeing and trying to take refuge in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi security forces are opening fire on the border itself. It has been said in this report that for the past few years, since there has been no rain in Ethiopia, there is a huge famine. Hence people are fleeing from their homes in order to save their lives. This apart, due to the civil war that has started in northern Ethiopia recently, people had to flee from there as well.

According to Associated Press, the international organisation of refugees said that Ethiopia's seven-and-a-half lakh people stay in Saudi Arabia as of 2022, out

of which nearly 4.5 lakh people had entered Saudi Arabia in an illegal manner without any legal documents. These refugees have been entering Yemen through the Gulf of Aden for the past several decades. Later they try to enter Saudi Arabia from Yemen. Human Rights Watch say that their recent report is based on the interview of 42 people. These people had tried to illegally cross the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia from March to June months last year. Along with this report, there are 350 videos and photos. A refugee has said that when he tried to enter the Saudi border along with a crowd of 170 people, they were fired upon, due to which 90 people were killed on the spot.

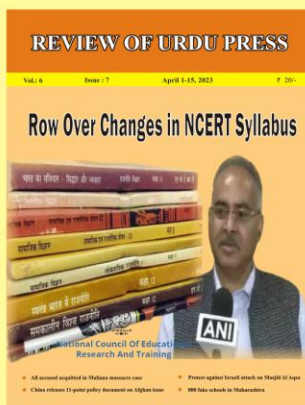
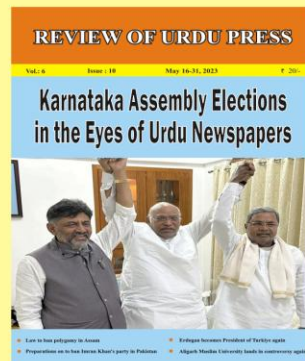
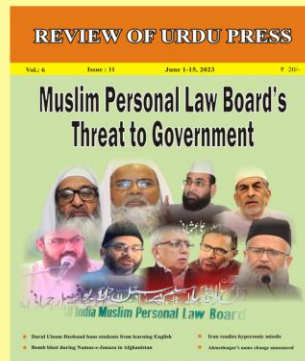
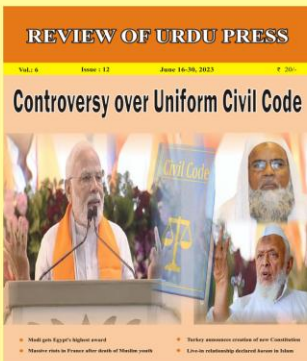
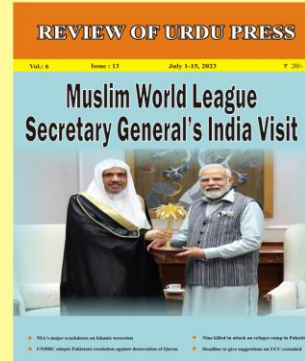
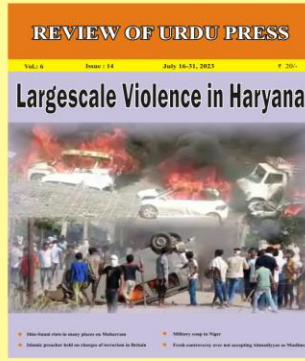
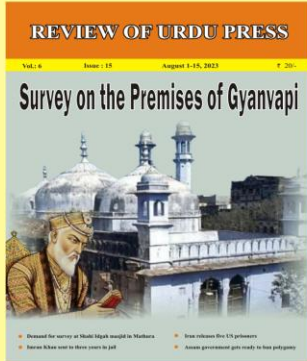
Inqilab (August 24) states that European Commission said that they will raise this issue of the report with Saudi Arabia and before the officials of Houthis in Yemen. The Ethiopian government has announced that it will conduct an inquiry into the entire incident with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, so that the truth comes before the world. The foreign minister of Ethiopia said they are in touch with the Saudi government. The spokesperson of foreign ministry said that until the investigation is complete, it would not be appropriate to make any kind of comments in this connection.

Iran court imposes fine of 33 crore dollar on US

Roznama Sahara (August 28) reports that the Iranian justice department said that a court in Iran has ordered the US government to pay a fine of 33 crore dollars on charges of conspiracy to oppose the Islamic Revolution in 1980. As per the report, in the Islamic Revolution that took place in 1979, the US-supported government of Mohammad Raza Pahlavi was overthrown. Later, a group of military officials tried to overthrow the Islamic government. These rebels were led by the former chief of Iranian Air Force Saeed Mehdiyoun. The headquarters of these rebels was Nojeh airport in Hamadan. The plan was aimed at capturing the military stations across the country and kill the

leaders of Islamic revolution. However, Iran's intelligence wing foiled their conspiracy. Nearly 200 people who led the rebellion were shot dead while hundreds of people were arrested.

As per the website of Iranian Justice ministry, two years ago, the relatives of those people who were killed in the rebellion had filed a petition before a court in Iran seeking compensation. They blamed the US for the conspiracy. Now, after hearing their petition, the court ordered that the heirs of those who were killed in the rebellion should be paid 3-crore dollar compensation and a payment of 30 crore dollars shall be made to Iran government.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान
India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
 Tel : 011-26524018
 E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolity@gmail.com
 Website : www.ipf.org.in