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## Muslim Personal Law Board's Threat to Government



- Darul Uloom Deoband bans students from learning English
- Bomb blast during Namaz-e-Janaza in Afghanistan
- Iran readies hypersonic missile
- Ahmednagar's name change announced

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## Summary

Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani has been elected as the new chairman of controversial organisation Muslim Personal Law Board in its recently held 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting following the death of its chairman Maulana Rabey Hasani Nadwi. A total of 11 resolutions were also passed in this meeting. In one of the resolutions, the board has threatened that unless immediate action is taken to stop the atmosphere of hatred in the country, it will turn into an explosive situation and destroy and ruin everything. The board has also complained that the minorities are not safe in the country. One newspaper claimed that earlier only Muslims were at the receiving end, but following the riots in Manipur, it has become clear that even Christians are not safe in this country.

In another resolution, the Muslim Personal Law Board has opposed the implementation of Uniform Civil Code and described it as against the Constitution. The board complained that anarchy has spread in the country and due to 'government terrorism' madrasas and decades-old buildings are razed using bulldozers. Those opposing it are booked under serious offences of IPC and put in jail.

Soon after coming to power, the Congress government in Karnataka has decided to withdraw all the policy decisions of the previous BJP government. The new Congress government has decided to repeal the anti-conversion law enacted by the previous BJP government. It is unfortunate that a debate is on to repeal the anti-cow slaughter law as well. This apart, the Congress government in Karnataka has decided to remove portions related to nationalists like the founder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar from the school syllabus.

The names of controversial Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan have been invoked in order to create disturbance in entire Maharashtra on the occasion of the 350<sup>th</sup> coronation day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. A particular community has been inciting the feelings of Hindus in the name of these two bigoted rulers. Social media and WhatsApp are being liberally used for this purpose. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has described it as a serious conspiracy and expressed hope that the state government will not hesitate to expose them.

China has dedicated itself to improve its economic influence in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said that China is the biggest investor in Arab world. This apart, the Chinese effort to reduce the influence of the US in Middle-East has also reaped benefits now.

## Muslim Personal Law Board's threat to government



**Inquilab** (June 6) reports that at a meeting of All India Muslim Personal Law Board held in Indore, the board's current general secretary Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani has been elected as the new chairman of the board. He will be the fifth chairman of the board. Rahmani belongs to Bihar though his place of work is Hyderabad. Dr Syed Shah Khusro Hussaini and Syed Sadatullah Hussaini have been unanimously elected as the vice-presidents of the board while Maulana Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi has been elected as the general secretary. This apart, Maulana Syed Mohammad Bilal Hasani, Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani and Dr Yaseen Ali Usmani have been appointed as secretaries. Whereas Qasim Rasool Ilyas has been appointed as the spokesperson and Kamal Farooqi has been appointed as the deputy spokesperson.

**Siasat** (June 7) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board also passed 11 resolutions among which we would throw light on some important ones. In a resolution, the board has appealed to the government not to make any effort to bring a Uniform Civil Code. If it is forcefully implemented in the country after seeing the huge majority in the Parliament, then the

country's unity will be destroyed and there will be hurdles in development. In the resolution, it has also been claimed that the government should come out of such unconstitutional intentions.

In another resolution, it has been emphasised that the law which has been passed in Parliament in 1991 to maintain status quo at the places of worship needs to be strongly implemented. The verdicts that have come from lower courts and the high court regarding the Gyanvapi masjid and the Shahi Idgah masjid in Mathura are very much of concern to Muslims. Despite such a law in place, a campaign is on against ancient masjids. The meeting of the board wants to make it clear that masjid is the house of Allah and it is the principle in Islam that land acquired through illegal means cannot be used for building masjids. Hence it is a baseless allegation that some masjids are built on the places of worship of other religions. The Supreme Court verdict in the Babri Masjid case has sealed the reality in this connection.

It has been alleged in another motion that the poison of hatred is being spread in the country and it is being used as a political weapon which is dangerous for the country. This is totally against the path that



imparted and those who study there are being told to love human beings and do service to humanity. However, it is a matter of regret that in the eastern states of the country, the state governments are trying to shut down madrasas and destroy their properties. This is the most dangerous form of ‘government terrorism.’ The board strongly condemns the way the madrasas are being linked to terrorism without any probe into them.

was adopted by the freedom fighters of the country and the makers of the Constitution. For centuries, people belonging to different faiths, languages and cultures have done service to the country and played a similar role in the development of the nation. If this social harmony and brotherhood is finished, then the country’s unity will be destroyed. Hence this meeting urge the government, patriotic citizens, religious leaders, intellectuals, leaders, jurists and journalists that they make strong efforts to douse this fire of hatred. Otherwise this fire will erupt into a volcano which will burn into ashes everything like the country’s civilization, its reputation, development, ethics etc.

In another resolution, a serious concern has been expressed over the increasing anarchy in the country and it is being said that whether it is the government or the people, majority or the minority, ruling party or opposition, poor or rich, for everyone it is necessary that they do not take law into their hands. Unfortunately, an atmosphere of anarchy has been created in the country, mob lynching is taking place. There is a tendency to give punishment to the accused even before allegations are proved against them. The building which has been in existence for decades, on which the government has been collecting taxes, is being razed to the ground using bulldozers. Those who oppose are arrested under serious offences and are kept for long time in jail even before charges are proved. This is the ugliest face of anarchy. Whether the anarchy is that of the government or the people, it is strongly condemnable and it is the duty of the government and all citizens to stop it.

In another resolution, it has been complained that Muslims are not safe. They are becoming victims of harassment of communal elements and in this connection the government’s intention is also not hidden from anyone. Now, the country’s other minority group is also not safe and its latest example is the increasing incidents of attack on the life and properties of Christian minority in Manipur and setting fire to their places of worship. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board demands the government to take stringent action against mischievous elements and protect secularism in the country and save the country from getting a bad name in the world.

In a resolution on Waqf, it has been demanded from the government that it free the Waqf properties from illegal occupation. Waqf is the property given to Muslims for the purpose of religious and human welfare and it is necessary to use them in accordance with Shariah and the law. The board expressed concern that some representatives of the government are giving statements indicating that Muslims will be deprived of the ownership of these properties. The board appeals to the government to resist from taking any such

Another resolution is over madrasas, in which it has been stated that apart from religious teachings, moral education is also

step. This apart, the board urges the Muslims also to take all possible steps to protect Muslims.

The board urges ordinary Muslims to use the nikahnama made by the board for nikahs and instead of going to courts to resolve the disputes between them, go to Shariah courts and make Shariah as mediator and take their issues to them. Their disputes will be resolved with comparatively less expenses. Muslims should make efforts to ensure that they do not go for extravagant spending on things like nikah. This meeting of Muslim Personal Law Board strongly opposes every move to grant legal status to same-sex marriage and considers it as very harmful to the country as well as humanity. The board said that we are regretful that the



influence of same-sex marriages and the shameless and obscene campaign by LGBT in Western nations have started influencing our country too. It is necessary to remain alert against it.

## Darul Uloom Deoband bans students from learning English

**Salar** (June 15) reports that world-renowned Islamic educational institute Darul Uloom Deoband has directed the students in the institute not to study English and those who violate this direction will be expelled from the institution. Following this direction, a fresh controversy has started. One section has criticised this decision of the managers of Darul Uloom Deoband whereas the group associated with Darul Uloom Deoband is openly supporting the decision and said that it would be beneficial for the students. The head of the



education wing of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Hussain Ahmad Haridwari, while issuing the direction, said the students who study in this institute shall not try to get private education in English or other modern subjects. He said that those who

violate this direction will be expelled from the institute. This direction has rendered a severe blow to those students who are interested in learning English and other modern subjects from outside along with the religious education from Darul Uloom.

Earlier, the head of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani had directed that the students of Darul Uloom Deoband shall not use multimedia or Android phones. Stringent action will be taken against those who use them. National president of Jamiat Ulema and the head of the teachers at Darul Uloom Deoband Maulana Arshad Madani has directed the students that they limit themselves to the education prescribed at Darul Uloom Deoband and do not learn any outside subject or language. He said that madrasa is our religion, not our world. Hence first you become a good Aalim-e-Deen and after that make efforts to become a doctor, engineer, lawyer etc. This is because those who ride on two boats never reach their destination. The students should stick to the purpose with which they joined Darul Uloom Deoband.

**Salar** (June 16) reports that a new controversy has erupted due to this decision of the managers of Darul Uloom Deoband. The Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission and National Child Rights Protection Commission issued notices and sought a reply from Darul Uloom Deoband. As per the information, the minorities commission, while issuing a notice to the head of the education wing Maulana Hussain Ahmed Haridwari, had ordered that he shall be produced before the commission. Secretary of Uttar Pradesh minorities commission, Shakil Ahmad Siddiqui in his statement said that the commission got to know that the managers of Darul Uloom Deoband have imposed a ban on students from learning Computer, English etc. and it is an offence under Section 15 of Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission Act, 1994. Action

could be taken under different sections of IPC as well. National Child Protection Commission said that the direction of Darul Uloom Deoband is illegal and it is a violation of the students' right to get education of their choice. This apart, the institute has threatened the students of serious consequences which is a violation of Section 17 of Right to Education Act, 2009 and this law prohibits anyone from harassing a child through physical punishment or mental torture.

Chief of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, while clarifying the issue, said that Darul Uloom Deoband is not against English or any other language, but those students who stay in the hostels of the institute do not have permission to take coaching from outside or indulge in any other activity. Such a restriction is imposed on students because they need to concentrate on their syllabus during their entire time for which they had taken admission in Darul Uloom Deoband. He claimed that there is a separate wing in the institute for English and Computer which imparts education for Class 1 students in all subjects like English, Hindi, Science etc. We are not against any subject. The students can select whichever subject they want to choose. He claimed that this restriction is only for those students who have taken admission in the Aalim and Fazil courses in Darul Uloom Deoband. Instead of studying there, they go to some coaching centres in the city and study English or some other subjects. He said that the students of Darul Uloom Deoband should focus on the prescribed syllabus of Darul Uloom Deoband during all the 24 hours. If they go outside and learn Computer, English or other subjects, it will adversely affect their education. He claimed that the institute will reply to the notice issued by the minorities commission and the National Child Rights Protection Commission. ■

## Congress government in Karnataka reverses decisions of previous BJP government



**Roznama Sahara** (June 16) reports that the Karnataka government has decided to change some policy decisions of the previous BJP government. The Congress government has decided to withdraw the anti-conversion bill. This apart, permission has been given to remove the chapter on the founder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar from the textbooks of Karnataka. Karnataka's minister for primary and secondary education Madhu Bangarappa said the state government has decided to remove Dr Hedgewar and other things related to RSS from the school syllabus. He said that we have changed whatever modifications the previous government had brought in the syllabus. Now we have decided to include social reformer Savitribai Phule, letters written to Indira Gandhi by Nehru and portions related to Ambedkar in the syllabus.

Bangarappa said they have decided to remove the chapter related to Hedgewar, Savarkar, rightwing thinker Chakravarthi Sulibele and Sanskrit and Kannada scholar Bannanje Govindacharya from the textbooks. He said they have made this change so that students should know the truth. He also announced that the state government has formed a five-member

committee under the chairmanship of Rajappa Dalwai to make changes in the syllabus. This apart, some changes have been brought in the social science textbooks from Class VI to Class X, so that there should not be too much pressure on the students.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H K Patil said the

government will bring a new law in the next session of the Assembly to repeal the anti-conversion law passed by the previous BJP government. It is to be noted that the then BJP government had tabled the 'Karnataka Protection of Rights for Freedom of Religions Bill 2022' in the Assembly in December 2021 but since the BJP did not have majority in the Vidhan Council, it could not be passed. The Congress and JD(S) had opposed this bill that time. Later, an ordinance was issued to implement this law. That time the then home minister of Karnataka Araga Jnanendra had argued that incidents of forceful conversion using allurements are on the rise in the state. This law has been brought in order to stop such incidents as well. He also said that any person can select a religion of his choice but not due to some allurements or pressure. This law protects the right for religious freedom. However, this apart, it stops the conversion from one religion to another through force, allurements or cheating. Under this law, a provision has been made for a jail term of three to five years apart from a fine of Rs 25,000. This apart, a provision has been made to punish those accused of forcefully converting minors, women and people



belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe with a jail term ranging from three to ten years and a fine of Rs 50,000. The BJP has strongly criticised this decision of Siddaramaiah government. Karnataka's former minister for primary and secondary education and BJP leader B C Nagesh said the Congress government is taking such decisions for Muslim votes.

**Siasat** (June 16) reports that it has been clarified in this anti-conversion ordinance that if any person wants to change his religion, then he has to file an affidavit before the district magistrate at least 30 days in advance without pressure from anywhere and only after getting permission for the same that the person can change his religion.

**Salar** (June 6) states that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has given the indication that his government has been thinking of repealing the anti-cow slaughter law as well. Siddaramaiah said that a decision to withdraw this law will be taken after a discussion in the cabinet. The Chief Minister said that there is a law in place right from the beginning itself to slaughter cows that are above 12 years old and not giving milk and those which are not useful for agricultural purposes. Minister for Animal Husbandry K Venkatesh said that if a buffalo can be slaughtered, then why not a cow?

The newspaper said that when the Karnataka anti-cow slaughter law and animal protection law was passed, then the Congress which was in the Opposition, opposed them. Another minister in the state, Sharanabasappa said in Yadgir that the government is thinking about repealing

the anti-cow slaughter law. On the other hand, the BJP is planning a nationwide protest against this decision of the state government.

**Aurangabad Times** (June 10) reports that member of Karnataka Vidhan Parishad and Congress leader B K Hariprasad, while making objectionable remarks on Dr Hedgewar, said that anything related to people like him shall never be included in the syllabus for children. We will never include those people in the syllabus who had sought apology from the British.

**Siasat** (June 10) in its editorial said that though not even a month has passed since the Congress came to power in Karnataka, the BJP has started a campaign against the government. The new Congress government has decided to change some wrong policies and laws of the previous government. This work will be done in every state in the country. The Congress government in Karnataka has announced to review the syllabus of the education so that the previous government which had introduced some chapters on some individuals in the syllabus could be changed.

It is to be noted that the BJP government had removed many things related to Tipu Sultan from the syllabus. In order to strengthen its vote bank, the then BJP government have been targeting Muslims through hijab, halal meat, Uniform Civil Code and economic boycott. However, the people of Karnataka did not get influenced by this propaganda and they removed BJP from power after ignoring this hate campaign.

## Name change of Ahmednagar announced

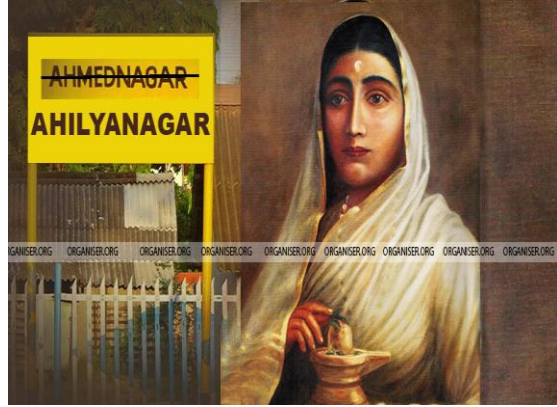
**Aurangabad Times** (June 1) reports that Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has announced the change of name of Ahmednagar and said that henceforth the city will be known as Ahilyabai Holkar Nagar. The chief minister made this

announcement while addressing a programme organised on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Maharani of Malwa kingdom, Ahilyabai Holkar. In this programme, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also

present. State president of Nationalist Congress Party Jayant Patil, while reacting to the change of name of Ahmednagar, said that this was just a politics of show-off and vote bank.

**Etemaad** (April 4) in its editorial said that earlier Aurangabad's name was changed as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad's name was changed as Dharashiv. Now the name of the historical city of Ahmednagar has also been changed. The newspaper said that changing of names has an old history. However, in the past five years, it has acquired more pace. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is much ahead in this. A few years ago, he had changed the name of Allahabad as Prayagraj and Faizabad as Ayodhya.

This apart, the names of 25 other cities were changed earlier. The BJP is not alone in the competition for changing the names of cities, instead whichever party is in power in whichever state, they continue with this system of changing names. Calcutta's name has been changed to Kolkata, the name of Rajamundry in Andhra Pradesh has been changed as Rajamahendravaram, the Gurgaon in Haryana has been changed as Gurugram, Mangalore's name has been changed as Mangaluru, Bangalore's name has been changed as Bengaluru, Madras's name has been changed as Chennai, the name of Bombay in Maharashtra has been changed as Mumbai, Poona's name has been changed as Pune and the name of



Pondicherry has been changed to Puducherry some time ago.

The demand to change Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar was first made by Bal Thackeray. Later the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government had issued the order to change the name of Aurangabad. This decision of the government was questioned in the Supreme Court by corporator Mushtaq Ahmad and his colleagues. The Supreme Court issued a stay order. However, recently the Maha Vikas Aghadi government and later the BJP-Eknath Shinde government had confirmed changing the name of Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. This decision was opposed by the Aurangabad MP belonging to Ittehadul Muslimeen, Syed Imtiaz Jaleel. Later this issue reached the Supreme Court and it is still pending there. It is to be noted that the foundation for Ahmednagar was laid by Ahmed Nizam Shah in 1494 and it was made the capital of Nizam Sultanate.

## Ruckus in several cities of Maharashtra over Aurangzeb

**Salar** (June 8) reports that communal tension erupted in several cities of Maharashtra after a few youths in Kolhapur tried to glorify Aurangzeb through their WhatsApp status. Huge clashes took place between two communities in nearly a dozen cities. The police had to use force in many places to control the situation and

many people were also arrested in this connection.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 10) reports that Navi Mumbai police arrested a person for keeping the picture of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb as WhatsApp profile picture. A screenshot of this profile picture has been handed over to police by a Hindu



organisation. Later a case has been registered against this person under Section 298 of IPC on charges of deliberately hurting the religious feelings and under Section 153A for spreading hatred among different communities on religious lines.

A few local residents of Kolhapur have made an objectionable audio message viral on social media along with a photo of Tipu Sultan. When some people raised an objection, massive stone-pelting ensued between the two groups. Before this, during a rally in Ahmednagar, a picture of Aurangzeb was displayed. Not only this, a number of people were injured in stone-pelting during a rally organized by Sakal Hindu Samaj in protest against the alleged killing of a boy in Sangamner.

**Aurangabad Times** (June 8) reports that bloody clashes took place between two groups over a social media post glorifying Aurangzeb in Kolhapur in which stone-pelting took place from both the sides. The police had to resort to lathicharge to bring the situation under control. Kolhapur commissioner of police, Mahendra Pandit, said that a post glorifying Aurangzeb became viral in WhatsApp group against which Hindu organisations called for a Kolhapur bandh. They were demanding action against those linked to this WhatsApp group. Hindu organisations held massive protests against this group in city's

Dusshera Chowk, Town Hall, Lakshimpuri and other places. In order to stop a possible clash between the two groups, the police resorted to lathicharge and dispersed the crowd. A case has been registered against those who were associated with this WhatsApp group and Section 144 has been imposed in the city. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that too many children of Aurangzeb have taken birth to glorify him, due to which society has become tense. We have to find out whose hands are behind this campaign. He urged people not to take law into their hands.

Leader of Nationalist Congress Party Sharad Pawar said that if anyone puts up a picture or poster in praise of Aurangzeb, what is the need to incite violence over it? He alleged that the ruling party is promoting such incidents. If people step out on the streets and resort to violence at the instance of government, then it is the responsibility of the government to stop it. In Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, stone-pelting took place between two groups during a rally taken out on the occasion of Sambhaji Jayanti. On the occasion of Sambhaji Jayanti in Shirgaon, clashes took place between two groups passing near a mazar. President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee Nana Patole said the hands of Shinde and Fadnavis were behind the entire conspiracy. This is why the



police are not taking any action against the mischievous elements. He said that from the brutal manner in which a hostel student was murdered in a secure city like Mumbai, it is clear that anti-social elements hold sway in the society in Maharashtra. He demanded the chief minister to take back home portfolio from Devendra Fadnavis. This is because he has failed to maintain peace in the system.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 9) reports that following a ruckus in Kolhapur, the state police have registered a case against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Sandeep Deshpande and eight other persons on charges of burning the effigy of Aurangzeb. So far, 36 persons have been arrested in this connection. Internet has been banned across Maharashtra. A community has objected to posts in praise of Tipu Sultan in WhatsApp groups.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 10) reports that tension is building in Maharashtra on the issue of Tipu Sultan and Aurangzeb. Hindu organisations are opposing the manner in which Aurangzeb was being glorified in a well-planned manner. Now tension has erupted in Ashti Nagar in Beed district as well. There a 14-year-old boy glorified Aurangzeb through a WhatsApp status and Hindu organisations had given a bandh call to mark protest. In Ghoti in Nashik district also two sides indulged in slogan shouting and also pelted stones.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 8) reports that several shops were vandalized

in Kolhapur and some vehicles were also set on fire. In order to control the situation, the Director General of Police, Maharashtra reached Kolhapur and curfew was imposed in the city. This apart, a special contingent of state reserve police force was also deployed in the city. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told reporters that it is not a coincidence that a particular community has been glorifying Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan

while objectionable comments are made against another community. Glorification of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and targeting of any particular community will not be tolerated. He said that an investigation is being conducted into all these incidents.

**Aurangabad Times** (June 8) reports that legislator of Samajwadi Party, Abu Azim Asmi told Times Now TV channel that he is with Aurangzeb. This is because there was no greater secular ruler born in Hindustan. Some people are deliberately creating tension in society. If anybody makes any true statement about Aurangzeb or Tipu Sultan, then there is no need for anyone to feel worried about it.

**Aurangabad Times** (June 9) reports that senior leader of Shiv Sena and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut has accused the Shinde-Fadnavis government of stirring up trouble in Kolhapur. He said that when the soil under the feet of BJP started sliding, they started remembering Bajrang Bali and Hanuman Chalisa and that also did not help them during the elections in Karnataka. He said that Aurangzeb was buried 400 years ago. But the BJP is giving life to him again and again. He said that no local person was involved in the riots in Kolhapur. Those who organized the riots came from outside. Raut has demanded from the government that a search shall be conducted for the real rioters. He asked Devendra Fadnavis whether he needs Aurangzeb to win the elections? On the picture of Aurangzeb,



Sharad Pawar said that if somebody glorifies anyone, what is the need to create a ruckus over it? Commenting on his statement, BJP leader Nilesh Rane has described Sharad Pawar as an avatar of Aurangzeb and kicked up a new controversy. The Nationalist Congress Party has announced a 'jail bharo' agitation against this statement of Nilesh Rane. RPI president and Rajya Sabha member Ramdas Athawale expressed doubt that the hands of Pakistan were behind the riots in Kolhapur.

**Comment:** In Maharashtra, when the anniversary of the 350<sup>th</sup> coronation day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was being celebrated, some mischievous elements posted some objectionable comments on Shivaji on Facebook and WhatsApp while glorifying invaders like Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan. The interesting thing is that nine out of 11 such people who made the comments were minors. When some Hindu organisations in Kolhapur objected to such comments, a community pelted stones at them following which violence erupted in the city. Many vehicles were set on fire and shops were burnt down. Stones were pelted on houses as well. Curfew had to be imposed to bring the situation under control. The interesting thing is that following this, photos of Tipu Sultan along with an objectionable video were posted on social media in a well-devised manner in

several cities of Maharashtra. In Ahmednagar, a community took out a rally carrying the pictures of Aurangzeb in their hands during which objectionable slogans were raised against another community. Following this violence broke out. The police arrested two persons in this connection and filed an FIR against four persons.

It is to be noted that on May 15, a man named Sheikh Aftab Mannan uploaded an objectionable video of Shivaji on social media in which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was shown as bowing before Aurangzeb and the title of the video was 'Aurangzeb, Father of Hindustan.' The police registered an FIR against Sheikh Aftab. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis asked opposition parties what is the relation between the statement of a few leaders of opposition on the riots-like situation in the state and after that the glorification of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan? This incident cannot be termed as a mere coincidence. He said that glorification of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb will not be tolerated on the soil of Maharashtra. We are holding a high-level inquiry to find out who were behind the glorification of Aurangzeb and comments on Shivaji. He said that an FIR has been registered against four persons in Ahmednagar district on the issue of moving around with a poster of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and raising objectionable slogans. When a video of this incident went viral on social media, a row erupted in Kolhapur and other cities. The two persons who created the ruckus in Kolhapur were local residents. The rest were people from outside. The police are thoroughly investigating all these incidents so that stringent action could be taken against the guilty.

## Efforts to resolve problems of Hajis in Saudi Arabia



**Inquilab** (June 15) reports that the Indian government has swung into action after news about the difficulties being faced by Indian Haj yatris in Mecca and Medina came in the media. Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani said that efforts are being made to mitigate the problems being faced by the Hajis. In this connection, an IPS officer, Ilma Afroz, has been sent to Saudi Arabia. She has been making efforts to find solutions to their problems by holding talks with local authorities there. Speaking to media persons, Smriti Irani said that when she got information that the Hajis are facing difficulties in Saudi Arabia, she took note of it immediately. She also said that initially one Khadim-ul-Hujjaj used to be sent to Saudi Arabia to supervise 150 Hajis. However, this time the jawans of paramilitary forces have been sent so that in case of any emergencies, they could deal with it.

**Siasat** (June 16) has published a detailed report on the difficulties being

faced by the Hajis in Mecca and Medina and has complained that when the Haj yatris reached Mecca, they did not get a proper accommodation facility there. The tall claims being made on behalf of Haj Committee of India and the Haj committees in different states proved false. In the accommodation

facilities provided to the Hajis, even basic necessities were not there and there was no government official to solve their problems. The sim cards which were provided to Hajis on behalf of the Haj committee could not be made active for several days. Hence they had to spend a huge amount to buy new sim cards. In the accommodation facility provided at Aziziya locality, there was no proper arrangement for toilets and kitchen facilities. Some eight to ten Hajis were kept in one room.

**Inquilab** (June 8) reports that the Hajis from Uttar Pradesh also complained of chaos and said that no proper arrangements were made in hotels in Medina. Nearly 50 people were given one kitchen and one fridge. There were lot of troubles as there were no separate toilets for men and women. This apart, the Hajis had to face lot of difficulties in the flight also and they had to stand in queues for several hours to wait for flights.

## Row over film made on Muslims

**Siasat** (June 6) has complained that films are being utilized to link Islam and Muslims with terrorism as part of a nefarious conspiracy. Recently, the communal elements did not get satisfied with the release of two controversial films, 'The Kashmir Files' and 'The Kerala Story.'

Hence two more fresh controversial films are being made which are likely to be released very soon. The work for the film '72 Hoorain' have started in order to link Muslims with terrorism. Recently, a teaser of this film was also released. This film is likely to be released on July 7 and the film presents the story of Muslims being lured into terrorist organisations through the bait of 'hooris'. The film shows actors Pawan Malhotra and Amir Bashir in a lead role. The film was directed by Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan and the co-producer is Ashok Pandit.

In this connection, one more film, 'Ajmer 92' is also being made. The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmoud Madani has demanded that a ban shall be imposed on this film and said that the film is being made to destroy the unity of the society. The Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer is a great example of Hindu-Muslim unity. He is known as a 'messenger of peace.' The film is trying to send a wrong message and its aim is to give a bad name to Muslims. On the basis of an incident, a propaganda is being unleashed against Muslims under the pretext of freedom of speech.

**Hindustan Express** (June 10) states that the hands of BJP government were behind the making of these films and their aim is to instil hatred and enmity in the minds of Hindu brothers against Islam and Muslims in order to polarize Hindu votes. After BJP was swept away in Karnataka, now they have taken the help of films to divide the society.

**Etemaad** (June 7) in its editorial has complained that by making the film '72



hoorain,' a message is being sent across that some people are being lured into terrorist activities by showing the alibi of hooris in paradise. The co-producer of this film, Ashok Pandit has argued that his aim is to expose different dimensions of terrorism. Before this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and many of his colleagues had given open publicity to 'The Kerala Story.' However, the people of the country have great understanding and they understood the tricks of BJP. This is the reason why the BJP had to face defeat despite the film 'The Kerala Story' which was released before the Karnataka elections. Similarly, another controversial film 'Ajmer 92' is also being made. The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Mahmoud Madani has demanded a ban on the screening of this film because it preaches hatred among different communities in the society.

**Salar** (June 7) in its editorial has condemned the making of film on Veer Savarkar and said that Savarkar has no role in the freedom movement of the country. He has offered apology to the British and took their pension.

**Hamara Samaj** (June 7) in its editorial has complained that hatred is being unleashed against a particular community in the society in a planned manner through films. The purpose of making such films is that in Hindi belt, the popularity of Narendra Modi and his party is dependent on the conflict between the Hindus and Muslims. The newspaper demanded that the government shall immediately put a ban on the screening of '72 Hoorain' and 'Ajmer 92.'

## Bomb blast during Namaz-e-Janaza in Afghanistan



**Inquilab** (June 7) reports that in the Afghanistan province of Badakhshan, caretaker Governor Maulvi Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi was killed in a suicide attack. According to the newspaper, his car was targeted at Badakhshan capital Faizabad. The information official of the Governor has confirmed this attack. Three other persons were also killed in this blast.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 10) states that when the Namaz-e-Janaza of the dead governor was being held in a mosque, a huge bomb explosion took place there as well in which at least 15 people were killed and 50 others were injured. The dead included the former police chief of northern Baghlan province Shafiullah Shamim. According to the doctors, the number of those who were killed may go up further.

Former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, while condemning the incident, said that targeting namazis in masjid is against both Islam and

humanity. The responsibility for the bomb blast was owned by terrorist organisation ISIS. It is being said that the responsibility for the murder of the Governor was also owned up by ISIS. According to the interior ministry of Afghanistan, raids are being conducted across the country in search of ISIS supporters.

It is to be noted that ever since Taliban captured power in Afghanistan, the ISIS has been regularly spilling the blood of people. In the past one year, more than 100 such blasts took place in which it is being claimed that 10,000 people have been killed. Earlier in March, the Governor of Balkh was also killed in a similar manner by the terrorists of ISIS. A spokesperson of Afghanistan's interior ministry, while condemning the incident, described it as an activity of Islam's enemies. The spokesperson said that this enemy of Islam is regularly targeting minorities, foreign embassies and officials of Taliban.



## Tension between Afghanistan and Iran over waters of Helmand river



**Siasat** (June 7) states that Helmand river is Afghanistan's longest river. It has a length of 1,150 kilometre. It is an important source of employment for the southern and southeastern provinces. This apart, the river also supplies water to Iran's province Sistan and the Hamun Jheel located in Balochistan, which is very important for Iran. In 1973, Iran and Afghanistan had signed a deal to share the waters of this river.

As per this agreement, Afghanistan has to supply 850 million cubic metres of water to Iran every year. However, a controversy has recently erupted on the issue of sharing of water between Iran and Afghanistan. Following this, an armed conflict took place between Iranian soldiers and Afghanistan soldiers in which at least four security personnel were killed.

Tension increased between Iran and Taliban when Iran accused the Taliban government in Afghanistan of limiting the supply of water to Iran. Following this controversy, clashes took place between the soldiers of both the countries many times in which more than two dozen soldiers were killed.

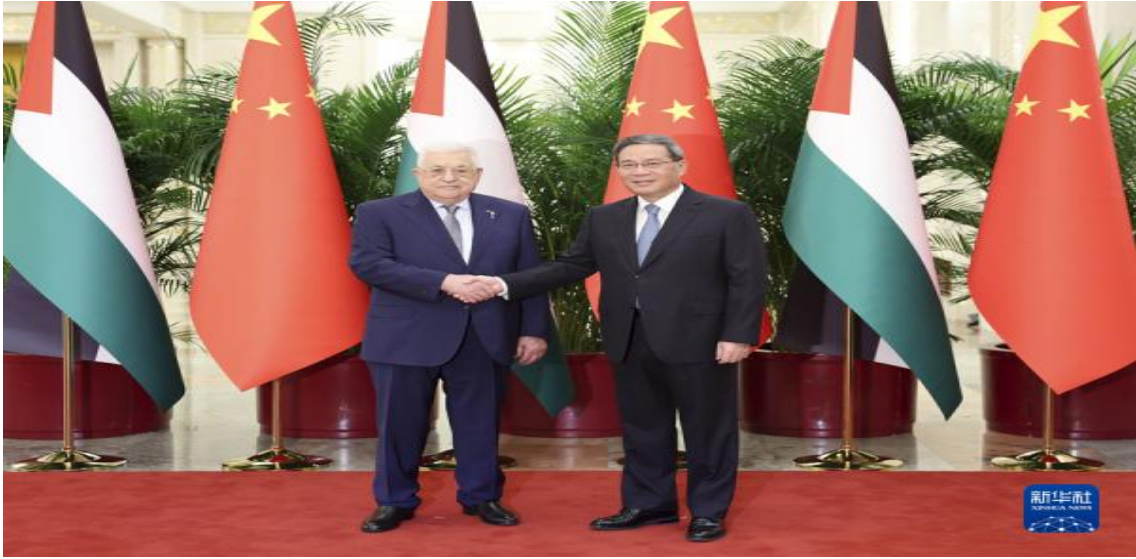
Last month, Iran President Ebrahim Raisi had warned Afghanistan government that it reasserts the rights of Iran on the waters of Helmand river. Otherwise, there would be serious consequences. He said that his country will do anything to protect the rights of the Iranians. Afghanistan's caretaker foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said that though Taliban is bound by the agreement signed between Afghanistan and Iran in 1973, but nowadays due to lack of rain in Afghanistan, there is a huge water crisis. In such a situation it is not possible to supply the entire water of this river to Iran. Fatemeh Aman of Middle East Institute said that the way the differences are cropping up between the two nations, it may take a dangerous turn any moment. On the other hand, Iran said that it is trying to resolve this issue through talks.

## Chinese efforts to cash in on Palestinian issue

**Roznama Sahara** (June 11) reports that China has decided to encash on the Palestinian issue in order to strengthen its foothold in Arab world. China has extended an official invitation to Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas to visit China and said that he will visit Chinese capital Beijing next week. China said that it is willing to help resolve the issue between Israel and Palestine in a peaceful manner. Following this announcement by China,

Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas has announced his decision to visit China this month. The Chinese foreign minister has apprised the foreign ministers of Israel and Palestine that they are keen on a peaceful resolution to the issue.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 15) reports that Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas has reached Chinese capital Beijing along with his foreign affairs minister Riyad Al-Maliki. As per a press statement issued by



Chinese foreign affairs ministry, China had always stood with the people of Palestine for the protection of their rights. From this it has become clear that China has now openly come out in support of the establishment of a Palestinian state. The talks between China and Palestine started in 2017. That time also Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas had visited China. Following this, the two nations maintained

the relationship. China had announced that it is willing to extend financial cooperation to four projects in the Israel-occupied West Bank including establishment of a factory for making panels for solar energy, construction of a steel plant and development of basic infrastructure. From this announcement of China, it has become clear that it has openly jumped into the dispute.

## Taliban to close down schools run by foreign NGOs



**Roznama Sahara** (June 10) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has announced that the schools run by foreign NGOs in the country will be shut down. The UNICEF expressed concern over this announcement by Taliban and said that it is collecting more information in this connection. If Taliban do not remove the

restrictions imposed on these schools, then nearly eight lakh Afghan students will be deprived of educational facilities who are getting education in schools run with the help of foreign NGOs. Nearly five lakh male students and three lakh girl students are studying in these schools.

Earlier, the Taliban government had imposed restrictions on Afghan women working with foreign NGOs including the United Nations due to which the supply of food and other aid to women and children in remote provinces of Afghanistan got disrupted. It is to be noted that after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in 2021, it had imposed a ban on education of women and girls in secondary schools and universities. This apart, the Afghan government had also imposed a ban on women taking up employment.

## 600-year-old masjid razed in China

**Inqilab** (June 1) reports that a 600-year-old masjid has been razed in Yunan province in China. Following this incident, there is a sense of fear and anger among Chinese Muslims. It is being said that this historical masjid was constructed in the year 1370. This masjid is located in the Chinese city of Nago. The Chinese government said that when the masjid was reconstructed, one dome and minaret were constructed in an illegal manner. Later the matter went to the court. In the year 2020, the court also ordered that the dome and



minaret of the masjid shall be razed. The managing committee of the mosque fought a legal battle against this decision of the court in higher courts. However, now the Chinese government has razed this masjid.

As per media reports, the local Muslims held massive protests on the roads against this decision. The police fired teargas shells and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the protesters. In reply to this, the protesters pelted stones at police. More than a dozen people were injured in these clashes.

## Clashes between Army and Islamic terrorists in Philippines



**Roznama Sahara** (June 15) reports that in the southern region of Philippines, massive clashes took place between the military and the terrorists of ISIS in which many people including the commander of the ISIS were killed. A spokesperson of the Philippines Army said that the terrorist who was killed had been identified as Faharudin Hadji Benito alias Abu Zacharia who is the head of ISIS in SouthEast Asia. The spokesperson said that a joint team of the Army and police raided a secret base of ISIS after getting information. During the clashes that took place following this, more than a dozen terrorists of ISIS were killed.

The police also seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

It is to be noted that nearly one-third part of Philippines is currently under the control of ISIS. The Islamic terrorists had captured these areas in October 2017. In order to liberate this region from the hands of ISIS, the Philippines Army has been waging an armed war against the terrorists of ISIS for the past five months. More than 1,500 people including 200 soldiers were killed in this connection. Now the government forces have succeeded in liberating Maravi Nagar from the clutches of ISIS.

## Chinese ploy to trap Arab world in the cobweb of financial aid



**Etemaad** (June 6) reports that on the first day of Arab-China trade meet in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, Saudi Arabia announced that an agreement has been reached between China and Arab nations on investments worth billions of dollars. As per a report in *Dawn*, the purpose of the meet was to improve financial relationship, promote trade and give a fresh impetus to diplomacy between China and the Middle East nations. Recently, due to the efforts of China, diplomatic relationship has been established between Iran and Saudi Arabia after a gap of one decade due to which the entire political and economic atmosphere in the Arab world has changed.

A spokesperson of investment ministry of Saudi Arabia said that Saudi Arabia is the host of the meeting. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in this connection. In the meet, more than 3,500 senior government officials and industrialists of China and Arab nations will come together and there will be a new beginning in the trade and financial cooperation between China and Arab world. As per a government statement, an agreement has been reached for investments worth 10 billion dollars on

the first day itself, which is about investments in Saudi Arabia's farms and government institutions. Among them, the most prominent agreement was the one signed between Saudi Arabia and the Chinese company that builds electric cars 'Human Horizons' which is worth 5.6 billion dollars.

This apart, many other agreements have also been signed with other companies like on energy, real estate, development of natural resources, tourism and other sectors. As per a spokesperson of Saudi government, there is a possibility for an agreement worth seven billion dollars between the two nations in this meeting. During the inaugural function, Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said that there will be a dawn of a new era in the Arab world due to this meeting. As per a statement of Saudi government, an agreement has been signed between Zhonghuan International Group and the AMR Aluwlaa Company worth 53.3 crore dollars to establish a major iron factory in Saudi Arabia. Whereas another company in Saudi Arabia, ASK Group signed an agreement worth 50 crore dollars



for the trade between the two nations will not be the American dollar, instead Chinese currency Yuan. Saudi Arabia's minister for investments Khalid Al-Falih said that we cannot depend solely on the economic policy on export of oil, instead has to develop other industries as well.

**Salar** (June 15) in its editorial, while commenting about the growing ties between Saudi Arabia and China, said that it is causing trouble to the US. However, Saudi Arabia is going ahead with its 'Vision 2030' and

with China National Geological and Mining Corporation for mining of copper in Saudi Arabia.

**Etemaad** (June 13) states that the Energy Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Salman has announced that we do not give much importance to the doubts expressed by Western nations on improving relationship between Saudi Arabia and China and we totally ignore them. Saudi Arabia wants cooperation and not competition with China. One reason for the relation between the world's biggest oil exporting countries and China is also the export of petroleum. He said that apart from political sphere there is an increase in the cooperation in security and sensitive technology due to which the US and some Western nations are facing trouble. However, we do not give much importance to this because every industrialist will be interested in things where there would be profit for him.

It is to be noted that last week, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken also visited Saudi Arabia. Before that, Saudi Arabia's biggest government oil production company 'Aramco' had also announced two big agreements between Saudi Arabia and China as per which Saudi Arabia has made investments worth billions of dollars in China. Now Saudi Arabia is slowly becoming the largest oil supplying nation for China. In December, the Chinese President had also mentioned that the basis

China with its BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) keeping them as their aim. Vision 2030 was launched by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammad bin Salman in 2016. For the past several decades, Saudi Arabia used to be a supporter of the US. However, recently they got disillusioned with them due to their 'American policy' and started improving ties with China.

It is to be noted that China and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relationship in 1990 and in the past 32 years the relationship between the two countries improved in financial, commercial, cultural and international politics. In 1998, when the present King Salman bin Abdul Aziz was the Crown Prince, he paid a visit to China. After this, a new era of relationship began between the two countries. After 2019, the relationship between the two nations improved further. After this, there was lot of improvement in tourism between the two countries. The aim of Saudi Arabia is to attract more and more Chinese tourists to the country. Taking care of its interests, Saudi Arabia has severed ties with the US and shook hands with China. Saudi Arabia holds lot of influence among Muslim nations. Hence China is taking the help of Saudi Arabia to sneak into Muslim world. Till now, China is importing oil only from Saudi Arabia. But now they have started buying oil from Russia as well.

## 33 killed in terrorist attack in Somalia



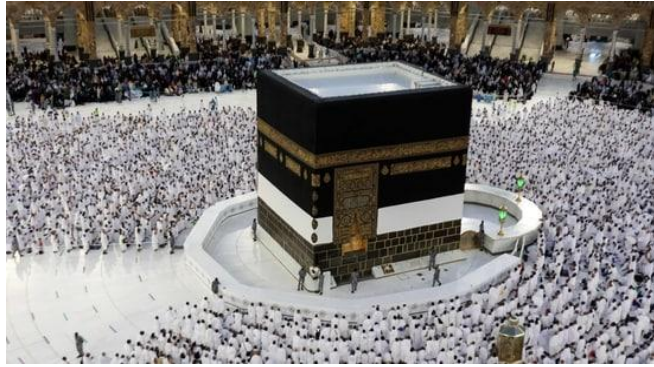
**Inqilab** (June 11) reports that at least 33 children were killed and 53 others were injured in a blast that took place in a playground in the Somali city of Coriolis. The majority of children who died are in the age group of 10 to 15. It is being said that Islamic terrorist organisation Al Shabab is behind these attacks. It is being

said that Al Shabab is linked to terrorist organisation Al Qaida. Al Shabab is spilling blood in Somalia for the past one decade. Till now, more than one lakh people have been killed there and 20 lakh people have become homeless.

As per another news, terrorists belonging to Al Shabab attacked a five-star hotel in Somali capital of Mogadishu in which at least six persons were killed and 10 others were injured. During a rescue operation launched by Somali police and security forces, nearly 80 people taken hostage by Al Shabab were freed from their clutches. In this operation, nine soldiers of Somalia were also killed.

## 26 lakh Muslims likely to do Haj this time

**Etemaad** (June 14) reports that 26 lakh Muslims are likely to undertake Haj this year. Till now, more than 4.5 lakh Muslims have arrived in Saudi Arabia to perform Haj. The Hajjis who have arrived for Haj have been welcomed with flowers, dates and Aab-e-Zamzam. This year's Haj is starting from June 26. This is the biggest ever Haj pilgrimage after the Corona pandemic. This year, nearly 22,000 people have been deployed for the services of Hajjis. The security wing of Saudi Arabia has announced that if any individual is caught bringing Haj yatis without a permit, he will be given a punishment of six months in jail and 50,000 Riyal fine and his vehicle will also be seized. Those who violate Haj rules will not only be expelled from the country but will not be allowed to return to Saudi Arabia in future.



The Hajjis will be provided transportation facilities 24 hours and they

will be distributed 10 lakh copies of Quran free of cost. During this Haj season, arrangements have been made to recite Quran for 35,000 hours which will be in 10 languages of the world. The Hajjis will be distributed 40 million litres of Aab-e-Zamzam in 30,000 places. Saudi Arabia's minister for Umrah Dr Taufeeq bin Faizan Al Rabiya said that most modern facilities will be provided to the Hajjis on their arrival. It is our responsibility to ensure that best atmosphere and facilities are provided to the Haj yatis during the Haj.

## Saudi Arabia announces reduction in oil production



**Inqilab** (June 6) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has announced that it is reducing production of oil in the country with the aim of increasing the prices of oil. This decision was taken following a meeting of OPEC nations in Austrian capital Vienna. Saudi Arabia's Energy

Minister Abdul Aziz bin Salman told Al Arabia that the aim of Saudi Arabia's decision to reduce the production of oil was to bring stability in the prices of oil in the market. He said that if required, then the period for reduction in oil could be extended further.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates has expressed its intention to increase the production of oil. Whereas Saudi Arabia has decided to reduce the production of oil by one million barrel per day. This means that the production of oil in Saudi Arabia, which was approximately 10 million barrel per day in May, will remain at around 9 million barrel per day as of now. ■

## No permission for Iran to make nuclear weapons



**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 7) reports that US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that under no circumstances Iran will be given permission to manufacture nuclear weapons. The security of Israel cannot be put in danger under any circumstance and if Iran refuses to heed, then we will use all remedial measures to stop them so that Iran

does not make nuclear weapons. He said that for us, Israel is very important. We will continue to make efforts to normalise the relationship between Israel and Saudi Arabia. This is because it is in the interest of the national security of the US. He told a meeting of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee that we are making all efforts in this connection. He said that we are committed to the 'Abraham Accord' initiated by former president Donald Trump

for Israel to establish diplomatic relationship with Arab nations. Our effort will be to ensure that Israel becomes more secure, stable and more prosperous.

**Siasat** (June 3) reports that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel will take every measure to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power. He

specifically targeted the International agency on nuclear energy which had decided to stop the inspection of different projects linked to Iran's nuclear programme. He said that it looks like that this agency has succumbed to the political pressure of Iran. He alleged that Iran is

cheating International Nuclear Energy Agency and if Iran continues with its nuclear enrichment programme, then it will have to face serious consequences. It is to be noted that any nation can make a nuclear bomb after enriching Uranium till 90 per cent.

## Iran readies hypersonic missile



**Inqilab** (June 7) reports that Iran has announced the making of a hypersonic missile and its photo has been published in the Iranian government media. According to Iranian government media, this missile named 'Fatah' could target anything nearly 1,400 kilometres away. Iran President Ebrahim Raisi and Iran's top military officers took part in an event organised in this connection.

As per another news, Iran's defence minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani said that Iran has the ability to manufacture any kind of

weapon required for its security. He told government agency Fars News that we are equipped with most modern weapon systems to face any kind of danger and we will protect our borders under any circumstance. He said that our scientists are working 24 hours to manufacture most modern weapons and equipment for our protection.

**Etemaad** (June 4) reports that four nations in the Middle East have started an effort to form a joint naval force for maritime security. These nations are Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE and Oman. It is being said that China is behind these efforts. If this project becomes a success, then it will be a major setback to


US domination in the region. It is to be noted that recently the United Arab Emirates has announced its decision not to join the US-led joint naval force. The headquarters of this US force is in Bahrain which was established in 2001.

According to Arabic media, Qatar, Bahrain and Iraq may join this joint naval force at a later stage. Commander of Iranian naval force Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said that the different nations of this region have realised that they need to work together to ensure security of this region.



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