

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 6

Issue : 15

August 1-15, 2023

₹ 20/-

Survey on the Premises of Gyanvapi



- Demand for survey at Shahi Idgah masjid in Mathura
- Imran Khan sent to three years in jail
- Iran releases five US prisoners
- Assam government gets ready to ban polygamy

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

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Summary

A few Urdu newspapers in the country have been deliberately presenting false and misleading news to its readers in order to defend the rioters in Nuh. Urdu Times (August 2), Mumbai Urdu News (August 7), Aurangabad Times (August 7) Siasat (August 2) and Salar (August 1) have claimed that the violence took place in Nuh due to the internal conflict between two groups taking part in the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra. However, the truth is that the Muslim rioters launched an armed attack on those taking part in the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra. These rioters had collected stones on the roof-tops of the buildings much in advance like a well-planned conspiracy. When the Jalabhishek Yatra was passing through the Muslim localities, these rioters pelted stones on the yatra. The Urdu newspapers published the news regarding the violence that broke out in different parts of Haryana in reaction to this violence as per their own whims and fancies.

As per the guidelines of the Union government, Supreme Court and the Press Council, no indication shall be given about the religion of the rioters or their victims in such cases. However, throwing these guidelines to the wind, these Urdu newspapers claimed that the rioters had targeted masjids, imams, houses and shops of Muslims.

On the directions of Allahabad High Court, the Archeological Survey of India has started the work for a survey on the Gyanvapi premises in Varanasi. More than four dozen archeologists are involved in this survey. The Anjuman Intezamia Committee of Gyanvapi had filed petitions in courts more than two dozen times demanding that this survey should be stopped. However, the courts did not accept their request. The masjid committee and the Muslim side are somewhat worried that if such a survey takes place, the crimes of Mughals will be exposed and it will be established that the masjid was constructed on the ruins of the ancient Kashi Vishwanath Mandir after demolishing it. Even today, this so-called masjid is full of Hindu religious symbols.

However, following the destruction of Babri structure, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had tried to erase the symbols of Hindus from the Gyanvapi. The structures of Hindu Devi-Devatas are clearly visible in the photos of different British photographers of 18th century, who had taken photos of this masjid. In the back portion of the masjid, the murtis of Hindu Devi-Devatas are present even today, which is called Shringar Gauri. It is a historical fact that in 1699, on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, many temples in Banaras including the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir were destroyed and a masjid was constructed in its place. This *firman* of Aurangzeb is kept in the library of Aligarh Muslim University and in the archives of Bikaner.

A same situation prevails at the Srikrishna Janmasthan in Mathura. The grand mandir of Bhagwan Srikrishna built by the King of Orchha Raja Vir Singh Judev was destroyed on the basis of the *firman* of Aurangzeb in 1670 and an Idgah and a masjid were constructed on its place. All documentary evidence related to this action of the invaders are still present in the National Archives of India.



Survey on the premises of Gyanvapi



Inquilab (August 5) reports that the Supreme Court, while rejecting a petition filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, has refused to stop the survey being conducted on the premises of Gyanvapi masjid except at the sealed Wazukhana (pond). It is to be noted that during a survey on the premises of Gyanvapi in May 2022, it was claimed that a Shivling was found at the Wazukhana. However, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had said that it was not a Shivling but a fountain. The Wazukhana was sealed due to this controversy. It is to be noted that the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the decision of Allahabad High Court to grant permission for a survey on the premises of the masjid. In the Supreme Court, the lawyer of the masjid committee, Huzefa Ahmadi, had contended that permission to grant any kind of survey on the premises of the masjid is a violation of the Worship of Places Act, 1991 and a petition filed under this Act is still being heard by the court. He also said that there is no point in scratching old wounds. The court has recorded the statement of Archeological Survey of India that there will not be any kind of digging

on the spot during the survey and no damages will be inflicted on the structure.

Inquilab (August 16) reports that a survey by a team of Archeological Survey of India is currently on at the premises of Gyanvapi. Five teams of experts from Archeological Survey of India and IIT are conducting a search on the entire Gyanvapi premises. On the directions of the court, documents are also being prepared apart from photography and videography of the survey.

Roznama Sahara (August 5) reports that the Muslim side has demanded that the report of the survey shall be kept sealed, which the Supreme Court has rejected. It is to be mentioned that last year also the Supreme Court had directed that a survey shall be conducted on the premises of Gyanvapi. However, the Muslim side has been trying to create hurdles on it again and again. In this connection, they had knocked on the doors of Allahabad High Court and Supreme Court at least two dozen times. However, both these courts had rejected the petitions seeking to stop the survey.

Comment: The controversy over Gyanvapi premises is nearly 350 years old. The Hindu side says that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the Kashi

Vishwanath Mandir in 1669 and constructed the Gyanvapi mosque. They say that in this connection, there are two *firman*s of the Mughal Emperor. On the other hand, Muslims say that this masjid was not built after destroying the temple.

According to puranas, the Gyanvapi originated even before Ganga ji descended on earth. That time, Bhagwan Shiv used his trishul to dig water for his own *abhishek*. It is at this place that Bhagwan Shiv provided spiritual knowledge to Mother Parvati. Hence it got its name Gyanvapi and the water that oozed out from here has since been known as Gyanvapi pond. The meaning of Gyanvapi is 'pond of knowledge'. The puranas mention about six vapis of Kashi. Among the puranas, it is mentioned in the Ek Ling Purana that 'Devasya Dakshini Bhage Vapi Thishtati Shobhana| Thasyat Vodakam Peetva Punarjanma Na Viddhate.' Its meaning is that if one consumes the water from the vapi on the southern side of ancient Visveshwar Mandir, he will be liberated from the cycle of births and deaths.

It is being said that Samrat Vikramaditya had constructed the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir which used to be reconstructed again and again. During the regime of Akbar, one of this Navaratnas, Raja Todarmal, had reconstructed the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir which was destroyed by Aurangzeb by issuing a *firman*. It is being said that the Maratha ruler of Indore, Malhar Rao Holkar, had tried to rebuild Vishwanath Mandir with the help of the kings of Jaipur and Jodhpur in the 17th century. However, due to the interference of Nawab of Awadh Asaf-ud-daula, it did not work out. In 1777, the Maharani of Indore, Rani Ahilyabhai Holkar, started the reconstruction of Kashi Vishwanath Mandir and it was completed in 1780. It is being said that this mandir is situated a little away from the original temple. Whereas the Gyanvapi mosque is situated in place of the original temple. The demand of the Hindu side is for permission to construct the temple on its original place.



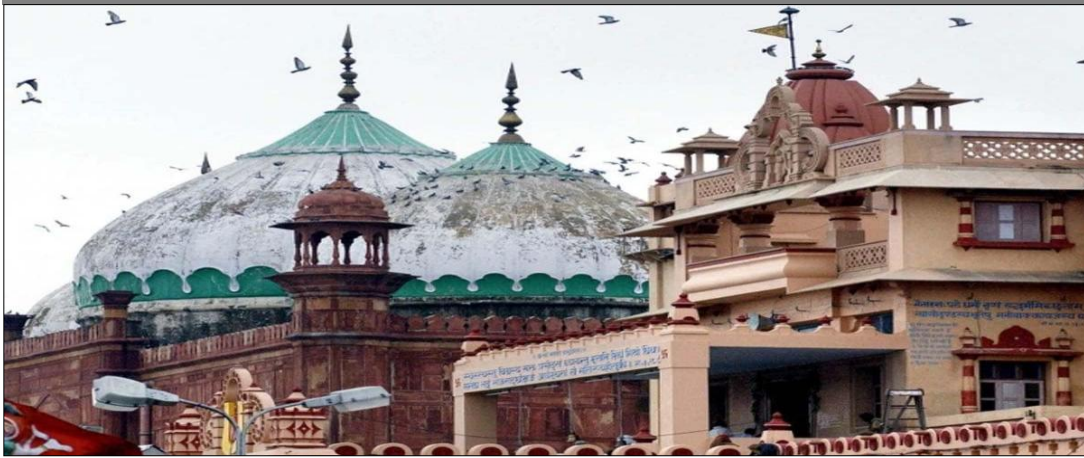
In the year 1919, on behalf of Swayambhu Jyotirling Bhagwan Vishweshar, a petition was filed before a court in Varanasi for the first time. In this petition, it was requested that Hindus shall be given permission to do puja on the premises of Gyanvapi. In 1998, on behalf of the Muslim side, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee moved the Allahabad High Court and said that civil court cannot take a decision on the issue in view of the Places of Worship Act. On the orders of the Supreme Court, a stay was issued on the hearing of the case in the civil court and the stay continued for the next 22 years. In 2019, on behalf of Swayambhu Jyotirling Bhagwan Vishweshar, Vijay Shankar Rastogi filed a petition before the Varanasi district court. In this petition, a demand had been made to conduct a survey on the premises of Gyanvapi by the Archeological Survey of India. In April 2021, despite stay by the high court, the civil court of Varanasi opened the issue once again and granted permission for a survey of the masjid. However, the high court issued a stay on the order of the civil court while hearing a petition of the Muslim side.

Later in August 2021, five women moved a contention before the Civil Judge (Senior Division) of Varanasi where they

sought permission to conduct daily puja-archana at the Shringar Gauri Mandir behind the Gyanvapi masjid. In April 2022, the civil court had given the order to conduct a survey and videography of the Gyanvapi premises. The Muslim side opposed it. In May 2022, the Hindu side demanded before the sessions court to seal

the controversial place, which the court had accepted. The Muslim side approached the Supreme Court against this decision. On this, the Supreme Court ordered protection to the Shivling inside the masjid and sealing of Wazukhana. However, permission was granted to continue namaz in the masjid.

Demand for survey at Shahi Idgah masjid in Mathura



Inquilab (August 15) reports that after getting permission for conducting a survey on Gyanvapi premises, now the eyes of Hindus are on the Shahi Idgah masjid in Mathura. In this connection, the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Nirman Trust has knocked at the doors of the Supreme Court to conduct a survey at Shahi Idgah Masjid. It is to be noted that in the beginning of this year, a lower court in Uttar Pradesh and the Allahabad High Court had rejected the petitions of the trust seeking a survey. The trust approached the Supreme Court against it. The trust said that the Muslim side is constantly destroying the Hindu symbols present on this building. It is to be noted that earlier the Supreme Court, in another petition, had given the opinion that if the court conducts hearing on the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi and the Shahi Idgah masjid issue, it would create unrest in the society.

Earlier, a civil court on September 30, 2020 while citing the Places of Worship Act, 1991, had rejected this petition. While

questioning the petition of the Hindu side in the civil court, the managing committee of the Shahi Idgah Masjid and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board demanded that the petition of the Hindu side shall be rejected citing the Places of Worship Act, which the civil judge had accepted. The trust questioned this decision before the court of the civil judge (senior division) of Mathura which cancelled the decision of the civil court in May 2022.

Aurangabad Times (August 13) reports that a petition was filed before the civil judge (senior division) in 1968 to cancel the agreement between the Shahi Idgah Masjid Intezamia Committee and Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan over the land. This petition was filed on behalf of the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi Trust in which Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan had also been made a party to the case. In this petition, the court had been urged that the agreement signed between Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan and

the Intezamia Committee of Shahi Masjid in 1968 regarding the division of the land of Srikrishna Janmasthan shall be cancelled. The lawyer of the petitioner, Mahesh Chaturvedi, said that it had been urged in the petition that Bhagwan Bal Krishna Keshav Dev is the owner of 13.37 acres of land. Hence illegal constructions on this land shall be removed. This petition was filed by the trustee of Srikrishna Janmabhoomi Trust Vinod Kumar Bindal as a servant of Bhagwan Bal Krishna Keshav Dev seated in the sanctum sanctorum. It is to be noted that as per the agreement, nearly 11 acres from this land of Katra Keshav Dev has been handed over for the construction of temple, whereas 2.37 acre land has been handed over to Shahi Idgah Trust.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 12) reports that Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that the government is thinking about making some changes in some sections of Places of Worship Act. On behalf of Jamiat Ulema, senior advocate Vrinda Grover urged the court that a stay order shall be issued on the cases being heard in different courts regarding the controversies related to masjids and idgahs because they are against the Places of Worship Act. Vrinda Grover said that despite being aware of the Places of Worship Act, lower courts are hearing such cases which is illegal. Jamiat Ulema said that due to these courts, lot of uneasiness has spread among Muslims and the Muslims feel that his religion and places of worship are not safe in India.

On the other hand, a few people like Dr Subramanian Swamy and Ashwini Upadhyaya have questioned the legal status of Places of Worship Act in the court and said that due to this law, the Hindus are unable to demand back more than 2,000 Muslim places of worship including the Kashi and Mathura, where the heretic rulers destroyed the temples and constructed masjids in their place. It is being said in the petition filed before the court on behalf of Jamiat Ulema that it is the responsibility of a secular nation to

protect the Places of Worship Act. The secular Constitution has made this system that the government provides protection to the places of worship of all religions. Despite this, a section of majority community has been regularly targeting Gyanvapi masjid, Quwwatul-e-Islam masjid built on Qutub Minar premises and the Shahi Idgah Masjid in Mathura. By violating the law on the protection of places of worship, the communal elements are staking claim on the historical masjids located in different parts of the country and regularly creating disturbance in society.

Background: The controversy over Srikrishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid started nearly 350 years ago when the then Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb issued an order in 1670 to demolish the Keshav Dev mandir built on the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. Following this, on the orders of Aurangzeb, the Faujdar of Mathura constructed an Idgah and a Masjid on its place. Italian traveler Niccolao Manucci's writings also confirm the destruction of the mandir on the orders of Aurangzeb. He had confirmed that in the month of Ramzan, on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, the temple built on Srikrishna Janmabhoomi was destroyed. As per Hindu puranas, the first mandir on Krishna Janmabhoomi was constructed by the great grandson of Bhagwan Krishna, Vrajnabh. Following this, the temple on the spot were regularly destroyed by heretic invaders and their reconstruction also used to take place. The temple, for which a *firman* was issued by Aurangzeb to destroy it, was built by the King of Orchha Raja Vir Singh Judev during the regime of Mughal Emperor Jehangir. That time an amount of Rs 52 lakh was spent on its construction.

According to Manucci, this temple was of seven stories height and the lamp on top of the temple could be clearly seen from the royal palace in Agra. Irritated over it, Aurangzeb ordered the demolition of the temple and the murtis of the temple were broken and divided into two parts. As per the Shahi *firman* issued by Aurangzeb, one

portion of the murtis was buried under the steps of the Jama Masjid in Agra so that Muslim namazis trample upon these murtis while going to the masjid to offer namaz. On the other hand, the second portion was sent to Mecca and the rulers there were urged to bury it on the steps of Masjid-e-Nabawi. Many Hindu trusts had been urging courts that the steps of the Jama Masjid in Agra shall be broken to take out the destroyed murtis of the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi Mandir so that it shall be rebuilt. However, the courts have not accepted this demand so far.

In this connection, it is also worth mentioning that Hindus were not permitted to enter this area for nearly 200 years. Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah Abdali created bloodbath in this region and hundreds of temples were destroyed. In 1770, the Marathas captured this region

and the temple of Keshav Dev was rebuilt. Later this temple fell into disrepair. In the 19th century, the British auctioned the land of this temple (which was called Katra Keshav Dev) which was purchased by Raja Patnimal, an ancestor of a moneylender Raja Rai Krishna Das. He wanted to build a temple on the spot. However, this was not possible due to lack of financial resources. In the year 1944, Rai Krishna Das handed over this land to renowned industrialist Jugal Kishore Bindala at the instance of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. In 1953, construction work for the temple started on this land and the work was completed in 1958. The institution that built this temple, Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, entered into an agreement with Intezamia Committee of the Idgah in 1968 in which it was decided that both the mandir and the masjid will remain on the land.

Haryana violence in the eyes of Urdu newspapers



Inquilab (August 14) said that it has been declared at the mahapanchayat organized in Palwal in Haryana in the name of Sarv Hindu Samaj that the hands of those who raise their fingers against the mahapanchayat would be cut-off. It was also said in the mahapanchayat that the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra will be started once again from Nuh on August 28. It is to be noted that communal violence spread in Haryana following an attack on this yatra in which at least six persons were killed. It has been demanded at the

mahapanchayat that the Nuh district shall be dissolved and its regions be merged with other districts. A ban on animal slaughter should be imposed in the area and Hindus should be given arms licence on a largescale for their self-protection. For the protection of Hindus, the headquarters of a paramilitary force shall

also be set up in Nuh.

The newspaper said that a demand has been made at the mahapanchayat for the financial boycott of Muslims. Leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Gurugram, Devendra Singh has claimed that the Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra will be taken out once again from August 28 and people from across the country will take part in it. The newspaper said the police did not grant permission to Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal to organize mahapanchayat.

Later a mahapanchayat was called in the name of Sarv Hindu Samaj in which the leaders of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad also took part. Before granting permission for this mahapanchayat, the police had warned that no hate speech shall be delivered at the mahapanchayat and no person shall carry any weapon to the meeting.

As per another news, the khaps of Jat community, Pal Samaj and Rajput Samaj, had totally boycotted this mahapanchayat. A representative of the khaps who boycotted the mahapanchayat, Chaudhary Dharmveer Dagar, said the Jat Samaj is opposed to any kind of violence. Some communal elements want to destroy the social harmony in Haryana. We are opposed to this and such elements will be strongly opposed.

The intriguing thing is that initially many Urdu newspapers including important ones like Aurangabad Times, Mumbai Urdu News and Urdu Times tried to give a different colour to the attack that took place on Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra and had claimed that the riots took place due to the mutual conflict between two groups which took part in the yatra. But when the reaction to the attack came, they unleashed a strong campaign against the government.

Urdu Times (August 7) has published a news in which it has been claimed that the Haryana government has been demolishing the buildings of Muslims in places like Nuh and Tawadu. Almost all newspapers have prominently carried the direction of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which talked about the ban on demolishing the houses of Muslims using bulldozers.

Inquilab (August 8) said that Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, while taking suo motu cognizance of the bulldozer action being undertaken in Mewat, directed the government to stop the bulldozer action

in the state till the next orders of the high court. The newspaper also complained that no Muslim organization is ready to openly come out on the street against the action being taken against Muslims.

As per another news, in a press conference organized at Press Club, it has been alleged that the government has been taking unilateral action and indiscriminate arrest of Muslims are taking place. Congress spokesperson Meem Afzal said that the communal riots in Nuh has been organized by the BJP in order to distract the attention of people from the riots in Manipur.

Inquilab (August 7) has accused the Muslim organisations and leaders that they have left the Muslims in Mewat at the mercy of government tyranny. Nobody has raised his voice against the communal and unilateral action of the government and neither approached the Supreme Court.

As per another news, Jamiat Ulema has decided to raise the issue of riots in Nuh in the Supreme Court. A similar announcement was made by vice-president of Rashtriya Lok Dal, Shahid Siddiqui, as well. It is being said in another news that despite Section 144 being imposed in Gurugram, the Hindu organisations had called a mahapanchayat. However, the police and the administration did not stop it. In this mahapanchayat, a demand was made for the economic boycott of Muslims and release of the murderers of imam. The newspaper also claimed that thousands of Muslims staying in Mewat are fleeing from there because they are not safe there. In this mahapanchayat, it has also been decided that no Hindu shall ever give his building on rent to Muslims, neither purchase any item from them.

Inquilab (August 13) reports that the Haryana government has sought a reply from 50 panchayats in the state which passed a resolution calling for economic boycott of Muslims.



It is being said in an article published in **Urdu Times** (August 10) that from the way in which the Jats, Gurjars and ex-servicemen of Haryana have come out in the open for Mev Muslims, there is a hope that the country could be stopped from going into the hands of communal elements.

Salar (August 7) said that the efforts made by some people linked to BJP and Sangh Parivar to connect the incidents that took place in Nuh to Pakistan and the allegations of gangrape of women were rejected by Additional Director General of Police, Mamata Singh. From this, the propaganda against Muslims have been exposed.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 5) said that two reporters of *The Wire* examined the Nuh riots and exposed the claim of Home Minister Anil Vij that the Muslim rioters had taken hostage of those who took refuge in Nalhar Mahadev Temple.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 9) reports that the Jamiat Ulema has filed a petition in the Supreme Court and demanded that the court direct the state governments across the country that they stop using bulldozers for political purposes.

Siasat (August 9) reports that the Peace Party has alleged that the state governments run by communal parties are running bulldozers on the houses and shops of Muslims in order to please fascist

elements. The same newspaper in its August 6 edition expressed concern that the state governments of BJP are using the bulldozers to demolish the houses and shops of innocent Muslims. These state governments are doing so in order to create an atmosphere of fear among Muslims and garner the votes of majority community in the forthcoming elections.

Aurangabad Times (August 6) has published a statement of the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani in which it has been stated that the riots in Nuh were pre-planned. The hands of the police and the administration were behind this riots. In the riots, the Muslims suffered the biggest damages. However, they were also arrested. On the other hand, the rioters are roaming around freely.

Siasat (August 7) states that the Superintendent of Police of Alwar, Anand Sharma, said that it was wrong to say that the social media account that contained the objectionable post linked to the violence in Nuh was being operated from Alwar in Rajasthan. It has come to light in the police investigation that this account was being operated from Pakistan. Those youths who were singing the Mewati songs have nothing to do with Alwar and they stay in Faisalabad in Pakistan.

Siasat (August 2) has given a new colour to the violence in Nuh and claimed that this violence was sparked due to the mutual conflict between the two groups



taking part in the yatra and the Muslims had no role in it. However, the responsibility for the riots has been put on the Muslims at the behest of the government of a particular party and instead of bringing out the truth, the Godi media has been running a propaganda against Muslims at the behest of the government.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 4) in its editorial said that the state government has failed to stop the riots. The same newspaper has said in another news that due to the riots in Mewat, Muslims are feeling that they are unsafe and they are fleeing from there in large numbers.

Hindustan Express (August 4) has demanded from the Central government that it intervene to stop the violence that has spread in Haryana.

Aurangabad Times (August 4) has published the news of two masjids being set on fire along with their photographs in Palwal.

Siasat (August 14) has expressed concern that the mahapanchayats in Haryana have been creating an atmosphere

of hatred against Muslims and have been provoking violence against them. But the state government is not taking any action to stop them.

Etemaad (August 13) has published an article by Masoom Moradabadi in which it has been stated that it has become difficult for Muslims to stay in Haryana and hundreds of families are

fleeing from their due to fear. In Gurugram, those who have given jobs to Muslims have been warned that if they don't remove Muslims from the jobs they will have to face serious consequences.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 13) states that the delegation of Jamiat Ulema which had visited Mewat, said that 13 masjids in the area had been set on fire.

Urdu Times (August 12) has claimed that thousands of Muslims have been fleeing Mewat in order to save their lives.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 12) has alleged that the mischievous elements of Bajrang Dal had attacked the masjids and people belonging to Tablighi Jamaat in Palwal and they tried to set them alive on fire. In this connection, the Jamiat Ulema has filed an FIR in a police station.

Urdu Times (August 12) has claimed that 36 khap panchayats of Jats have announced that they would protect Muslims under any circumstance and they will give a befitting reply to those who attack them.

Campaign to attract Pasmada Muslims to BJP

Hindustan Express (August 13) reports that the state president of BJP in Jharkhand, Babulal Marandi, while addressing the office-bearers of BJP's minority morcha in Ranchi, said that Pasmada Muslims are backward compared to other communities on the issue of development. Hence Prime Minister Narendra Modi is specially

prepared to lead them on the path of development. Marandi said that 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has been the priority of the BJP government right from the beginning. The government has formulated several projects to lead the Pasmada community, who stand on the last leg of the Muslim community, on the path of



development. Today, every person of this community is looking at Narendra Modi with all hopes and they are fully confident that Prime Minister Modi will take Pasmada Muslims on the path of development. Marandi said that Prime Minister Modi is making efforts to fully implement the development projects by keeping in front even the last man standing, with the formula of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.’ This is the reason why the Pasmada Muslims are getting the highest benefits from the development projects of the Modi government.

Hamara Samaj (August 11) reports that while commenting on the no-confidence motion brought in the Parliament against the Modi government, chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi said that due to the propaganda of Modi, a youth of RPF selectively killed Pasmada Muslims inside the train and he also said that if you want to stay in the country, you have to vote for Modi. Actually what is happening in our country? He said that the budget for minorities has been cut by 40 per cent. Many scholarship programmes have been ended due to which 1.8 lakh Muslim students got affected. Owaisi has sarcastically said that Prime Minister Modi

loves Pasmada Muslims very much but his ministry does not even have a single Muslim minister. Akhlaq, Pehlu Khan and Tabarez Ansari, who were killed in mob lynching, were also Pasmada Muslims.

Hamara Samaj (August 1) said in its editorial that the Muslims have totally disappeared from the political sphere of Bharat. They definitely give their votes and governments are formed in many states due to their votes. However, no one takes their name. The most important reason for this is that these political parties are scared that the moment the names of Muslims come to their lips, they will not get the votes of the majority community. This is the thinking of almost every political party. A kind of fear has been inserted in the minds of these parties by the rumour mills of RSS that the Congress, which has been ruling since the Independence, has put the majority community on the margins but has appeased the Muslims. This is the reason why the Muslims are always with the Congress.

This was such a lie which has no other example. The government statistics exposes the lies of BJP, which state that the Muslim community in Bharat is lagging behind. In the entire country, either the government is controlling the Waqf properties of Muslims or the managers

appointed by the government is promoting illegal seizure of Waqf properties. There is rampant corruption even in the money collected from the Hajis who go for Haj but the allegation is that the Congress government has appeased Muslims. If the BJP is honest, then it has to fully free the Waqf properties of Muslims so that the Muslims could manage them on their own. The Muslims in the country will become Atmanirbhar from the income they get from it. The Sikhs are an example of it, who manage their gurdwaras and their entire properties on their own and do not accept any kind of governmental interference in them. However, their population is less than 2 percent while Muslims are the country's biggest minority community and their population is more than 25 per cent.

The truth is that the BJP has been regularly targeting them and all the Opposition parties also consider Muslims as untouchables. Now it has become too much that Muslims are not even mentioned in the election manifesto of any party. The same thing is happening once again before the 2024 elections. The way the Prime Minister's love towards Muslim sisters and daughters got burst like a flood ahead of the 2019 elections, he became crazy to free them from triple talaq. Exactly the same way, ahead of the general elections this time also his heartache has gone up for Pasmada Muslims. From the way the sympathy song is being sung, it looks like after 2024 the Muslims in this country will not face any issues at all. This is because when 80 percent of the Pasmada community is taken into its lap by the government then it shall be understood all the problems of Indian Muslims have been resolved. The leaders of Pasmada brotherhood have the right to celebrate and beat the drums as it is the first time after independence that the government is adopting them and now they will get 80 percent representation in every institution in the country.

In **Hamara Samaj** (August 10), an article by Dr Muzaffar Husain Gazali was

published in which it has been stated that Prime Minister Modi has told the MPs of NDA that they celebrate Raksha Bandhan festival with Muslim women and tie rakhi to them. Before this, during a meeting with the MPs from Uttar Pradesh, he said that the ban on triple talaq has brought relief to Muslim women. Due to changes in the Haj policy, now Muslim women can go for Haj without her father, brother or husband. This year, 4,000 such women had gone for Haj. However, the truth is that the BJP has not done even a single work in the past nine years for political unity or social harmony. Instead, whatever was there, that was also ended.

The newspaper said that the BJP, which had done an experiment in 2017 to tie-up with non-Jatav Dalits and non-Yadav OBCs in Uttar Pradesh, received success in it and they formed the government in Uttar Pradesh. However, this time the condition of BJP is weak. After they broke up with Nitish Kumar, their difficulties have increased and hence they understood the need for the votes of Pasmada Muslims. The population of backward class Muslims is high in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Uttar Pradesh, the 'Mission 80' launched by BJP can't succeed without Muslims. Under this plan, the BJP had given tickets to 389 Muslims in the municipal elections out of which 61 got elected. Now, BJP's Gurjar Muslim leader Ghulam Ali Khatana, the lone Muslim minister in Yogi government Danish Azad Ansari and former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Tariq Mansoor have been brought to the field to help Muslims. Former MP Shabir Ali has been working on the project to make Muslims as 'Modi Mitra' in alliance with BJP's minority morcha. However, though there is no concept of 'jaat-paat' in Islam, almost all castes and communities are present among Bharatiya Muslims just like among Hindus.

The newspaper said that the president of BJP's minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, said that the minority morcha will



rioters are also Pasmanda Muslims. These same poor Pasmanda Muslims have been made the targets of bulldozers in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, Jahangirpuri in Uttar Pradesh and in Nuh. Even then the BJP wants to sail its election boat with their help. Prime Minister Modi is not ready to solve the injustice being meted out

work for taking backward Muslims on the path of progress with dignity. Prime Minister Modi said that Muslims are backward, but Pasmanda Muslims are most backward. Hence they need to be linked with the progress of the country. In order to attract Pasmanda Muslims towards BJP, the party has started a 'journey of love' on the death anniversary of 'Missile Man' A P J Abdul Kalam, which will pass through nearly a dozen states and culminate at Mewat in Haryana on the occasion of his birthday.

to Pasmanda Muslims from 1950. Dozens of castes of Pasmanda Muslims should get the identity of Scheduled Castes, but they have been kept in OBC. This is due to an order of the President as per which those who follow Christianity and Islam cannot be called a Dalit. If the BJP really wants to carry Pasmanda Muslims along with them, then it has to agree to the demand to include these communities in the Scheduled Castes list.

The newspaper claimed that Narendra Modi has told the party leaders to extend the hand of love towards Pasmanda Muslims. He also said that there is a huge population of Pasmanda Muslims in Uttar Pradesh and they shall be embraced with love. At one level, Prime Minister is talking about creating a path of love to Muslims, to work for their progress and to connect them with the party. At another level, Hinduvadi organisations like RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Sri Ram Sene, Karni Sena, Guarakshak Dal have unleashed a war against Muslims especially Pasmanda Muslims. Victims of mob lynching from Akhlaq, Pehlu Khan, Tabrez Ansari to Junaid and Nasir are all Pasmanda Muslims.

In June this month, while mentioning about Muslims in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, Narendra Modi said that Pasmanda Muslims have been exploited and they haven't got equality till now. In this connection, while mentioning about Pasmanda castes like mochi, bhatiyara, jogi, madari, julaha, nayi, teja, lail and haldar, he said they were discriminated against. Hence they should be given the benefits of pucca houses and free health schemes. The newspaper said that the strange thing is that there is not a single Muslim in the cabinet of Narendra Modi who is regretting the backwardness of Pasmanda Muslims and neither the BJP has got a Muslim MP in the Lok Sabha. The president of Pasmanda Muslim Mahaj and former MP Ali Anwar Ansari said the BJP wants to get the votes of Pasmanda Muslims but does not want to agree to their demands. It is walking on the policy of making Muslims fight among themselves on caste basis. Hence Muslims should not fall into the misleads of the Modi government.

A campaign has been unleashed to boycott fruits, vegetables and other items and majority of those who sell these items are Pasmanda Muslims. Those who are trapped in false cases, killed in fake encounters and those beheaded in communal riots at the hands of Hindu

ISIS gang arrested

Urdu Times (August 6) reports that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the chief of the Maharashtra module of ISIS, Akif Atiq Nachan, from Padkha village in Bhiwadi Nagar in Maharashtra. The material used for making bombs were seized from him. Earlier, the NIA had arrested four accused—Zulfikar Ali, Mohammad Imran Khan, Mohammad Yunus and Abdul Qadir Pathan—on charges of keeping links with the terrorist organization. Imran Khan and Mohammad Yunus have been absconding for the past one year. It is to be noted that in April 2022, explosive material and material used for making bombs were seized from a car in Rajasthan and the hands of both these accused were found in this incident. They were absconding since then. It is being said that Akif Nachan had hidden these two absconding persons in a house in Pune. This gang had made plans to incite violence and wage a war against the country. The NIA had registered this case in June 28 this year. Last month, five persons associated with this gang were arrested following raids in Mumbai, Thane and Pune.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 7) reports that the chairman of Borivali Muslim Legal Aide Committee Sakib Abdul Hamid Nachan has alleged that his son Akif was taken into custody from his house on the morning of August 5.

As per another news, a special court in Mumbai sent two persons belonging to the ISIS module in Maharashtra to NIA custody. The investigating agency told the court that both the accused had extended financial help to those accused of terrorism



and also provided them a place for hiding. The names of those who were sent in custody were said to be Jubair Sheikh and Zulfikar Ali. This apart, another accused, Dr Adnan Ali Sarkar, was also produced in the court. Earlier, the National Investigation Agency had arrested four other persons belonging to this terrorist module from Mumbai, Thane and Pune, who were identified as Tabish Nasir Siddiqui, Jubair Noor Mohammad Sheikh, Sharjil Sheikh and Zulfikar Ali.

Urdu Times (August 14) states that the NIA has raided several places in five states in search of people linked to banned organization Popular Front of India. It is being said that on the occasion of Independence Day, this organization had made a plan to unleash violence. In this connection, the NIA raided nearly two dozen places in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Bihar. The NIA claimed that the plan of Popular Front is to establish an Islamic rule in India by 2047 and they have been raising an armed cadre to overthrow the government. With this purpose, they have organized secret training camps in many states in which many people were given training in violent activities.

Scam in the sale of land in Jamia Milia Islamia



Roznama Sahara (August 11) states that a controversy has erupted due to the decision of the Executive Council of Jamia Milia Islamia to grant NOC for the sale of a precious land to Zakia Zaheer. Apart from the Vice-Chancellor, seven members of the Executive Council agreed to give NOC to hand over the land of the university to Zakia Zaheer. On the other hand, three members nominated by the President described it as illegal and said the university will suffer huge financial damage. Those members of the Executive Council who had recommended giving NOC to Zakia Zaheer include Vice-Chancellor Prof Najma Akhtar, Dean of faculty of law Prof Iqbal Hussain, Professor in department of Social Work Professor Ibrahim, Dean of Lalit Kala Academy Prof Mamoon Nomani and Prof Rajesh Bhagwat. The three members who opposed the decision include Prof Sanjay Srivastava, Dr Mohammad Raihan and Prof S N L Das.

These members said that it is totally wrong to give NOC of the land to Zakia Zaheer, (lawful wife of Syed Qasim Zaheer). This land belongs to the university. Giving the land to any person is aimed at harming the university. These three members clearly said in their rejoinder note that a portion of the land that Zakia Zaheer got as inheritance had been purchased by Jamia earlier itself and had taken possession of it. The NOC for the

portion of the land on which a decision has been taken to give NOC to Zakia Zaheer is with the Jamia. Other than Jamia, nobody else can purchase this land. In such a situation, the decision taken by the Executive Council to give the land to Zakia Zaheer is illegal. The inquiry into this decision should be done by a government investigation agency so that the entire scam is unearthed.

It is to be noted that the NOC for Zakia Zaheer's land is with Jamia Milia Islamia and she wanted to sell it. A deal for this land has been entered into with some other person for Rs 17 crore. Zakia had submitted a petition to Jamia in which it had been stated that Jamia shall give her NOC to sell the land and the property that Jamia owns shall be separated from it.

According to the newspaper, after going through the petition, the four members of the Executive Council and the chairman decided to give NOC to Zakia Zaheer. According to informed sources, former students of Jamia Milia Islamia wanted to purchase this land on circle rate and hand over it to Jamia so that Jamia does not face any losses. However, Vice-Chancellor Prof Najma Akhtar and other people were not in favour of it.

It is to be noted that in 1992, KG Saiyidain had exchanged a plot of land with Jamia. In return for it, Jamia had given him 2 bigha, 10 biswa land on condition that only Jamia will have the right to purchase it. It is clearly written in the documents related to it that neither KG Saiyidain nor any of his heirs could either sell this land or exchange it with anybody else. Despite this, the Executive Council in a meeting on August 4 took a decision to grant Zakia Zaheer, the successor of K G Saiyidain, the right to sell this land so that it could not be sold to a private builder.

Assam government to ban polygamy

Avadhnama (August 7) reports that the Assam government is getting ready to ban polygamy. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that an expert committee constituted by the state government to impose a ban on polygamy has handed over its report to the state government. We want to give time to the legislators to study and hold discussions on the report. He expressed hope that this law will be implemented this year itself. In its report, the committee said that the state government has the capability to make a law in this connection. However, the different aspects of this report have not been published or aired till now.

This committee of experts comprises Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan (Retd), Advocate General of Assam Devjit Saikia, Senior Additional Advocate General Nalin Kohli and Senior Advocate Nekibur Zaman. The committee has been given a period of three months to submit its report. Later, it has been given an extension of one month.

Siasat (July 18) states that Rajya Sabha member Ajit Bhuyan has filed a case against Assam chief minister for describing Bangladeshi-origin Muslims as 'Miya.' Bhuyan has said that due to his comments, an atmosphere of hatred has been created against a particular community in Assam. It is to be noted that the chief minister has blamed Miya Muslims for the rising prices of vegetables. In Assam, Bangladeshi-origin Muslims are referred to as Miya. In his complaint, Bhuyan said that Himanta Biswa Sarma, while talking to media persons, has told the people in North Assam to come to Guwahati so that they could free Guwahati of Miya Muslims. Bhuyan said that the ruling community is targeting a particular community. However, the police are not taking any action to stop them.

Siasat (July 16) in its editorial, while criticizing the statement of Assam chief minister, said that the chief minister has unleashed a Jihad against Muslims. He wanted to cover up the failures of his government by linking every issue to

Muslims. Today, the entire country is feeling the heat due to the increasing prices of vegetables. The state government has failed to stop the price rise. In order to hide this failure, the Assam chief minister has blamed the Muslim traders for the price rise and said that Miya people had increased the prices of vegetables and they are charging arbitrary prices from the people. The price rise has happened across the country and how could Muslims be blamed for it?

The newspaper said that Himanta Biswa Sarma is ahead of all BJP leaders in Muslim enmity. Himanta Biswa has unleashed a campaign to raze Islamic madrasas in the state and he propagated that madrasas are the centres of Islamic terror. Following this, he brought majority of the madrasas in government control and converted them as schools. The surprising thing is that even the national leadership of BJP has not stopped him from issuing provocative statements against Muslims. The chief minister of Assam should understand that he is not just a leader of BJP, instead he is an elected chief minister of a state and he must realise this responsibility.

Siasat (July 1) in its editorial said that the draft of the delimitation of Assam Assembly seats has been prepared and it has been proposed to increase the number of reserved Assembly seats for Adivasis from 16 to 19. The borders of 126 Assembly seats and 14 Lok Sabha seats will be maintained as it is. The draft proposes to reduce the present number of Muslim-majority Assembly seats in the state from 29 to 22. The All India United Democratic Front has criticized this proposal. A leader of this party, Karimuddin, said that the policy of the current government is anti-Muslim and on this pretext they want to reduce the representation of Muslims in the Assembly. The number of districts of Assam is being reduced from 35 to 31. Following this, the rate of Muslim population will come down. The chief minister has supported this proposal. On the other hand, the Congress has boycotted this committee.

Imran Khan sent to jail for three years



Etemaad (July 26) reports that the police have arrested former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan after he was awarded a three-year jail term in a corruption case. This case was launched by the present government of Pakistan which accused Imran Khan of selling the gifts he received as prime minister for a few pennies.

Islamabad's Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar has also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on Imran Khan and said that if he refuses to pay the fine, then he shall be kept in jail for another six months. The judge said that Imran Khan had submitted fake details to Pakistan's Election Commission about the gifts that he received and due to this reason he has been accused of corruption. The judge directed the police to immediately arrest Imran Khan. Following this order of the court, the police with the help of Punjab Police arrested Imran Khan from his residence in Lahore. Information Minister of Punjab, Aamir Mir, said Imran Khan was sent from Lahore to Islamabad in a helicopter where he was lodged in Attock jail.

This was the second time in three months that Imran Khan was being

arrested. He was arrested for the first time on May 9 from the premises of Islamabad High Court in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case. There are more than 150 cases registered against Imran Khan. This apart, the Pakistan government has barred Imran Khan from taking part in politics for five years. He can neither take part in elections nor hold any public office. The lawyers of Imran Khan said they will appeal against this decision in the high court. Earlier, Imran Khan had appealed to his supporters in a tweet that in case he was arrested, they should not sit silently at home and instead should protest. I am doing all this for the bright future of your children. He said they should vote in the next elections to overthrow the present corrupt government.

Inquilab (August 6) said that while commenting on the arrest of Imran Khan, Pakistan's film star Mishi Khan said that Imran Khan is the leader of our hearts. The day he was arrested will be remembered as a black day in the history of Pakistan. As per another news, the police and intelligence agencies have stepped up efforts to arrest the supporters of Imran

Khan from across Pakistan on the orders of the government. The Pakistan government has refused to state how many supporters of Imran Khan have been arrested so far.

Hindustan Express (August 8) reports that the high court has rejected the bail petition of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Following this decision, the possibility of Imran Khan being released from the jail immediately has ended.

Hamara Samaj (August 10) reports that former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is being kept in the same jail where former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and former president Asif Ali Zardari were lodged in the past. The difference is that the two leaders were imprisoned in Attock fort while Imran Khan is lodged in Attock jail. This city is located on the banks of

river Sindh. During the regime of Akbar, a fort was constructed there and its purpose was to stop the attacks from Afghanistan. Both the Attock fort and the Attock jail are in the control of Pakistan Army.

Avadhnama (August 7) reports that the lawyer of Imran Khan alleged that when Imran Khan was holding a meeting with his supporters, more than 200 police personnel and soldiers forcefully entered his residence and took him away. Imran Khan has been accused of selling the gifts that he received from abroad during 2018-2022 for just 6.35 lakh dollars. The government lawyer alleged that the watch which was gifted to Imran Khan by the King of Saudi Arabia had a model of Ka'aba on it and it was said to be valued around Rs 65 crore.

Girls barred from studying beyond Class III in Afghanistan



Urdu Times (August 7) states that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has barred girls from studying beyond Class III. It is to be noted that earlier the Afghan government had imposed a ban on the education of girls in secondary schools and colleges in the country. According to Afghan radio, no girl above the age of 10 will be able to get educated in any school

or college. The education ministry of Taliban has directed all the schools in the country that they should not allow any girl beyond the age of 10 to enter any school or provide them education.

It is to be noted that earlier the government had given permission to students to study up to Class V. The Afghan government had banned women from taking up employment, visit a park or gym right from the beginning itself.

Mumbai Urdu News (August 12) reports that former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has condemned this decision of Afghan government and said that it is surprising that the Afghan government has closed the doors of schools and colleges for girls. This apart, they have been forced to wear Shariah dress. He said that it is dictatorship

and people should raise their voice against it.

Etemaad (August 2) states that during the talks that the US held with the representatives of Afghan government in Doha, the Afghan government was urged to immediately lift the restrictions imposed on women. This apart, they were urged to

immediately release the US citizens that the Afghan government had arrested and kept in custody. Secondly, Afghan government representative Zabiullah Mujahid had said we were implementing Shariah since ours was an Islamic nation and we would not tolerate any kind of foreign interference in this connection.

Protests in Bangladesh over burning of Quran



Inquilab (August 9) states that thousands of people held a massive protest in Dhaka against burning of Quran in Bangladesh. Earlier, a huge crowd tried to seize two

persons from the custody of police who were arrested on charges of burning Quran. These two persons were arrested from Sylhet city. The two had admitted that they burnt a few copies of Quran which were quite old. This apart, they also had to burn some other copies as well, which had some mistakes in them. The names of those who were arrested on charges of burning Quran are Nuroor Rahman and Mehboob Alam. On the other hand, some Ulema said that when some copies of Quran become old, it is not against the law in Islam to burn them.

Balochistan Liberation Army attacks convoy of Chinese engineers

Inquilab (August 14) states that the fighters of Balochistan Liberation Army had attacked a convoy of Chinese engineers in Balochistan's port city of Gwadar. In the retaliatory attack by Pakistani Army, five fighters of Balochistan Liberation Army were killed and three were injured. As per a news published in Chinese newspaper Global Times, when 23 Chinese engineers were going for a project in a bullet-proof vehicle, the fighters of Balochistan Liberation Army tried to blow them up using a landmine and also fired at them. The Chinese newspaper did not provide any information regarding the death of Chinese citizens in the attack. However, a spokesperson of Balochistan Liberation Army has claimed that apart from four

Chinese engineers, nine Pakistani Army personnel were also killed in their attack.

Hindustan Express (July 28) reports that two Baloch students have disappeared from Islamabad in mysterious circumstances. A spokesperson of Baloch National Front in Balochistan alleged that these two students were kidnapped by the personnel of Pakistan's intelligence wing. The names of the students who have disappeared under mysterious circumstances are said to be Javed Iqbal and Abdul Rasool who were studying in Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

A friend of these students, on condition of anonymity, told the representative of 'Voice of America' that seven persons entered the room of these

students at 6 am, among which four were wearing the uniform of Pakistani police. The rest were in casual dress. These people searched the room and took away both of them after seizing their mobile phones and laptops. However, the police have denied that such an incident took place. They said they had no information in this connection. However, even a week after these students disappeared, the Pakistan police did not register a case in that connection.



A lawyer named Iman Mujahiri told Voice of America that nearly 300 Balochis have disappeared under mysterious circumstances in the past one year. Later the bodies of nearly 100 of them were found thrown on the streets. He said that in Balochistan, the Baloch National Army and Baloch National Front are waging an armed war against the Pakistan government in which more than 5,000 people were killed within a year. He said that these Baloch organisations have been demanding that Balochistan shall be liberated from the slavery of Punjabi Pakistanis and they shall be given the opportunity to decide on their future.

Iman Mujahiri said that last month also a student named Hafiz Baloch was arrested in a similar manner. The intelligence wing of Pakistan has accused Hafiz Baloch of being involved in the supply of arms and ammunition from foreign sources to the rebel elements active

in Balochistan. He said that the supporters of 'Free Balochistan' have been attacking the security personnel of Pakistan for the past two years. They are angry that the Chinese companies are taking away the entire benefits of the agreement that Pakistan government had signed with China to exploit the natural resources in Balochistan. On the other hand, the local people are not even given the jobs of labourers. This is the reason why the supporters of Azad Balochistan have killed 25 Chinese experts and more than 100 Pakistani soldiers in clashes that took place in various places in the past one year. Recently, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the military cantonments in Balochistan and he had directed the Army to crush the separatist elements in Balochistan with force. This is because they are destroying the unity of Pakistan at the behest of foreigners.

Emergency extended in Myanmar



Inqilab (August 2) states that the ruling military junta in Myanmar has announced extension of Emergency for the fourth time in the country. Earlier, the military had assured people that general elections would be held in the country in August this year. But now the military administration has refused to conduct elections in the country. In a statement issued on government television, the military headquarters said that currently there is no peace in the country and there is a continuous increase in violent activities. Hence it is not possible to conduct a free and fair elections in such an atmosphere.

It is to be noted that the military had extended the Emergency three times in the past. The democratically elected government was overthrown in a military coup in February 2021 and the military had taken into custody all political leaders including the then President who are all in jail even now. In view of the Emergency, the head of the military and the Governing Council, Min Aung Hlaing has the power to make laws apart from all the powers of judiciary and the executive. It is to be noted that during the military coup, the Army had arrested the head of the elected government Aung San Suu Kyi and all leaders of her party. The military had alleged that the ruling party committed fraud in the parliamentary elections held in November 2020 and won the elections in a corrupt

manner. The US government has condemned the decision to postpone the electoral process and extend the Emergency period and described it as against democracy.

Hindustan Express (July 28) reports that military aircraft had indiscriminately bombarded a village in Myanmar in which at least 100 people were killed. Those who were killed included women and children. According to BBC's Burmese language broadcast, a function was being organized in the village. Hence there was a huge crowd on the spot. Government sources have confirmed the attack, saying that the cadre of the rebel group People's Defence Force had organized the inaugural ceremony of its headquarters in the locality. Hence the military had to carry out an attack. According to the broadcast, people belonging to the rebel group were among those killed in the attack. A spokesperson of the military government said they were not killed in government attack, instead were killed in a landmine explosion. The United Nations has condemned the attack and said the military planes also targeted a school due to which several children were also killed. The US State Department has condemned the attack and demanded that democracy shall be restored in Myanmar and a free and fair elections be held in the country.

Will Saudi Arabia establish diplomatic relationship with Israel?



Salar (August 2) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the railway project worth 27 billion dollars that he had announced could link Israel's commercial capital Tel Aviv with Saudi Arabia in future. This statement of Netanyahu has come at a time the US President has given the indication that there is a possibility of diplomatic relationship being established between Saudi Arabia and Israel and an agreement in this connection is likely to be reached between the two nations soon. It is to be noted that US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan recently visited Saudi Arabia and following a discussion with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, where apart from talks on the ceasefire in Yemen, held discussions on establishing diplomatic relationship between Saudi Arabia and Israel. On the increasing relationship between these two countries, spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry, Nasser Kanaani, said that if an agreement is signed between Saudi

Arabia and Israel, then it would be a threat to the peace in the region.

It is to be noted that recently the Israel Prime Minister, while inaugurating a railway project in the Israeli city of Kiryat Shmona, had given the indication that this rail project could be extended up to Saudi Arabia. For the time being, this rail has been constructed up to Eilat city which is located near the borders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The newspaper said that after seeing the rising public anger against Netanyahu in Israel, Netanyahu has announced several developmental projects. US analyst Thomas Freedman said in the New York Times that US President Joe Biden is trying hard to improve the relationship between Israel and Saudi Arabia, but his success will depend on how much changes every one is willing to make in their policies. He also said the US wants to make a NATO-like alliance with Saudi Arabia and Israel.

It is to be noted that due to the efforts of former President Donald Trump,

Israel signed similar agreements with Morocco, Sudan, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates and now the US is making efforts to see that Israel and Saudi Arabia also reach an agreement. The US is making this effort in order to curb the increasing relationship between China and the Arab world, especially Saudi Arabia.

Etemaad (August 4) in its editorial said the US did not like the efforts made by China for an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Hence they are trying to ensure that Saudi Arabia enters into a deal with Israel. As part of this agreement, there will be a special arrangement to ensure that if Iran launches any kind of attack on Saudi Arabia, the US will come to its rescue. It is being said that the fundamentalist Islamic scholars in Saudi Arabia are trying to ensure that no agreement is reached between Saudi Arabia and Israel. The US effort is to sign such agreements with different Muslim nations of Arab world in order to encircle Iran which is in the interests of US. Improvement of relationship between Arab countries, especially Muslim nations, is not to the liking of the US. Hence their effort is to

make friendship between Saudi Arabia and Israel at any cost so that not only the increasing influence of China could be contained but the US-supporting lobby in the Arab world could also be strengthened.

Inqilab (August 11) states that despite US opposition, Iran has once again started functioning of its embassy located in Saudi Arabia after a gap of seven years. It is being said that China's hand is behind the new-found friendship between Saudi Arabia and Iran. It is to be noted that the diplomatic relationship between the two nations ended in 2016 when Saudi Arabia hanged to death world-renowned Shia scholar Nimr al-Nimr. In protest against this, Iranian protesters in Teheran set fire to the Saudi Arabian embassy. It has also come to light that due to the efforts of China, Saudi Arabia has also recently announced establishment of diplomatic relationship with Syria. Syria is considered as an ally of Iran. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister also took part in the inaugural function of Saudi Embassy in Teheran. He said that due to the unity of two Islamic nations, there will be a new beginning in the Muslim world.

More than 3,000 people killed in military conflict in Sudan

Roznama Sahara (August 10) reports that at least 3,000 people have been killed in clashes between Sudanese Army and the paramilitary force (RSF) in the Sudanese capital and its nearby regions. There are a large number of ordinary people among those killed. The Sudanese Army has claimed that in the clash that took place in Omdurman region, hundreds of soldiers and officers of the paramilitary force were killed. Whereas 4,000 soldiers of the paramilitary force have been taken into custody. On the other hand, the paramilitary force of Sudan has claimed that they have killed 174 soldiers of Sudanese Army while 300 soldiers were injured. More than 100 soldiers of Sudanese Army has been imprisoned. It is

to be noted that a civil war has broken out in Sudan again last month due to which more than 4 lakh people have been forced to flee their houses. In capital Khartoum and its nearby cities, the Army and the paramilitary forces are carrying out aerial attacks in which it has been stated that there is a possibility of thousands of citizens being killed.

Inqilab (August 10) reports that thousands of bodies are strewn around the streets in Sudan due to which the possibility of a pandemic breaking out has increased. An organisation named 'Save the children' in Britain has given this indication that due to the non-burial of at least 10,000 bodies, they are strewn around the streets. It is possible that at least 20,000

people were killed in the war between the soldiers loyal to chief of Sudanese Army Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and the paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces for the past four months. Cholera has spread in many regions of Sudan. Due to the stopping of the production of electricity, bodies are decaying in majority of the mortuaries



due to extreme heat. The director of Sudan's health department said more than 10,000 bodies could not be buried and hence they were rotting on the streets. According to the spokesperson of United Nations, due to the continuing civil war in Sudan, over 40 lakh people have become homeless so far. Due to the non-availability of foodgrains, there is a famine-like situation in many regions of the country and people are dying of hunger.

Siasat (August 5) states that Amnesty International has alleged that due to the civil war taking place in Sudan, girls are being gangraped and ordinary citizens are being made victims of indiscriminate firing. The Amnesty International appealed to Sudan's Army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and the commander of RSF

Mohammad Hamdan Dagalau that they direct their cadre not to target ordinary citizens and those who are injured and do not create obstacles in their medical treatment.

It is to be noted that in 2019, the Army had staged a coup in Sudan and overthrew the government of dictator Omar Al-Bashir. After this, Army chief Al-Burhan arrested the Prime Minister and ministers of the civilian government that came to power later and took over power in his hands. Following this, in October 2021, a war erupted between the soldiers of Al-Burhan and his deputy Hamdan Dagalau, which has been continuing for the past six months. Saudi Arabia and the US tried to bring a ceasefire between the two sides, but those proved futile. ■

Iran releases five US prisoners

Etemaad (August 13) reports that after Iran released five US citizens from jail, they have been detained in a house. They include five men and one woman. US sources expressed the possibility that an agreement will soon be reached with Iran as per which these US citizens detained in houses will be given permission to return home.

Inqilab (August 13) reports that the coordinator of National Security Council in the US said that it is difficult to say when the US citizens who are detained in their houses in Iran would be able to

return home. He said that talks are on in this connection. Until the talks are complete, we are not in a position to say anything openly in this connection.

Etemaad (August 13) reports that the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that Iran has released five US prisoners from the jail. But the US would continue with the sanctions imposed on Iran. The Opposition Republic Party in the US alleged that the ruling party in the US has given 10 billion dollars to Iran for the release of these US citizens. Out of it, six billion dollars were deposited in the bank

of South Korea and the rest of the money remains deposited in the banks of Iraq and Japan. A spokesperson of Republican Party said that if these US citizens were released after President Biden had given six million dollars to Iran, then it will encourage Iran to do things like taking more US citizens on hostage, attack our country and provide funds to terrorists. The spokesperson said that Joe Biden is dancing to the tunes of Iran. Instead, he should have responded with force to Iran's aggression. News agency 'Reuters' claimed that Iran will allow these US citizens to return to US after Iran's six billion dollar frozen money in South Korea is returned to Iran. He said that it has also come to light that as per the agreement, the US will also release many Iranian citizens who were detained.

The newspaper said in another news that as per the agreement that Iran had reached with the US, the latter will soon



release the Iranians who are under detention. This apart, the US has decided to return the 10 billion dollar frozen money to Iran. According to Iranian news agency Irna, the US will deposit six billion dollar money currently deposited in South Korea, with a Swiss bank. Later it will be sent into the account of an Iranian bank.

33 soldiers killed in ISIS attack in Syria



Roznama Sahara (August 9) states that in the Raqqa province in Syria, the terrorists of ISIS had attacked the Syrian Army in which at least 10 Syrian soldiers were killed. The attackers were armed with modern weapons and they were a fully trained group. Later the terrorists of ISIS set fire to several military outposts and

vehicles and later while returning, looted huge cache of weapons from the ammunition depot of Syrian Army. It is to be noted that the Syrian province of Raqqa is considered as a strong fort of ISIS which was seized by the Syrian Army five years ago.

Roznama Sahara (August 12) reports that in Deir ez-Zor in Syria, the terrorists of ISIS attacked a bus full of Syrian soldiers in which at least 23 soldiers were killed and more than 10 were injured. A military spokesperson of Syria also said that the attackers also looted a large number of arms and ammunition from military outposts. The Syrian Army has claimed that more contingents of Syrian soldiers were despatched to the spot to take on the terrorists of ISIS.

Saudi Arabia appoints Ambassador in Palestine

Inqilab (August 14) reports that Saudi Arabia has announced the appointment of its Ambassador in Palestine. As per a notification issued by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Jordan, Ambassador Nayef Al-Sudairi, who is deputed in Jordan, will take over the new responsibility. In an interview to Al-ekhabariya channel, the Ambassador said that the step is an indication that King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman wanted to strengthen their relations with the Muslim brothers in Palestine. Till now, issues related to Palestine have been handled through the Embassy located in Jordan.

The newspaper said that the Saudi Ambassador has presented his credentials to Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas. Palestine's foreign affairs minister Riyad Al-Maliki said we were hopeful of appraising our apprehensions about the



increasing friendship between Saudi Arabia and Israel to the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

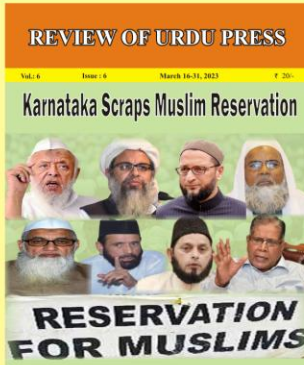
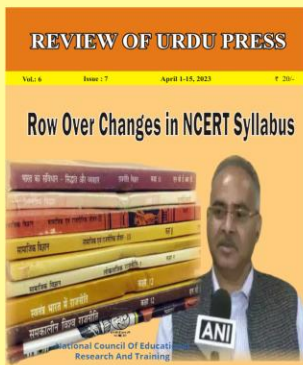
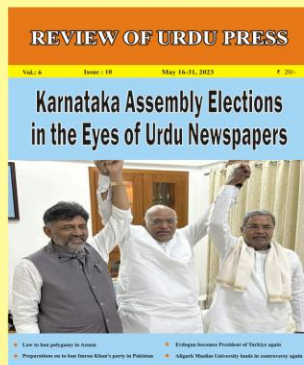
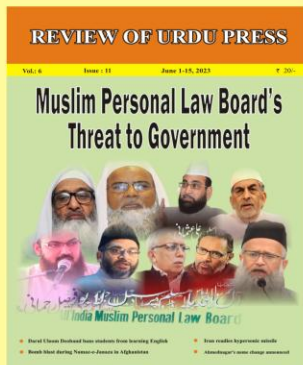
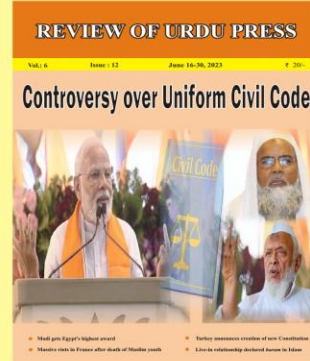
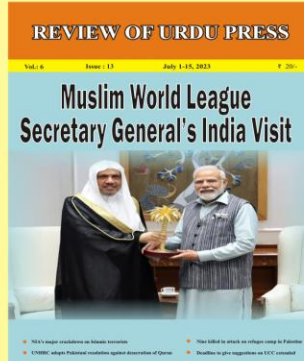
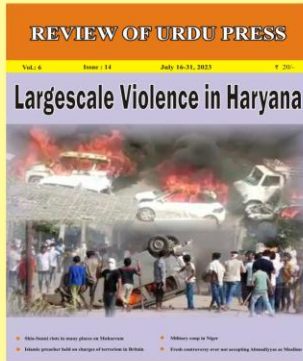
As per another news, Israel has refused to grant any place in Jerusalem to the Palestinian Embassy to be set up by Saudi Arabia. Israel's foreign affairs minister Eli Cohen, while talking to the representative of Tel Aviv radio station, said we will never give permission to any country to open its Embassy in Jerusalem. This is because it is against our policy.

Attack by Islamic terrorists in Burkina Faso and Mali

Inqilab (August 9) reports that in the Western African nation of Mali, Islamic terrorist organisation named Al-Shabab, which is linked to Al-Qaida, carried out two attacks in which at least 17 people were killed. The attack took place at a time when a military outpost was being handed over to Mali government at the behest of a United Nations organisation, Integrated Stabilisation Mission. On the other hand, the terrorists of Al-Shabab attacked a city named Togo in Burkina Faso in which 25 people were killed and 10 were injured. It is to be noted that due to the civil war that has been taking place in Burkina Faso since 2015, nearly 20 lakh people have become

homeless and at least 50,000 people have been killed in this civil war so far.

Inqilab (August 14) reports that in the campaign being carried out by the Somalian Army against Al-Shabab in the southern parts of the country, 33 terrorists were shot dead and their three bases were destroyed. There were three commanders among the dead. It is to be noted that on behalf of Somalian President Hasan Sheikh Mohammad, a campaign has been carried out against the terrorists of Al-Shabab from 2022 in which more than 2,000 terrorists have been killed so far. A spokesperson of Somalian government said that this campaign would continue.



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