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Largescale Violence in Haryana



- Shia-Sunni riots in many places on Muharram
- Islamic preacher held on charges of terrorism in Britain
- Military coup in Niger
- Fresh controversy over not accepting Ahmadiyyas as Muslims

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Summary

It will be dangerous to the country to ignore the way a well-planned attack was carried out on the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra organized by Hindu organisations in Mewat region near national capital Delhi. A senior official of the intelligence wing of Haryana government has confirmed on TV channel that the intelligence wing had informed the state government that some mischievous elements had been planning to create trouble during this religious yatra being organized in the month of Sawan. The intriguing thing is that despite such a warning, the state government did not take any concrete steps to ensure security to the devotees taking part in the yatra. Even more than half of the policemen deployed to ensure security to the devotees were home guards and they did not have any modern weapons with them.

Joint General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Dr Surendra Jain has also confirmed that the jihadis who attacked the yatra were armed with weapons and they had collected stones on a largescale. These jihadis surrounded the devotees in a well-planned manner and unleashed violence on them. In their firing, two home guards died on the spot. The rioters also burnt down the cyber crime police station and set fire to more than 400 vehicles. As per the latest information, at least seven persons were killed in this violence. Initially, the Urdu Press remained silent on this incident. However, when the reaction to the incident in Nuh surfaced in other parts of the state, their voice became louder. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar declared that the state government will not spare any rioter and those who suffered damages in the riots will be given compensation.

The Urdu Press have been regularly running a propaganda against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre while highlighting the activities of the newly constituted INDIA alliance of the Opposition parties.

This year, bloody clashes took place between the Sunnis and Shias in many parts of the country due to the tazia processions taken out on the occasion of Muharram. However, the Urdu Press tried to cover up these clashes and described these as a tiff between two groups. Twelve people were killed in the violent incidents that took place during the procession on the occasion of Muharram.

Nowadays, Sunni terrorist organization ISIS has been committing mass murder in Pakistan. Recently, at least 70 people were killed in a suicide attack during a meeting of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam at Khyber Pakhtunwkhwa province in Pakistan. Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam is a part of the ruling alliance in Pakistan. Its chief Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman has close relationship with the Darul Uloom Deoband in India. He regularly visits Deoband. The Pakistan government used to encourage the Islamic terrorists a lot initially and they were being used against India on a regular basis. Now these Islamic terrorists have become a bone stuck in the throat of Pakistan.

In the Muslim majority nation of Niger in Africa, the military has overthrown the civilian government and seized power. Niger's Army chief Abdourahamane Tiani arrested President Mohamed Bazoum along with his family and declared himself as the President. The US and the United Nations have condemned this incident and said their support will be for the deposed President.

Largescale violence in Haryana



Inquilab (August 4) states that murder cases have been registered against 25 people while 176 have been arrested in Nuh in Haryana. The communal riots that broke out in Nuh spread to seven districts in Haryana and there were news reports about isolated incidents taking place. Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (home) T V S N Prasad said that seven religious places were attacked and damages were inflicted. Some people have also been arrested in this connection. Nuh SP Varun Singla said that police are conducting raids after the violence and many accused have been caught. In order to control the situation, contingents of paramilitary forces have also been deployed in four districts in the state. The police have registered cases against 265 persons in different police stations.

Internet services have been suspended in Nuh, Palwal, Faridabad, Gurugram, Sohna, Manesar and Pataudi.

According to the home secretary, eight teams of Special Task Force and three teams of Special Investigation Teams have been constituted to probe the violence in Nuh. Section 144 has been imposed in

Nuh, Gurugram, Palwal, Jhajjar, Faridabad, Rewari, Sonipat, Panipat and Mahendragarh. According to newspapers, Hindu organisations took out a protest rally in Hisar against the violence that took place in Nuh. It is being said that in this protest march, slogans were raised against a particular community. In a press conference organized in Delhi, Muslim organisations alleged that the police are taking unilateral action. Almost all those who were caught were Muslims. They also said the fleeing of Muslims started in many places in Haryana. There is a tense situation in Palwal, Badshahpur, Dhauj, Nalhar and Tauru. Due to police raids, majority Muslim families have locked their homes and left for other places.

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the BJP government has failed to stop the riots. He said that the failure of the government should be investigated by a judge of the high court. The chief of Jamiat Ulema has blamed the state government for the riots and said that the police are targeting Muslims in order to garner the votes of the majority community in the next elections.

International Working President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Alok Kumar, while addressing media persons, said that in Haryana, there is an old tradition of pilgrimage to five Shiv mandirs since the Mahabharat time. This time, nearly 25,000 people have taken part in this yatra. Alok Kumar said that not even 15 minutes had passed as the yatra began, the rioters attacked it, raining bullets and stones. When the people tried to escape, the miscreants attacked them from behind as well. He said that they rescued 3,000 to 4,000 people from the spot and brought them back to Nalhar Mahadev Mandir. The armed rioters even attacked the temple in which two persons were killed and nearly 250 vehicles were set on fire. Later those who took part in the yatra were given refuge in police stations and chowkis. The miscreants attacked even police stations and mandirs.



Joint General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Dr Surendra Jain said that the riots were pre-planned and they were preparing for it for several days. He demanded that the entire Mewat region shall be sealed and each and every jihadi be caught and stringent action be taken against them so that anti-national elements could be wiped out. Some eyewitnesses had alleged that the rioters had dragged out dozens of women and teenagers from vehicles and took them to nearby farms and farmhouses. What happened with them is not clear as the victim women were unwilling to speak out due to fear of disgrace and shame.

Roznama Sahara (August 3) reports that at least seven persons were killed in the riots following the attack on the Brajmandal yatra organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Nuh. Curfew still remains imposed in Nuh. There is a tense atmosphere even now in Palwal, Sohna, Hodal and Gurugram. Section 144 has been imposed in six districts in Haryana. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal took out rallies in 23 localities in Delhi-NCR against the violence that took place in Nuh. The Supreme Court rejected a plea to

impose a ban on the rally of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. This petition was filed by senior advocate C U Singh. In this connection, the Supreme Court issued a notice to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi governments. The hearing in the petition is still pending. The Supreme Court said that during the protest march, neither provocative slogans shall be raised nor there shall be any kind of violence. The court said that the rallies shall be monitored through CCTV cameras and its videography shall also be done. If necessary, additional security forces shall be deployed. This order of the Supreme Court shall be implemented in all states in the country.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has demanded a compensation of Rs one crore to the families of those killed in the violence and Rs 20 lakh to those injured. The VHP has also demanded that compensation shall be given to those whose cars were also burnt. The schools and colleges in the affected areas have been shut down. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the population of the state is 2.7 crore. However, there are only 60,000 policemen in the state. Hence every citizen cannot be guaranteed protection. Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that the organisers of the yatra did not provide the entire information regarding the yatra to the district administration. It is being said that the intelligence sources had informed the administration about the possibility of violence taking place during the yatra. However, despite that the administration did not take necessary steps. Union

Minister Rao Inderjit Singh has alleged that there were swords and other weapons in the hands of many people who took part in the yatra.

The newspaper said that due to the violence that raged in the Mewat region, many from other places including labourer families had returned to their homes. It is being said that till now more than 3,000 labourers have returned to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Home Minister Anil Vij said that from the way the stones were collected and firing took place due to which the violence spread, it is assumed that the riots were pre-planned. He said that the state government has formed a special police team which will investigate and find out who is responsible for the incident and who spread the violence. So far, 800 personnel have been deputed for the team. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that nobody who took part in violence will be spared and stringent action will be taken against them.

Inquilab (August 2) states that the violence that erupted in Nuh in Haryana on July 31 has spread to several cities in the state including Gurugram, Badshahpur, Palwal, Hodal, Sohna, Faridabad and Rewari. VHP leader Dr Surendra Jain declared that Mewat will not be allowed to be turned into a Kabristan for Hindus. It looks like that Mewat has become a mini Pakistan. The rioters have set fire to more than 200 vehicles so far. Chairman of Welfare Party of India Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that whatever had happened in Nuh and its nearby areas, the plans for the same were made earlier and these were linked to Nasir and Junaid killings. He said that Monu Manesar's hand was behind this incident who has not been arrested by the state government so far. He said that Vidhan Sabha elections will take place in Haryana in the next few months and these riots were organised to polarize the votes.

Siasat (August 2) has claimed that there is an increase in open incidents of murder and riots in BJP-ruled states. Such an atmosphere is being created in order to

get the votes of the majority community in the elections to be held in five states. The Haryana government has also decided that a base of Rapid Action Force shall be established in Nuh so that such incidents shall be curbed in future. The state government has also urged the Central government that a centre of Second India Reserve Battalion shall be set up in Mewat. This battalion will have 1,000 jawans so that they could effectively prevent such incidents in future.

Etemaad (August 4) in its editorial has alleged that the Haryana government has failed to stop the riots. The newspaper stressed that the administration should take strong steps against the real rioters and do not trap innocent Muslim youths in fake cases.

Hamara Samaj (August 4) in its editorial said that the Haryana government has failed to take any credible step against the rioters and hence the Supreme Court had to intervene in the issue.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 4) did not even mention the riots that took place in its editorial. However, it expressed concern over the attack on few masjids in other places and the fleeing of Muslim labourers from the place. The newspaper said the way violence has spread in Haryana, the ministers themselves got furious and they were giving contradictory statements. Whatever has happened in Haryana was a mischief by a handful of people and the people did not take part in it. The riots have spread to several regions in Rajasthan as well. In Bhiwadi, several shops were looted and they were set on fire. The Rajasthan police has arrested two dozen rioters in this connection.

Siasat (August 2) in its editorial has alleged that it is clear from the way the riots have spread in the Mewat region in Haryana that it was a premeditated one and efforts are being made to put the blame on Muslims. The Godi media, which has been purchased by the government, has been running a propaganda against the Muslims instead of bringing out the truth. The newspaper even predicted that such



incidents could take place in other parts of the country as well before the elections so that the ruling party would be able to garner the votes of the majority community.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 2) in its editorial, while mentioning about the murder of a naib imam of a masjid in Gurugram, said those who incited the naked dance of violence that took place in places like Nuh, Gurugram and Sohna did not come from outside, but were residents of Haryana. This is that mob which is being utilized for riots. It would not be wrong if they are called the killing mob. The newspaper said this riots has been incited in order to win the elections in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij described the riots as a major conspiracy. The question here is who made the plan for the riots and who created the conspiracy. From the information that has been received so far, it is clear that the police action was unilateral. The reality is that the police in BJP-ruled states have a biased attitude and they target only the Muslims. Why people brought weapons to the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra took out by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad? The truth is that these local Muslims were deliberately provoked. The question here is will the

police take any action against those who incited the Muslims?

Comment: Most people in the country do not know very well about Mewat or the Meos who stay in the region. Hence it is also necessary to throw some light into their background. The Mewat region is spread over three states namely Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The population of

Mewat region is said to be between 30 lakh and 35 lakh, and nearly 80 per cent of them are Muslims. The main district in this region is Haryana's Nuh, which was formed in 2005 by joining some parts of Faridabad, Gurugram and Narnaul districts. This apart, the three districts of Rajasthan namely Alwar, Bharatpur and Dausa are considered to be part of Mewat. The Mathura and some parts of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh are also considered to be part of Mewat. Among the Rajput castes settled in this region, the prominent are Gorwal, Chauhan and Rathore among others. They had strongly challenged the ruling Muslim Sultanates in Delhi.

In the book *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri* written by the then historian Minhaj-i-Siraj, it was being said that these Rajputs used to attack Delhi and loot its outskirts. Once they had captured Hauz Khas which supplied water to Delhi due to which the residents of Delhi had to face huge difficulties. Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Balban had launched a major military expedition to wipe out these mischievous elements and his soldiers surrounded the people of Mewat from all the four sides. At least 40,000 Rajputs were killed during this campaign. Their women and children were forcefully converted to Islam. These people are now called Meos.

The interesting thing is that despite adopting Islam, these people have not abandoned their ancient culture. Till 1920s, their names used to be like Hindu names. They regularly used to go to temples and take part in the rituals. They had never accepted the Shariah laws and followed the laws of Hindus on property and other issues. They generally do not eat cow meat and unlike Muslims do not marry close relatives. Like Hindus, they do not enter into marital relationship with the gotras of the father and the mother. Generally, they do not take interest in offering namaz as well. This is the reason why there were no masjids during those times. The Mewat region is located in the border areas of the present-day Haryana and Rajasthan. It was also said that when Rana Sanga took on Babar, his military commander Hasan Khan was a Mewati.



In the year 1926, the Tablighi Jamaat launched a campaign to lure people who stay in Mewat towards Islam, which was run from the Banglawali Masjid located in Nizamuddin basti of Delhi. The slogan of this campaign was 'Muslims, be like Muslims.' The maulavis of Uttar Pradesh and Deobandi sect made lot of efforts to make them fundamentalist Muslims. These maulavis were led by Muhammad Ilyas Kandhlawi who belonged to Darul Uloom Deoband. Following this, cow slaughter started in this region and masjids were constructed on a largescale. The Meos

became staunch and fundamentalist Muslims and they started adopting Islamic names after abandoning Hindu names.

During the Partition of the country, nearly five lakh Meos camped in the Purana Qila camp in order to leave for Pakistan. However, Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad stopped them from leaving for Pakistan and took them back to Mewat. Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Azad went to Mewat region three times and stopped these Meos from leaving for Pakistan. Since the region belonged to the then education minister Maulana Azad, he settled Meos in this region to stabilize his vote bank and allotted them government land. In 1992, when the Babri Masjid was demolished, there were only two such places in the country where huge mobs targeted Hindu temples in order to protest against the incident. These two places were Jammu and Kashmir and Mewat. In Nagina, Nuh, Punhana and other regions, a huge mob after looting 42 Hindu temples, set fire to them and five pujaris were killed. This region could also be called a mini-Pakistan.

Shia-Sunni riots in many places on the occasion of Muharram

On the occasion of Muharram, tazia processions were taken out in many places in the country. According to newspapers, at least eight persons were killed in these processions in the country. In the bloody clashes that took place in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, more than 100 people were injured. A huge clash took place between

the police and those who took out tazia procession in Nangloi in Delhi in which 43 people were injured. The police registered three cases in connection with these clashes.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 30) reports that despite huge security by the police in Varanasi, huge ruckus took place



during the Muharram procession in Doshipura region during which clashes took place between Shias and Sunnis for several hours. The two sides also pelted stones on each other. During the clashes, some weapons were also used, due to which more than 100 people were injured. According to police, 50 vehicles were also set on fire. After the clashes between the two sects, the police resorted to lathicharge and dispersed the stone-pelting crowd. According to police commissioner Mutha Ashok Jain, a number of tazias of Shia and Sunni sects were damaged in the stone-pelting. The Shia sect has refused to take their tazias to Karbala to bury them and staged a dharna on the street, launching a protest. There was also information that some people raised the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad during this procession. However, this could not be confirmed from government sources. The police commissioner said the process to identify miscreants using CCTV footage has started and 70 people have been arrested in this connection till now.

Dainik Bhaskar (July 30) states that clashes took place between Shias and Sunnis in Jaunpur also in which at least 150 people were injured. It is being said that the youths who took part in the tazia procession raised slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' and the police were present on the spot. However, they did not take any

action against those who raised the slogans. Later some others made a video of this incident, which went viral. On the basis of it, the police arrested 33 youths. The incident took place at Godhana Bazar police station area in Meeranaj. Superintendent of Police, Jaunpur, Shailendra Singh said a case has been registered under different sections against the 33 people who were arrested in this connection. Last year too slogans were raised during the procession. Four persons were arrested in this connection.

Roznama Sahara (July 30) reports that during the Muharram procession in Nangloi area in Delhi, clashes took place between the police and those who took part in the procession. It is being said that those who were taking out the tazia wanted to bury their tazias in the stadium. When the police refused to grant permission for the same, they pelted stones on police. DCP of Delhi Police Harendra Kumar Singh said that 8,000 to 10,000 people took part in the tazia procession in Nangloi. The managers of tazia approached the police regarding the route. They wanted to take the tazia through other routes instead of the pre-decided one which the police did not permit. On this, the mob pelted stones on police in which 15 people were injured. In order to disperse the huge mob, the police resorted to lathicharge, following which the protesters staged a dharna on the spot. In



this connection, the police arrested some people as well.

In Srinagar, Muharram procession was taken out after a gap of 34 years in which thousands of people took part. In Kashmir Valley, the biggest procession was taken out from Jadwal region in which the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha also took part. Manoj Sinha distributed water bottles to thousands of people taking part in the mourning procession. Tazias were taken out in Anantanag, Pulwama, Shopian and Budgam as well. This apart, the Shias took out tazias in Baramulla, Pattan, Sopore, Bandipore and Kupwara as well.

Inquilab (July 31) states that two persons died on the spot and 50 others were injured after a 30-foot high tazia caught fire after it came in contact with an electricity wire in Amroha in Uttar Pradesh. Later, three among the injured succumbed to injuries. In Civil Lines police station area in Raypur village in Rampur, a massive clash erupted between Shias and Sunnis over tazia procession, during which both sides opened fire on each other. According to police, at least five persons were injured in the firing, among which the condition of three was stated to be serious. The police have arrested five attackers in this connection. In Darial village in TADA Nagar in Rampur, the police resorted to lathicharge to stop the clash between Shias and Sunnis in which nearly two dozen people were injured.

According to the same newspaper, clashes took place between Kanwariyas

and those who took out tazia procession in Pilibhit. Due to the negligence in security arrangements, the district police chief suspended inspector Pravin Kumar of Jahanabad and the incharge of Shahi Chowki Aaditya Singh. The police have registered cases against 125 persons. According to police, in the clashes that took place between those who took out the tazia and the Kanwariyas, nearly two dozen policemen including

CO Pratik Dahia were injured. In view of the volatile situation, Commissioner of Bareilly division Saumya Agarwal and Bareilly IG Dr Rakesh Singh reached the spot in the night itself and many people were taken into custody on charges of rioting. In Jahanabad town, clashes took place between tazia mourners and Kanwariyas. It is being said the Kanwariyas kept the Kawad on the locations to place tazia and stopped the tazias from being taken out, after which clashes took place between the two sides. It is being said that more than 50 people were arrested in this connection.

During the Kawad yatra in Bareilly, clashes took place between Muslims and Kanwariyas. It is being said that when the Kanwariyas tried to take out the Kawad yatra through a new route instead of the Jogi Nawada route through which it was supposed to pass through, the Muslims opposed it. Before this, the Muslims tried to stop the Kawad yatra. On this, the police resorted to lathicharge and also fired tear gas shells. The newspaper also said that the administration has suspended the policemen who lathicharged the Kawad yatris. In Bokaro in Jharkhand also four persons died on the spot and 13 others were injured when during a Muharram procession, the tazia came in contact with electricity wires. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren offered condolences on this incident. In Rajkot district in Gujarat also two persons were electrocuted during Muharram procession and 22 were injured.

Fresh controversy erupts over not accepting Ahmadiyyas as Muslims



Recently, a new controversy has erupted over the Ahmadiyya sect. In February this year, the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board announced through a resolution that Qadiani (Ahmadiyya) sect were non-Muslims. Following this, the people of Ahmadiyya sect wrote a letter to the Union ministry of minority affairs and asked it to intervene in the issue. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani, while strongly criticizing this resolution of the Waqf board, said the resolution is a campaign of hatred. On the other hand, majority of the Sunni Muslim organizations are supporting the resolution of Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board.

Siasat (July 26) said that calling Ahmadiyyas as ‘Kafir’ under the Modi regime could put Muslims in trouble. Recently, on behalf of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, a letter was sent to the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, where it has been directed that the resolution of the Waqf Board shall be withdrawn. Smriti Irani said this resolution is a hate campaign and it could create an atmosphere against Ahmadiyyas in the entire country, resulting in harm to them. In a letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K S Jawahar Reddy, it has been said that the Ministry of

Minority Affairs received a memorandum from the Ahmadiyyas on July 20, 2023 in which it has been stated that some Waqf boards have been opposing the Ahmadiyyas and they have been passing illegal resolutions to keep them out of Islam. It has been stated in the letter that it is a wider campaign of hatred against the Ahmadiyyas. The Waqf board has no power to create a religious identity to any sect including Ahmadiyyas. The ministry said that the Waqf Act 1995 is a law made for managing the Waqf properties in the country and the Waqf boards in the states do not have any right to pass a resolution like this under the same Act.

According to the newspaper, in 2012, the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board had passed a resolution in which Ahmadiyyas were declared as non-Muslims. This resolution had been questioned in the high court. The high court had ordered suspension of the motion. Despite this, in February this year, the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board passed a resolution and declared Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslims. It is worth mentioning that the people of Ahmadiyya sect describe themselves as Muslims. This sect was founded in the 19th century in Qadian town in Punjab and its



founder was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who used to claim himself as a Prophet of God.

As per another news published in the same newspaper, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind supported the resolution of Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board and said that this decision was of all Muslims and the letter sent by Union Minister Smriti Irani to the state government is an intervention in the internal affairs of Muslims and it is without any basis. This is because Waqf board was established for the protection of the properties of Muslims and their interests and hence those sects which are not Muslims do not come under its jurisdiction. Jamiat said that Ahmadiyyas do not accept the basic principles of the religion or Islam and hence there is no ground for including them in the Islamic community.

Muslim World League (Rabitat al-Alam al-Islami) in its meeting in 1974 had passed a unanimous resolution in the presence of the representatives from 110 nations in which it has been stated that Ahmadiyyas are distinct from Islam and they are enemies of Islam. In history, several courts have also given verdicts that the Qadianis are non-Muslims. In 1912, the sub-judge of Munger had given the verdict that Ahmadiyyas cannot enter the masjids of Muslims. In 1974, the Supreme Court of United Arab Emirates had directed that Ahmadiyyas shall be expelled from the country. In the same manner, the Chief Justice of Mauritius had described the Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslims.

Condemning the statement of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani, Maulana Mahmood Madani said that

Muslims are those who accept that Hazrat Mohammad is the last Prophet of Allah. Since Ahmadiyyas do not accept this, they are not Muslims.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 2), while publishing a news, said that Ahmadiyyas are non-Muslims in the eyes of Ulema. The chief of Raza Academy Mohammad Saeed Noori said that

the founder of Ahmadiyya sect Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani had claimed himself to be a Prophet and he had written in his book that he was the last Prophet. You people accept me as Prophet. This claim of Mirza is against the Quran and Hadith and hence all Ahmadiyyas are Kafirs and they cannot be accepted as Muslims.

Comment: It is worth mentioning that during the Congress rule, a campaign was unleashed at the behest of Jamiat Ulema that the government declare Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslims. The chairman of Jamiat, Arshad Madani, had urged the government of Saudi Arabia to ban Ahmadiyyas from undertaking Haj. In 2019, the Ahmadiyyas had organized an exhibition of Quran at Constitution Club in New Delhi. Due to strong protests from Muslim organisations, the government had to close the exhibition.

It cannot be denied that some leaders of Ahmadiyya sect, the most prominent among them being the first foreign affairs minister of Pakistan, Sir Zafarullah Khan, had played a major role in the creation of Pakistan. The Ahmadiyyas hoped that when the British leave India, they would hand over the reins of Pakistan to them. However, exactly opposite to their expectation, the British handed over the reins of the newly founded nation to Muslim League and Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The first riots against Ahmadiyyas took place in Lahore in Pakistan in 1953. Following this, the leader of Ahmadiyyas, Sir Zafarullah, had to resign from the cabinet. In 1974, fundamentalist Muslims

targeted Rabwah, the headquarters of Ahmadiyyas, and anti-Ahmadiyya riots spread to entire Pakistan. Due to pressure from fundamentalists, the then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had to assure that the Constitution of Pakistan would be amended and Ahmadiyyas would be declared as Kafirs, meaning non-Muslims.

In 1984, the National Assembly of Pakistan banned Ahmadiyyas from taking part in elections and preaching their religion and declared them as Kafirs. The Caliph of Ahmadiyyas, Mirza Tahir Ahmad, had to flee and take refuge in

London. In order to investigate the anti-Ahmadiyya riots, Munir Commission was constituted which had found 27 prominent Muslim leaders including the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Maududi as guilty of the riots and were later given death sentence. Later during the rule of Mohammad Ayub, all these Muslim leaders were given pardon and released from jail. Even today, no Ahmadiyya has permission to occupy any post in Pakistan government and neither they could be recruited in the Army. They cannot even vote in any elections in Pakistan.

Efforts to mislead public in the name of masjid



Inquilab (July 20) reports that the Railway Board has issued a notice to two masjids constructed near the Bengali Market in Delhi namely Bengali Market Masjid and Takiya Babbar Shah Masjid in which it has been stated that these two masjids were constructed in an illegal manner on railway land. Hence it shall be removed within two weeks. Otherwise, the railway administration will remove it as per the Railway Act and the managers of the masjids will be responsible for the damages arising out of it. It is to be noted that bulldozer was used to raze a masjid in Bengali Market three months ago as well and its outside portion was razed claiming that it was on L&TO land.

A few days before this, a dargah in Sunehri Bagh area was also demolished saying that it was built on government land. After this, efforts were made to target Sunehri Bagh Masjid as well. Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid, Ahmad Bukhari, visited

this masjid. According to Delhi Waqf Board, this masjid has been registered with the Gazette of Waqf Board. On this, the Waqf Board has approached the Delhi High Court and stopped the razing of this masjid. Chairman of Delhi Waqf Board, Amanatullah Khan, said that Masjid Takiya Babbar Shah is on the land of Waqf Board. Nearly a decade ago, the Railways had sought some land from the management board of the masjid for the expansion of railway line which was given to them. The surprising thing is that now the railways has staked claim on its entire land.

Inquilab (July 27) reports that the Waqf Board has knocked at the doors of Delhi High Court to save both the masjids. On a petition of the Waqf Board, the high court issued a stay order and stopped the railway board from demolishing both the masjids and sought a reply from it in this connection.

Inquilab (July 21) reports that the chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has condemned the demolition of a minaret of Khajoor Wali Shahi Masjid in Ayodhya and said that this masjid is an old one and its old name was Masjid Mehdi Hasan Khan and it is managed by Shia Central Waqf Board. He said that it was inappropriate to raze this masjid as part of

Rampath Vistar Yojana and it should be condemned.

In Jalgaon city in Maharashtra also the controversy over a masjid has taken a serious turn. A Hindu organization has submitted a petition to the district collector of Jalgaon in which it has been stated that this masjid was originally a temple belonging to the Mahabharat period and now this masjid is being developed in an illegal manner. On the other hand, the managers of this masjid said that the masjid has been in existence for the for the past 150 years and it has been registered as a protected monument in the records of Maharashtra government. On the basis of the petition, the district collector of Jalgaon has imposed a ban on offering namaz in the masjid and Section 144 was also imposed. Later the chairman of Jama Masjid Trust Committee, Altaf Khan, questioned this order of the district collector in the high court. The court scrapped the order imposing a ban on offering namaz in the

masjid. Now, five-time namaz will continue in the masjid.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 19) in its editorial, while welcoming the decision of the high court, said that namaz is being offered in the masjid for the past one-and-a-half years. However, nobody has opposed it at any point of time. Now this controversy is being fueled so that this masjid could also be occupied like the Babri Masjid. Chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, has filed a petition before the Supreme Court in which it has been stated that the campaign that has been unleashed to occupy the ancient masjids in the country shall be stopped because the Parliament in 1991 had passed a law called Places of Worship Act, 1991. It has been made clear in this law that the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August, 1947 shall be maintained. Till now, the Supreme Court has not taken any decision on this petition.

Campaign by Urdu newspapers for Opposition unity



For quite some time, the Urdu newspapers have been strongly campaigning in favour of Opposition unity.

Avadhnama (July 19) has given the headline for its news as 'Mission 2024: INDIA platform ready to take on NDA.' 'We have come together to defeat the hatred being created against minorities.' 'All Opposition parties against the policy

of BJP that divides society.' 'Address of Kharge, Mamata, Rahul and Kejriwal.'

Aurangabad Times (July 19) has its headline, 'INDIA of 26 Opposition parties gets ready to storm the fort of Modi government.'

Aurangabad Times (July 18) headline was 'Opposition unity in Bengaluru to take on BJP in 2024.'



‘Alliance of 26 parties will be a game changer.’ ‘If one is enough for many, then why is Modi making alliance with other parties: Kharge.’

Avadhnama (July 18) reports that BJP president J P Nadda has described the Bengaluru meeting of Opposition parties as a ‘Bhanumati ka Kunba’ built on the hollow foundations of political selfishness and said that a drama is being staged in Bengaluru to escape from government action on scams worth Rs 20 lakh crores. Neither do they have any leader, nor there is any policy nor any power to take any decision. Nadda claimed that nearly 38 political parties are taking part in the meeting of NDA and their number is likely to increase further. In the past nine years, the graph and influence of NDA are steadily growing. He said that NDA is an alliance dedicated to the service of the nation.

Salar (July 19) reports that I.N.D.I.A or the 26 parties included in the alliance, got united and declared to join hands against BJP and its allies in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. These Opposition parties have targeted the Modi government at the Centre and its anti-people policies.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 22) in its editorial said that at one level, the leaders

of 26 Opposition parties are sitting together in Karnataka capital Bengaluru and making a plan to defeat the Modi government in the 2024 elections and announced the formation of a united alliance called Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A). On the other hand, as a reply to this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a rally in capital Delhi and called a meeting of 38 political parties at Ashoka Hotel in Delhi. In 2014 and 2019, after seeing the huge majority of BJP and the rising stature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all the parties which were in the NDA had gone to the background and there was only one face among all and that face was that of Prime Minister Modi and the second one was of Amit Shah. The others did not even have any stature at all.

In the past one year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started an initiative of inaugurating Vande Bharat trains. In every place, either Narendra Modi reaches himself or inaugurates it through video conferencing. The general public do not even know the name of the railway minister. Now a massive train tragedy took place in Odisha and for the first time people came to know that there is also a railway minister in this country and his name is Ashwini Vaishnaw. After this, he has once again vanished from the news.

The stature of Prime Minister Modi has gone up so high that he has put all the veteran leaders of the party in Margadarshak Mandal. Today, nobody knows where Ravishankar Prasad and Prakash Javadekar had gone. Rajnath Singh can't be found anywhere except while presiding over government functions. Nitin Gadkari's name also doesn't appear anywhere now. All the more, Prime Minister Modi has forced even the RSS to dance to his tunes. Modi has become the brand of BJP. Every election is fought by showing his face and the BJP gets success as well. However, this brand got a major jolt in the Karnataka elections. Following the success in the Karnataka elections, the standing of Rahul Gandhi has gone a little up and some confidence has come up among the Opposition parties there. The hesitation to accept the leadership of Congress has also gone to a certain extent.

Now for BJP and RSS, both have realized that elections cannot be won with the help of just one face. Hence efforts have been started to honour old friends and bring new people. The regional parties prefer Congress to take on BJP. In South India, the BJP could bring Chandrababu Naidu or Jagan Mohan Reddy to their side. Apart from Mamata Banerjee and Kejriwal, Stalin of Tamil Nadu, Nitish Kumar of Bihar and Uddhav Thackeray of Maharashtra are like to join the Congress side. In this connection, the Central agencies have also become very active. They have created an atmosphere in favour of BJP through threats and blackmailing. The hands of these agencies were also behind the recent split that took place in Shiv Sena and NCP. However, despite this the BJP high command still fears a defeat in 2024. Hence the NDA has been revived.

Siasat (July 17) in its editorial has said that there is lot of time before the Lok Sabha elections and before that Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in five states in the country. Hence the political moves are getting faster. The Opposition parties are making efforts to form a united front and bring all parties together on one

platform. The BJP has also jumped into action. Some parties have left the BJP alliance and joined the Opposition alliance while some parties which are not part of any group now, want to come closer to the BJP.

Among Congress and other parties which are trying to form the alliance, there are also many such parties which were once with the BJP. They also include Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United). Many parties which have got separated from NDA are now coming back. They include the party of Om Prakash Rajbhar in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP and Congress are trying to bring together their supporters. There are some parties which are not part of both these alliances, but will remain as a help to the BJP. They include YSR Congress, Biju Janata Dal and Bharat Rashtra Samiti.

Now it is necessary to see which all parties want the rule of the Constitution and the law in this country and want the protection of Constitutional values. Which are those parties who are trying to undermine the democratic method and force their opponents to succumb, using power. It is the responsibility of the people of the country to support the powers that protect the democracy and ensure the rule of law and the Constitution.

Siasat (July 18) in its editorial said that after the Karnataka election results, the possibility of change in the country's politics has increased. If the condition of Congress improves in the five states after the Assembly elections, then the alliance led by Congress will get more strength and the possibility of winning the Lok Sabha elections will improve. It is clear from Sonia Gandhi's participation in the Bengaluru meeting that the Congress is serious about taking along all anti-BJP parties.

Hindustan Express (July 20) in its editorial said that in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections the alliance parties of Congress and BJP have started moving the chessboard in order to register victory in the elections. In the meeting held in Bengaluru, Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge has given stress on the protection of Constitutional values and to maintain social justice. He also raised the arbitrary use of Central agencies, price rise, the inhuman tragedy in Manipur and unemployment issues.

In the meeting in Patna, there was tension between Congress, Trinamool Congress and AAP, and even Samajwadi Party was not happy

with the Congress. However, all these parties were seen together in the meeting in Bengaluru. Not only that, even those parties who are fighting against each other in the states were seen united at national level. The Opposition parties, apart from creating a common war room, have also made a plan to appoint a coordinator in every state and also constitute committees to resolve different issues.

The newspaper said that the main agenda of the meeting held in Bengaluru was to field common Opposition candidates in 450 seats in Lok Sabha. However, it will take time to field common candidates. Seeing the Opposition's preparations, there is a possibility of the Lok Sabha elections becoming an interesting one and it is a good indication for the democracy. In the NDA meeting held in Delhi, 38 parties took part. However, there are many parties among them which do not have even a single member in the Parliament. The efforts being made by the ruling party and the Opposition raise the hope of democracy getting strengthened in the country.

Siasat (July 24) in its editorial said that the BJP has got scared over the alliance of 26 Opposition parties in the country. If the non-BJP parties field a common candidate in majority of Lok Sabha constituencies in the country, then the Opposition votes will not get divided,



due to which the BJP candidate will not be able to win. Till now, due to the division of votes among non-BJP parties, the BJP candidates have been winning. The newspaper said that the alliance of Opposition parties has created lot of uproar in Sangh Parivar and it is planning a strategy to come out of the new situation. The newspaper said that the new alliance may last only if the big political parties in the Opposition alliance take care of the interests of the small parties and desist from fighting against each other. The BJP may use its Brahmastra to weaken the alliance of its opponent parties or create splits in them. Today the parties which are seen in one platform will have to face fresh troubles as the elections approach. However, the Congress has declared that if the Opposition alliance INDIA comes to power in the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress will not take interest in having its own Prime Minister.

Avadhnama (July 19) in its editorial said that it could be assumed from the way the BJP has decided to revive the NDA once again that the direction of the wind has changed and due to the unity of Opposition parties, the BJP had to change its policies. After the defeat in Karnataka, when Modi visited Bhopal, he said that what one could understand from Opposition unity is that every scamster is trying to get united. The newspaper said that it is intriguing that Modi, who is

accusing the NCP of corruption, has formed an alliance with all these scamsters within a week and sworn them into the cabinet. Modi has forgotten that his home minister had spent time in jail on charges which are much serious than corruption.

In his speech, the Prime Minister while citing the sons and daughters of Gandhi family, Mulayam, Lalu, Sharad Pawar and Chandrashekhar Rao, said that if you want the families to be brought to power, then you vote for the Opposition parties. However, on the land of Madhya Pradesh where Modi has been delivering the speech, the BJP has made Jyotiraditya Scindia as a Union Minister and he is the grandson of Vijaya Raje Scindia. BJP had made Vijaya Raje's daughter Vasundhara Raje as the chief minister in Rajasthan. Whereas her real brother was a Union Minister from Congress. Former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is the son of Janata Party's chief minister S R Bommai. There are several such members in the BJP's parliamentary party who inherited a party ticket. Pashupati Paswan and Chirag Paswan both are Ramvilas Paswan's brother and son. The nephew of Sharad Pawar has come to the BJP. The BJP had put the sons of Parkash Singh Badal and Bal Thackeray on its head. Amit Shah has made his son Jay Shah as the chairman of BCCI and thereby control the hen that lays golden eggs.

The newspaper said that when the Brahmastra of parivarvad of Prime Minister Modi failed, he started crying out of fear. In Raipur, while attacking the efforts of Congress and Opposition leaders for an alliance, he said that now these people are after him. They are threatening to dig my grave. However, they do not know that one who gets scared is not Modi.



The question here is if he is not scared then what is the need for even saying it? When the situation of the prime minister becomes limited, he creates some drama or the other to garner the sympathy of people. Delivering speech in Rajya Sabha, he said that the country is watching that one single person is proving too much for so many people. I am ready to do anything for the society. During the speech of Prime Minister Modi, those who raised the slogan 'Modi-Adani bhai bhai' have made it clear they are doing all this not for the country but for the capitalist friends.

The newspaper expressed surprise that BJP president J P Nadda has described the Opposition alliance as Bhanumati ka Kunba. However, the biggest example of Bhanumati ka Kunba is the Maharashtra government where Eknath Shinde, who cheated his organisation Shiv Sena for the sake of power, is the chief minister and uncle's backstabber is the deputy chief minister and the former chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis sits crouching down. Pashupati Paswan and Chirag Paswan have become sworn enemies. But the lure for power has brought them to the shade of BJP. Nadda has forgotten that if an alliance of 26 parties is Bhanumati Ka Kunba, then what about 38 parties coming together? In order to hide his corruption, Ajit Pawar is diving into BJP's washing machine. According to Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Opposition has



united due to fear of defeat. But Naqvi saheb has forgotten who divided the Shiv Sena? It is the BJP which has broken the party and made the mother-daughter fight against each other in UP.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 28) in its editorial said that there is a war going on between INDIA and NDA for the 2024 poll battle. As of now, INDIA's counter attack is going on. The Modi government suffers from hysteria. Prime Minister Modi is not ready to speak anything about Manipur in the Parliament. Even the Opposition has moved a no-confidence motion in the House. The way the BJP has got a huge majority in the Parliament, it is clear from it that the Modi government faces no threat. However, through the no-confidence motion, the Opposition has been trying to highlight the failures of the government on all fronts. It is a win for democracy apart from moral victory of Opposition.

The newspaper said that the stand of the Supreme Court towards the government is very stringent. Till now, the government has not been accepting the verdicts of the Supreme Court which were against its interests. However, now in the changed situation, the government has to change its

stand. In the states where the BJP has not registered success, there the Modi government has taken the help of ED to overthrow the Opposition governments. Nobody can refuse the role played by the ED in pulling down the Kumaraswamy government in Karnataka, the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh and the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra.

Now, in the forthcoming elections, a plan is being hatched to corner leaders of non-BJP parties in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. This is the reason why the term of ED Director Sanjay Mishra has been extended. The victory of Congress in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka and the successful meeting of Opposition parties in Patna and Bengaluru have spoiled the sleep of the government. Hence the government has to take the help of ED, CBI and Income Tax. The file of every big leader of Opposition is ready. Preparations are going on to harass people starting from Sonia, Rahul Gandhi to Farooq Abdullah and Sharad Pawar. They could be raided at any point of time. Hence the Opposition parties have got united to escape from the anger of Central agencies.

Islamic preacher held on charges of terrorism in Britain



Inqilab (July 26) reports that fundamentalist Islamic preacher Anjem Choudary was arrested by the Metropolitan Police of London on three counts of terrorism. As per an 'AFP' report published in *Dawn* newspaper, 56-year-old Anjem Choudary belongs to a banned Islamic terrorist, organisation and he has been recruiting people for the organisation. He

was also among the directors of this banned Islamic terrorist organisation.

This apart, a 28-year-old Canadian citizen, Khalid Hussain, was also caught on charges of maintaining relationship with a banned terrorist organisation. They were produced before a court in Westminster, where the police claimed they belonged to a banned organization, Al Muhajiroun. This organisation is also called the Islamic Thinkers Society.

The court sent the two to jail and directed that they shall be produced before the court again on August 4. Anjem Choudary is a resident of East London and he also keeps Pakistani citizenship. The police told the court that Khalid Hussain was maintaining links with Anjem Choudary and they work for the propagation and promotion of this banned organisation. It is to be noted that the anti-terrorist wing of London Police arrested the two on July 17. ■

Law to stop illegal immigration in Britain

Inqilab (July 20) reports that the British government has passed an 'Illegal Migration Bill' in the Parliament in order to stop illegal immigration to the country. Once approved by the King, the bill will become a law. Legal experts, lawyers and human rights organisations have described the bill as inhuman and cruel. As per reports, the law will make the applications of all people seeking political refuge in the country, who come either via sea or through other illegal means, as illegal and they will be expelled from Britain. This law

has been formulated to stop the increasing number of people who arrive from northern France through small boats. Despite opposition in the Parliament, the bill was passed with a huge majority. It is being said that this law has been formulated to stop illegal immigration of people to Britain through boats. The refugee agency of United Nations has said that this law violates the international law and condemned the same. The agency said that the law will make difficulties for people who are on the receiving end of harassment

in their native countries from seeking political refuge in Britain. The agency said that other European countries may also create such law, which is a danger to freedom of expression.

It is to be noted that last year more than 45,000 infiltrators had arrived in small boats on the coasts of north-western England. This number was 60% more compared to the previous year. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said this law was created to stop illegal immigration so that illegal migration could be forcibly stopped. On the other hand, the United Nations said that the Refugee Convention of 1951 accepts that a refugee could enter any country in an illegal manner to take asylum.

As per a news published in **Inquilab** (July 18), European Union officials, who are on a visit to Tunisia, signed an agreement with Tunisia on behalf of European Union nations to stop illegal infiltration. Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and President of European Union Commission Ursula von der Leyen signed on this agreement. This delegation held a meeting with the President of Tunisia, Kais Saied, to stop illegal immigration. These three leaders promised a financial aid of 967.8 million Euro to Tunisia. Due to financial crisis and unemployment, the people of Tunisia often put their life in danger by trying to reach European countries through illegal means.



The home ministry of Italy said till now more than 75,000 illegal immigrants tried to enter Italy after arriving in boats this year. Whereas last year in the same period 31,000 people made the effort to enter Italy. The Prime Minister of Netherlands said we want to destroy the chain of human trafficking and want to strengthen the security of border areas.

The chief of refugee organisation of United Nations said though it is very important to stop illegal immigration, a humane view should be adopted for this. He said that it is difficult for me to understand why the conditions imposed on the migrants from Afghanistan is not imposed on the migrants coming from Ukraine? He confirmed that thousands of people get drowned in sea in their efforts to enter Europe. Hence it is necessary for European nations to provide financial aid to poor countries like Tunisia so that the people who stay in the country do not get attracted to illegal migration.

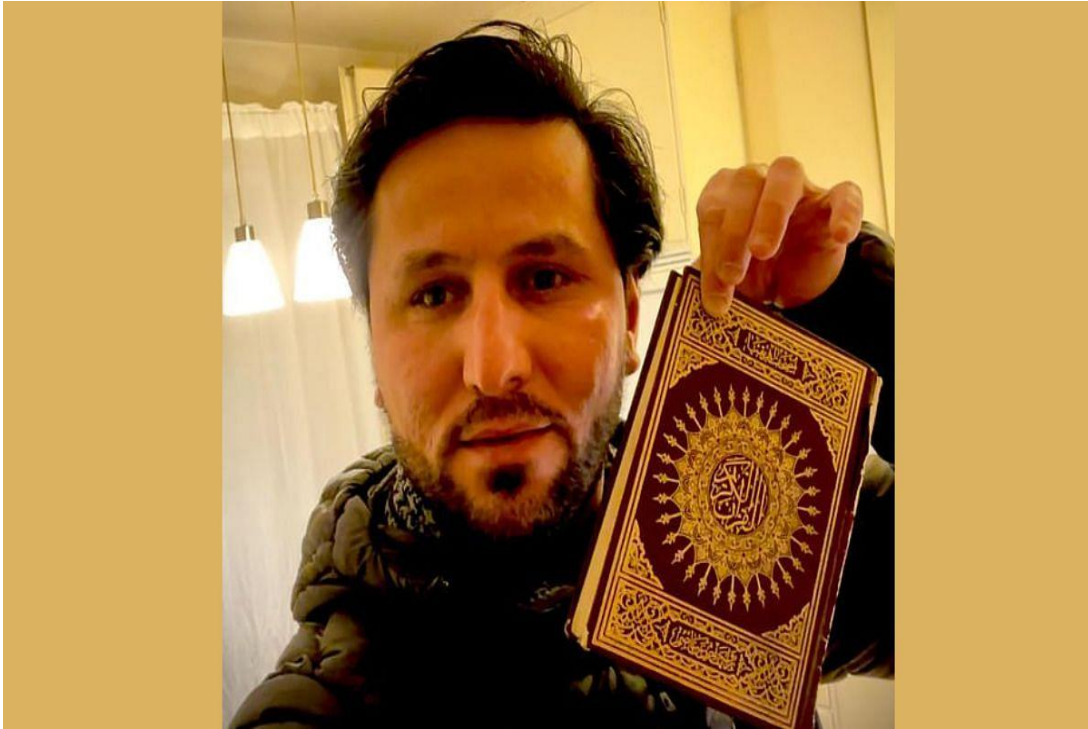
Quran desecrated again in two countries in Europe

Siasat (July 21) states that an Iraqi origin citizen staying in Sweden, Salwan Momika, has once again desecrated Quran and also set fire to Iraqi flag. An incited mob in Baghdad attacked the Swedish embassy and set fire to the building while protesting against the permission granted by Swedish government to insult Quran.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 27) reports that in Denmark capital

Copenhagen, Quran was desecrated once again and Quran was set on fire in front of the embassies of Egypt and Turkiye. In Denmark, this was the second incident within a week where Quran was desecrated. A group named Danish Patriots has staked claim for this incident.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 24) reports that the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said that due to



the incidents of desecration of Quran, Sweden and Denmark are in a situation of war with Muslim nations. The governments of both these countries should hand over the accused who insulted Quran to Iran so that they could be publicly beheaded as per Shariah.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 26) reports that Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has expelled the Swedish Ambassador on the issue of insult to Quran. Secretary General of OIC, Hisein Brahim Taha, said that such activities cannot be tolerated. How can the burning of a holy book of any religion could be termed freedom of expression? He urged the governments of Sweden and Denmark that they take stringent action against the guilty.

Siasat (July 24) reports that Iran has summoned the Denmark Ambassador to its foreign affairs ministry in protest against the burning of Quran in Denmark and demanded that they take stringent action against those who insulted Quran and a case shall be registered against them under Islamic law. Iraq has expelled the Swedish Ambassador from the country and also cut off its diplomatic relationship with Sweden.

Saudi Arabia has also condemned these incidents and said that the two countries should take strong steps to stop anti-Islam activities.

Etemaad (July 24) reports that the foreign affairs ministry of Kuwait demanded the governments of the two countries that they take stringent steps to stop these kind of anti-Islam activities. Otherwise, Kuwait will think about cutting off relationship with both the countries.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 21) reports that the Muslims in Belgium held a massive protest outside European Parliament against the desecration of Quran in Sweden. In the protests, Pakistanis, Afghanis, Bangladeshi, Indians, Sikhs and Christians took part.

In Yemen, huge protests took place against these incidents and the Embassy of Denmark was set on fire. Bahrain told the Ambassador of Sweden in clear terms that if such kinds of desecration of Quran keeps taking place, then it would cut off its diplomatic relationship with both the nations. In order to discuss about the latest incident of desecration of Quran, a special meeting of the foreign ministers of OIC has been called. The OIC has expressed

surprise that the UN resolution condemning the incident also had no effect on the anti-Islam elements.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 27) in its editorial said that all the Muslim nations should cut off their diplomatic relationship with these two countries and should boycott their items.

Avadhnama (July 23) in its editorial expressed happiness that Iraq has taken strong step against Sweden and the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq demanded all Islamic countries to boycott these two countries. It is said in the editorial that until the Islamic world



remains united and oppose these anti-Islam activities, incidents of insult to Islam, Prophet and the Quran will continue to take place.

Over 50 killed in suicide attack in Pakistan



Roznama Sahara (July 31) states that nearly 60 people were killed and more than 150 were injured in a suicide attack that took place during a meeting of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam at Bajaur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Those who were killed included two leaders of the organisation, Maulana Ziaullah Khan Jan and Hamidullah Haqqani. The health official of the district said that more than 60 bodies were brought to the hospital and the number is likely to increase. Those who were seriously injured were shifted to Peshawar in military helicopters. The cameraman of Geo News Samiullah was also injured in this blast. Inspector General of Police of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that

it was a suicide attack. Those who carried out the attack came to the meeting wearing a jacket filled with explosives and triggered the blast by detonating themselves. Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman expressed concern on the incident and demanded from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that a high level inquiry shall be conducted into the case.

Siasat (August 2) in its editorial expressed concern over increasing terror incidents in Pakistan and said that ever since Taliban captured power in Afghanistan, there has been a huge increase in terrorist activities in Pakistan. At least 100 people were killed in a blast that took place in a masjid in Peshawar in January this year. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan maintains close relationship with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. The Pakistan government had demanded the rulers of Afghanistan that it should not allow its land to be used for the terrorist attacks being carried out against Pakistan. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has said they had no role behind the incident. The target of the attack was the Fazal-ur-Rahman

group of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam which is considered as a fundamentalist Islamic organisation. Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman is linked to the Deobandi organisation in India. His party is a member of the ruling alliance in Pakistan.

The newspaper said that the ISIS has now started terrorist activities in Pakistan as well. Since the Fazal-ur Rahman group is related to the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan, the ISIS has targeted it. Pakistan has been supporting Islamic terrorism for the past several years for its political interests. Till recently, there were several camps in Pakistan where Taliban were given training in terrorist activities. When the Russia-backed rulers were in power in Afghanistan, the terrorist activities against them were being carried out from Pakistan's land. It is being said

that these terrorists were trained by the US intelligence agency CIA.

In 2001, Pakistan overthrew the then Afghan government at the behest of US. Since then, Pakistan had adopted a twin-policy. At one level, Pakistan was in alliance with the US military and at another level Taliban were given refuge in Pakistan. Due to the civil war that has been continuing in Afghanistan for several years, there are a large number of terrorists on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. Now the Pakistan government has sensed dangers from them. As the ISIS's bloodshed increased after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, the rulers of Pakistan have lost their sleep. The Pakistan government has to rethink on its policies in order to curb the rising terrorism in the country.

Demand for resignation of Bangladesh PM

Etemaad (August 31) states that thousands of supporters of the main Opposition party in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, held a massive protest in capital Dhaka and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The protesters were also seen demanding that a national government of all parties shall be formed in Bangladesh, and under its supervision, elections could be held. They allege that there is no possibility of a fair election under Sheikh Hasina's administration.

It is to be noted that in 2018, the Sheikh Hasina's government had put prominent Opposition leader Khalida Zia in jail on charges of corruption. Now the people of Bangladesh are protesting against the government of Sheikh Hasina. The Opposition party has been alleging that there is a huge increase in price rise and unemployment under the current regime and the country has become bankrupt from economic point of view. Main Opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party has been demanding that the parliamentary

elections, which is scheduled to take place in January 2024, shall be held under the supervision of an all-party government. Prominent Opposition leader Abdul Matin Khan told journalists that our single-point agenda is that democracy is restored in Bangladesh and this is possible only after a fair election. The current government should resign and an interim national government shall be formed under whose supervision elections could be held in the country.

An Opposition leader from Chatgaon, Mirza Abbas, said the government tried its best to stop the rally but it did not succeed. Nearly 50,000 people who were on the way to take part in the rally were arrested by police. It is to be noted that in Bangladesh, the opposition parties had alleged rigging in the parliamentary elections held in 2014 and 2018. However, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had rejected these allegations. Sheikh Hasina has been in power since 2009. There are serious allegations of corruption and dictatorship against her.

Military coup in Niger



Inquilab (July 28) reports that the military has overthrown the elected government in the Muslim-majority nation of Niger in Africa. According to media sources, President Mohamed Bazoum was arrested by his own bodyguards. The military spokesperson has announced a curfew in the country for an indefinite period. On the other hand, the supporters of deposed president have been condemning the military coup and have been holding huge protests in Niger capital Niamey for his release. According to military spokesperson, President Mohamed Bazoum and his family are safe.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken condemned the military coup in Niger and said that the US would continue to support the previously elected government. Meanwhile, the Niger Army has sealed the country's borders. The military coup and the arrest of the president have been announced at the behest of National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland. The name of the military officer who led the coup is Colonel Major

Amadou Abdramane. He said that we, meaning the military and the security forces, had decided to end the previous corrupt administration. He clarified that the military decided to take powers in its hands due to the financial and social misery in the country. He said that those who have been deposed will not be physically harmed.

The military has also announced immediate removal of the heads of all institutions. The military said that it will not tolerate any kind of outside interference in this connection. The Secretary General of United Nations, while condemning the military coup in Niger, said we are against the unconstitutional change. The United Nations has urged the new ruling group in Niger that they immediately release former president Bazoum and establish democracy in the country. This apart, no such action shall be taken due to which violence will spread in the country.

According to French news agency AFP, the Army is patrolling the capital city Niamey and tanks are deployed in different places. The soldiers have taken control of



France had given powers to the colonies in western Africa to do a referendum and review their relationship with France. In the elections following this, Nigerian Progressive Party came to power. In 1959, the Constituent Assembly was formed in Niger and Hamani Diori took oath as the President. Later he joined hands with leaders of other parties in Niger and took over as the Prime

the President's House and arrested the President. It is being said that the Army has sought the resignation of the president. When the president refused to resign from the post, the Army arrested him.

Avadhnama (July 28) states that there has been tension between the President and senior military officials for a long time. As per a correspondent of AFP, the Army is patrolling the President's House and the capital. However, till now there is no indication of clashes between the Army and people anywhere in the country.

The President of Nigeria said that it is condemnable that the Army overthrew a government elected by the people. He urged the Army that they immediately release the President elected by the people. The European Union has also condemned the coup. The spokesperson of Germany's foreign affairs ministry said they were trying to collect information from its Embassy located in Niamey.

Background: Niger was once a part of the Ottoman Empire. Its history stretches to thousands of years ago. In 1918, following the First World War, France captured this region and in 1922 it was duly declared as a colony of France. In 1946, France granted limited autonomy to this colony. On July 23, 1956, the French parliament announced an autonomous government and granted it freedom on internal matters. On October 4, 1958,

Minister.

In 1960, France granted full freedom to Niger and Niger declared Independence on August 3, 1960. On April 15, 1974, Lt Col Seyni Kountche overthrew Diori government through a military coup and imprisoned him. His death took place in detention in April 1989. Later, due to public anger, the Niger Army had to conduct elections in 1993 and a civilian government came to power. In 1999, Mamadou Tandja became the President. In July 2004, he once again became the President. In 2007, a dissident group, MNJ, came into existence in Niger, following which a civil war started in the country. In 2009, a fierce civil war took place because a huge Uranium deposit was found. The eyes of a number of big nations are set on Niger. The peace agreement between the Army and the rebels took place in 2009. When the Supreme Court in Niger refused to grant permission to President Tandja to conduct a referendum for a third term in office, he dissolved the Parliament itself and a Constitutional crisis emerged. In February 2010, the Army took over power and put President Tandja in jail and he was framed in corruption charges. Later, due to pressure from the public, a referendum was held in the country. Thereafter elections took place across the country and Mahamadou Issoufou was elected the President. In 2021, Mohamed Bazoum became the President. Now the Army has removed Bazoum from power.

Judicial reforms bill passed in Israel



Roznama Sahara (July 25) reports that despite strong opposition from the people, the Benjamin Netanyahu government in Israel has passed a judicial reforms bill in Parliament which seeks to limit the powers of the Supreme Court. According to the media, 64 MPs of the ruling alliance voted in favour of the bill while the Opposition boycotted the voting. As per the bill, the Supreme Court cannot interfere in any law passed by the Parliament. The Opposition parties in Israel have announced nationwide protest against the bill. When voting took place in Parliament on the bill, the people of Israel protested outside the Parliament. The Israeli police arrested more than 70 protesters in this connection.

It is to be noted that the people of Israel have been protesting against this controversial bill of Netanyahu government for the past six months. Netanyahu had announced in January to bring such a bill to reduce the powers of the Israeli Supreme Court. Since then, the people of Israel have been holding a protest march against it on every Saturday. As per this law, the Supreme Court of Israel does not have any power to interfere in any law passed by the Parliament. The US has described the law as unfortunate and said that it was harmful for democracy. According to Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post, the current chief of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad and six other retired chiefs have opposed this bill. The current director of Mossad, David

Barnea, said that the government is moving on the wrong path and it will have serious consequences. The former chiefs of Mossad demanded the Netanyahu government to give up its stubbornness and reach an agreement with people and find a way out. They said that Netanyahu due to his stubbornness is dividing the brave people of Israel. It is to be noted that the chief of Israel police had resigned from his post while protesting against this bill right in the beginning itself.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 27) states that thousands of Israeli doctors held a one-day hartal to mark their protest against the passing of this controversial law. Whereas the judges of Israel have also opposed this and said that due to this law the system of 'check-and-balance' will meet its end which is a danger to the democracy. Nearly two dozen human rights organisations of Israel filed a petition before the Supreme Court and demanded that this black law shall be repealed. The series of nationwide protests increased after the passing of this law. In Israel's main city Tel Aviv, more than one lakh people organised a protest against this law. In Jerusalem, police resorted to lathicharge in order to disperse the protesters and more than 200 people were arrested. The labourer organisations of Israel have announced an indefinite hartal against this bill. There were a large number of women among the protesters. The protesters tried to stop the rail system in Israel and stopped many trains. In the main city of Haifa, hundreds of protesters blocked traffic by staging dharna on the road. The leaders who are opposing the bill say that the Prime Minister of Israel Netanyahu is surrounded by corruption allegations and he got this law passed in order to escape from cases so that no case shall be registered against him in the Supreme Court. More than 10,000 reserve soldiers of

Israeli Army have announced that they will not do military service in future for Israel. Israel's security organisations and more than 100 senior officials of the Army supported their announcement and said that Netanyahu is hell bent on destroying Israel and the Jewish community. On the other hand, Benjamin Netanyahu said that in democracy, the Army is always under the government. The Israeli reserve soldiers who were announcing that they would not do military service in future are traitors and they will be dealt with in a legal manner.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 24) said Israeli Army chief Herzi Halevi said the law passed by the Parliament will have an adverse effect on the morale of the Israeli Army. The Israeli Army radio announced that the Army will arrest such reserve soldiers who had announced that they would not do military service in protest against the judicial reforms bill.

Siasat (July 19) reports that Israel's former prime minister and Opposition leader Yair Lapid said that Netanyahu is pushing the Jewish community and Israel towards destruction in order to save himself from going to jail. We will strongly oppose any plan to weaken the judicial system. The chiefs of Israel's three wings held a meeting with the defence minister and indicated to him about the increasing dissatisfaction in the Army. According to news agency AP, in a letter to the defence ministry, more than 4,000 reserve soldiers and officials of reserve soldiers made it clear that they would not be present for military duty in case of any necessity. This is because whatever is happening due to the stubbornness of one person is a huge danger to the democracy and judicial system of Israel. We are concerned more about the interests of the nation rather than about the interests of any person. ■

Civil war erupts in Sudan again

Etemaad (July 16) reports that at least 16 people were killed in a bloody clash that took place between the Army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan's western region of Darfur. A union of lawyers said that indiscriminate firing took place between Sudan Army and paramilitary forces in the border areas of neighbouring country Chad in which many people were killed and 20,000 people had to leave their homes and take refuge in secure places. It is to be noted that since April, there is a war between the chief of Sudanese Army, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and the paramilitary forces (RSF) of his former Deputy Commander Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo. The ceasefire that had been declared between the two groups on the intervention of the Saudi Arabia has been broken now.

Etemaad (July 13) states that at least 34 people were killed in an indiscriminate firing that took place in a city called Omdurman. Majority of those who were killed were traders, general public and

children. The Army has claimed that following its action, the attackers of RSF have fled from the spot. The Army has also claimed that they had also carried out aerial attacks on the bases of the rebels in which many people were killed. Both the groups have accused each other of breaking the peace talks. The Sudanese Army is marching towards the western region. However, the Sudanese Army has rejected the claim that it has launched aerial attacks on military areas. The Army said that the RSF is responsible for these attacks. Till now, more than 200 people were killed in Omdurman. According to International Organisation for Migration, in the recent civil war in Sudan, 30 lakh people have become homeless and more than 5,000 people were killed.

Hamara Samaj (July 24) reports that in majority of the areas in Sudan, many people have died of hunger due to non-availability of foodgrains. Mobs are looting shops and godowns. The government has not given salary to its employees for the

past four months. The Army has alleged that the rebels had destroyed several stocks of foodgrains due to which a food crisis has come up in the country.

Etemaad (July 16) reports that mobile and internet services have been suspended in the entire country. In many regions in Khartoum, the war between the two groups is on and the sounds of bullets being fired could be heard from near the military headquarters. The Army and the paramilitary forces are using all kinds of weapons against each other. Drones and fighter planes are also being heavily used. According to sources in United Nations, the entire medical system has collapsed and injured are not given any medical care. In many parts of the country, cholera and other diseases are spreading in which



several people have died. The transport system and businesses have also collapsed in the entire country.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 25) reports that the Sudanese Army has announced that 19 people including at least 14 soldiers were killed in a plane crash. The Army has confirmed that both the groups were attacking each other using rockets.

US military ready to rein in Iran



Hamara Samaj (July 22) reports that the US has decided to send more soldiers and fighter aircraft to Gulf region in order to curb the increasing military power of Iran and to foil attempts to seize and destroy US ships at the behest of Iran in Hormuz Strait. The US has declared that a new fleet of F-16s will be send to Gulf region by the end of this week. A senior US official has admitted that the way the military

relationship between Russia, Iran and Syria has been growing, is a serious threat to the US. These three nations want to join hands and throw the US out of Syria. The US has decided to send F-22 Raptor fighter planes also to this region so that the US ships could be provided air cover.

Siasat (July 22) reports that US news agency Associated Press, quoting US defence department, has said that US

defence secretary Lloyd Austin has given permission to deploy USS Bataan, Readiness Group and 26 Marine Unit to be deployed in the Gulf region. The Readiness group includes three ships including the assault ship Bataan. The US air force planes could launch attacks on any target from this ship. This apart, the US has decided to deploy more than 2,500 navy personnel in this region. According to defence ministry, this decision has been taken to stop Iranian attack on US ships.

It is to be noted that in the beginning of this year, Iran tried to seize two oil

tankers of the US in Hormuz Strait and one of them was even attacked. According to US defence department, US ships have been dispatched to this region so that US vessels could be provided security by the aircraft and the increasing military activities of Iran could be stopped. The chief of US Central Command, General Michael Erick Kurilla, said the US military has been sent to the Gulf region so that we could protect our allied countries from Iranian attacks and the international trade route shall be saved from the pressure of Iran.

Iran claims to have arrested Israeli spies

Hamara Samaj (July 26) reports that Iran's intelligence wing has claimed that it has arrested Israeli terrorists who were planning to launch attacks on Muharram processions in five provinces in Iran. Nearly 43 bombs were also seized from them, which were manufactured in Israel. As per a press release issued by Iran's government



news agency Mehr, a gang of Israeli terrorists were caught from Teheran, Kerman, Isfahan, Kurdistan and Mazandaran regions. More than two dozen people were part of this gang. It is to be noted that on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Mehsa Amini, there is a possibility of more protest rallies.

It has been claimed in the government statement that the gang of the terrorists who were arrested stay in

Denmark and Netherlands and they tried to indulge in destructive activities in Israel and also tried to make bombs. Israel has been providing financial help to this network. According to Iranian government, this gang has made a plan to destroy the Khabr of Qasem Soleimani who was assassinated in Baghdad in 2020. This gang has been making plans to target especially public places, gas stations and modes of transport.

Fresh campaign to implement hijab in Iran

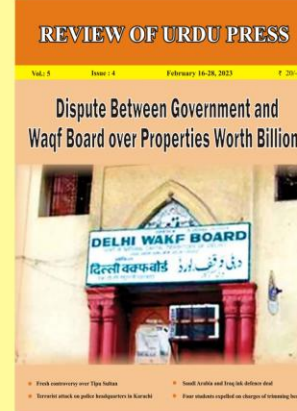
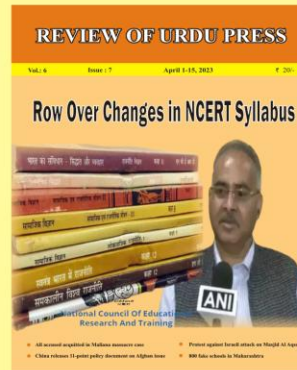
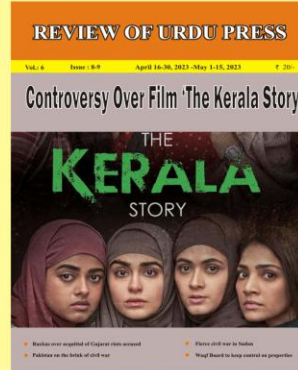
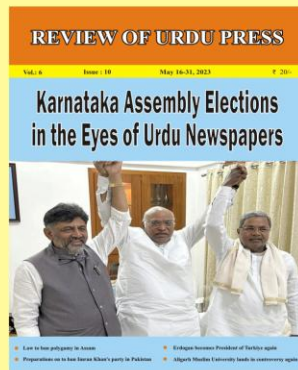
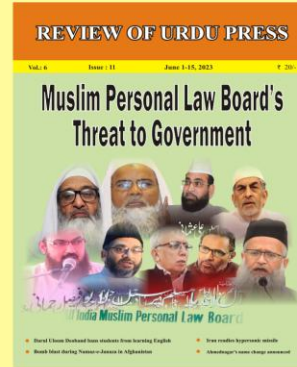
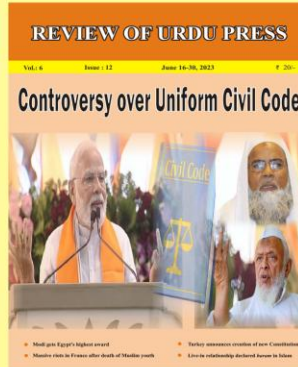
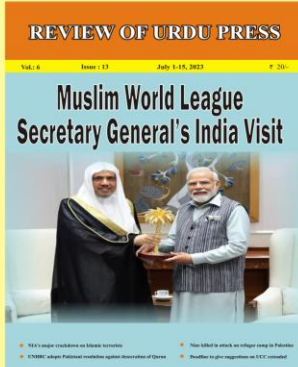


Roznama Sahara (July 17) reports that the Iran government has announced a fresh campaign to strictly implement hijab on Iranian women. Police spokesperson General Saeed Montazer Al-Mahdi said the moral police has once again started efforts to arrest women wearing non-Shariah dress in public places. The vehicles of moral police have once again been spotted on the streets of Teheran. It is to be noted that last year, following the death of 22-year-old Mehsa Amini, more than 1,000 protesters were killed and over 50,000 people were arrested in nationwide protests that took place in Iran. However, despite this, the women continued with their campaign against hijab. Following these protests, there were condemnation from across the world and the Iranian administration came under pressure and removed moral police from the streets and had also announced that they had dissolved the moral police. The moral police was constituted to implement Shariah laws. The Iran government had claimed that foreign powers were behind this protest by women who wanted to defame the Islamic government of Iran.

Hindustan Express (July 24) reports that Iran has announced to reactivate its moral police and they have launched a campaign against women wearing non-Shariah dress in different

cities of Iran. It is to be noted that last year the police had arrested 22-year-old Mahsa Amini for allegedly not wearing the hijab in a proper manner. Later she died in police custody. Following it, huge protests took place against the hijab in Iran, evoking strong reactions from across the world, and the Iran government came under pressure and dissolved the moral police. However, now it has been activated again.

It is to be noted that after the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, it has been made mandatory for women to wear hijab and Shariah dress. According to Professor Saeid Golkar of the department of political science in Tennessee University in US, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been set up on three pillars namely moral police, Jewish enmity and opposition to US. Iran cannot change this policy. An intellectual of Iran told Al-Arabia that it is a compulsion for Iran to implement moral policing again because it cannot admit itself to be a non-Muslim country. He said that during the regime of Reza Shah Pahlavi, there was a huge influence of Western culture on Iranian society. When the fundamentalists overthrew the Shah and captured power in Iran, they started implementing the Shariah laws by force because it is very important for them to shine their religious image among Islamic world. Those who are currently in power in Iran belong to the fundamentalist ideology. That is why they are determined to implement Shariah law by force. This is the reason why the moral police have been reactivated ignoring public opinion. What is to be seen is how the women and teenagers of Iran will react to these new restrictions.



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