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RSS Chief's Speech on the Occasion of Vijayadashami



- Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui's House Raided
- Jews get Permission to Pray at Al Aqsa Mosque
- More Than 100 Afghans Killed in Blast in Mosque
- Concern over Increasing Talaq Cases among Muslims

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

*Translation from Hindi
Edition*
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

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

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

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

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Summary

It appears from the recent change of policy of Urdu newspapers that instead of ignoring the speeches of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchhalak Mohan Bhagwat, they have started reporting them prominently. The speech that Dr Mohan Bhagwat delivered on the occasion of Vijayadashami has been prominently carried on the front page by majority of Urdu newspapers. However, in their editorials they still maintain their old policy of targeting the Sangh or just ignoring it. In his Vijayadashami speech, Mohan Bhagwat expressed his opinion on a variety of important issues. He described the demographic imbalance in the increasing population of the country as a serious threat to the unity and integrity of the nation. He also called for implementation of National Register of Citizenship to stop infiltration and conversion in the country. Expressing concern on the current wave of terrorist attacks in Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, he hoped that the Modi government would be able to control the situation.

After Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, Pakistan's stand against India has become more aggressive. In Kashmir Valley, the serial killings of non-Muslims have started again. Recently, the terrorists attacked a school and after examining the identity cards of teachers, targeted only non-Muslims. Recently, there is also a huge increase in the incidents of infiltration by Pakistan-trained terrorists in border areas. More than seven soldiers were martyred while trying to stop these infiltrators. The Modi government is trying its best to control the situation in Kashmir Valley. The Delhi Police has arrested a Pakistani spy who had stayed in different parts of the country in the past 13 years and was doing spying activities and was also planning to conduct blasts in different places in the national capital. Earlier, more than a dozen terrorists nurtured by Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI were caught from different states like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Lot of ammunition and explosives were also seized from them.

The fight between different groups over the leadership of Imarat-e-Shariah in Bihar, which has been continuing for some time now, has taken a new turn. The son of the seventh Amir, Late Wali Rahmani, organised elections ahead of the scheduled programme and became the eighth Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah. His opponents alleged that largescale fraud took place during the elections and majority of the voters were banned from participating in the elections. This has resulted in the possibility of Imarat-e-Shariah getting split into two groups. What is interesting is that Faizal Rahmani, who has been elected the eighth Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah, never studied in any Islamic madrasa, nor has he got anything to do with the country's Muslim politics. His education and upbringing took place in the US where he was employed till recently.

The situation is getting grimmer in Afghanistan day by day. Terrorist organisation Islamic State has been selectively targeting Shias in the country. Recently, more than 100 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack at a mosque during Friday namaz. Meanwhile, no concrete results have come to light in the talks that started between the US and Taliban.

RSS chief's speech on the occasion of Vijayadashami



Recently, there is a change in the policy of Urdu newspapers, and instead of ignoring the speeches of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat, they have started giving importance to these. An indication of this could be seen in the coverage of RSS Sarsanghchalak's Vijayadashami speech. For example, **Siasat** (October 16), a prominent newspaper from Hyderabad, had carried his speech as its main story and headlined it as "National Register of Citizens mandatory to stop conversion and infiltration: Mohan Bhagwat." Another sub-title says "Hindustan is proud of Muslims like Hasan Mewati, Khuda Bakhsh, Hakim Khan Suri and Ashfaqulla Khan."

According to the report, while expressing concern over the religious imbalance in the population growth rate of the country, RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat described it as a threat to the unity and integrity of the country and said that National Register of Citizens is necessary to stop conversion and infiltration. Addressing Sangh workers on the occasion of Vijayadashami, Dr Mohan Bhagwat said that population control is a must and for this there is a need to adopt a population

policy which should apply equally to all. He said that due to the imbalance in the population rate, especially in border areas, and due to the huge differences between the population growth rates of different religions, there is this grave threat of infiltration of foreigners and conversion activities going up.

Dr Bhagwat said that between 1951 and 2011, there is a huge difference in the rate of population growth from the point of view of religions. While the growth rate of the followers of different religions has been low, the Muslim population ratio has seen a spike during this period.

He said that all Indians, including the followers of the religions which came from outside, need to understand that in spite of our differences in religious faith and the mode of worship, our ancestors were same who grew up in the same Sanatan tradition. In our social system and culture, nobody is considered as an outsider. There is equality in Bharatiyata. He said that people of different religions, who believe in being a Bharatiya, understand the ideology of our ancestors. Hence there is no need for anyone to discard any language or way of worship.

However, it is necessary to get rid of fundamentalism. If someone is a Muslim, there is no problem with it, but he needs to maintain a nationalistic ideology. Hindu society considers everyone as its own. Many Muslims are worth emulating for us. This is the reason why this country has seen Hasan Khan Mewati, Hakim Khan Suri, Khuda Bakhsh, Gaus Khan and Ashfaqulla Khan. They are an example for everyone and worth emulating. Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat said that even today efforts are being made to divide the country and such people have developed bonding with each other.



Salar (October 16), published from Bangalore, too carried the speech of Mohan Bhagwat prominently. However, along with it, the newspaper chose to target him as well. The newspaper stated that Mohan Bhagwat through his mischievous and undemocratic statement has claimed that there is an effort to create an atmosphere of anarchy in the country. Some fundamentalists are trying to divide the country. Hence Hindus need to remain strong and united. Through this, a solution could also be found for all the problems being faced by the country. He said that the imbalance in the population growth rate has become a complex issue in the country. The population in border areas has increased due to illegal infiltration. This apart, without taking names, he brought the attention of the government towards usage of drugs and OTT platforms. In the function held in Nagpur, Israeli consul general Kobbi Shoshani participated as the chief guest. Mohan Bhagwat said that enmity and separatism, which were the reasons for the Partition of the country, should not be repeated. Especially, the younger generation should be able to overcome their small identities and give up disruptive tendencies based on faith, sectarianism, casteism, language and regionalism. This year is the 75th year of our Independence. We did not get this

independence overnight. People from every section and different religions sacrificed their lives and made efforts to achieve this Himalayan target. The journey towards independence is not complete yet. There are such elements in the world who do not want development of Bharat and who don't like the country reaching a glorious position. This is the reason why efforts are being made to mislead the world and the people of Hindustan. The people of Hindustan are being misled in the name of history and culture. Hence there should be a review of the population policy and it should be implemented equally among all sections.

The Sangh chief expressed his wish to stop the increasing use of drugs in the country said that it is necessary to think where the money generated through narcotics is used. He also raised a question over Bitcoin and said he has no idea who controls it. However, the government needs to take control of it and in fact the government is trying to do so. However, we need to be prepared to deal with it at our own level. He said that our culture does not treat anyone as an outsider and hence it is only through the promotion of Bharatiya culture that equality will be established throughout the country. If Hindutva rises, then the shops of these people will be closed. It is necessary to eradicate the differences that prop up in the country.

Hamara Samaj (October 16) states that the Sangh chief described National Register of Citizens as mandatory to stop



conversion and infiltration and he also expressed concern over the imbalance in the population growth rate and termed it as a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. He also expressed concern over the increasing population ratio of Muslims. He said that after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, the atmosphere of fear has ended in the people's mind and now some anti-national elements are making efforts to create it again by targeted killing of the people there.

Etemaad (October 16) also published the speech of Mohan Bhagwat prominently on its front page under a four-column headline. He said he felt very sad on the Partition of the country and hence we need to develop the country on the basis of unity and integrity. Every festival should be celebrated together. He expressed happiness that every section of people played their role in collecting funds for the construction of Ram Mandir. He said that when Hindutva rises, the attempts of the country's enemies and those who spread disharmony would get defeated.

Aurangabad Times (October 16) also gave a

prominent space to the speech of Mohan Bhagwat on its front page and said that casteism is a major stumbling block in the unity of the country and hence it should be finished. In this connection, he specially mentioned the martyrdom of the ninth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Teg Bahadur.

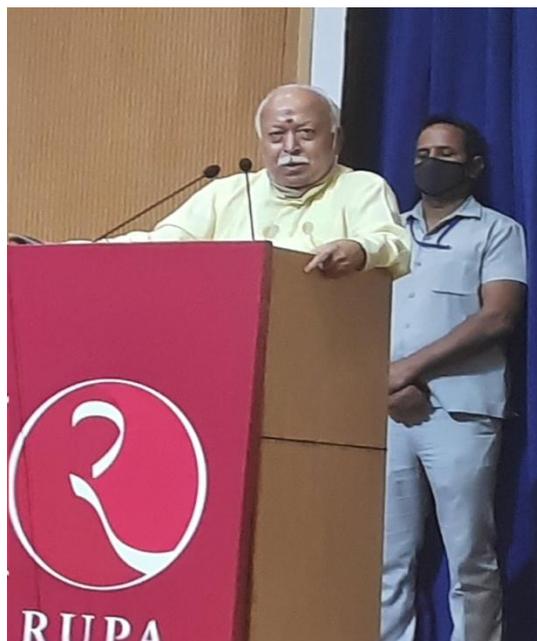
Earlier, **Mumbai Urdu News** (October 12) stated that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, while delivering a lecture on 'If Hindu is awakened, world is awakened,' at a function in Dehradun, expressed concern that some people convert their religion for their personal benefits. Hindus need to impart in their children awareness and respect towards their religion and its mode of worship. Today people convert their religion for small benefits and for marriage



which is a very worrying trend. We alone are responsible for this, because we only bring up our children. But we don't teach them to be proud of our religion. We need to protect our tradition and culture. Today, the Bharatiya culture has spread throughout the world.

Earlier, according to **Aurangabad Times** (October 13), releasing a book titled 'Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition,' written by Uday Mahurkar, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said in Delhi that had the advice of Savarkar been listened to, the country's partition could have been avoided. He said that Savarkar is the first to declare Indian nationality. His nationalism was based on the unity of the entire world and on humanity. On the First War of Indian Independence, Savarkar had written that the Bhagwa flags of Hindu kings and the crescent moon & star green flags together fought against the British. However, after the Khilafat agitation, due to the Wahabi ideology, the atmosphere in the country got changed and Partition took place. Had we adopted the policies of Savarkar by giving equal rights to all and exploiting none, then the country's partition would not have taken place. Had we accepted unity in diversity, then the partition that took place on the basis of religion in other countries would not have happened here. He said that Savarkar had spoken about Muslims sharing the responsibility along with giving them equal rights.

Qaumi Tanzeem (October 14) states that Mohan Bhagwat had said that the Hindutva ideology of Veer Savarkar never differentiated people on the basis of their culture or way of worship. He said that Savarkar used to say that we are the sons of



same mother. We are all brothers. Difference in the mode of worship is a tradition in our country and we fight together for the country. He said that Veer Savarkar was never anti-Muslim. He had written even many ghazals in Urdu. Many have talked about Hindutva and unity in Indian society. But Savarkar had always talked about it. After so many years, it is now being realised that had we followed the ideology of Savarkar, the Partition of the country would not have taken place. After the Partition, those who fled to Pakistan were not accommodated there. Those who were staying there for long discriminated them. Even today, those who left India for Pakistan are viewed with contempt and they haven't got equal rights there. He said that our ancestors are same and only the mode of worship is different. We are proud of Sanatan Dharma's liberal vision and culture and this legacy will lead us towards development.

Pakistan's efforts to incite terrorism

Significantly, Urdu newspapers have largely ignored incidents of terrorism abetted by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Siasat (September 27) reports that a BJP leader, Wasim Bari, his brother and father were shot dead by Pakistani terrorists

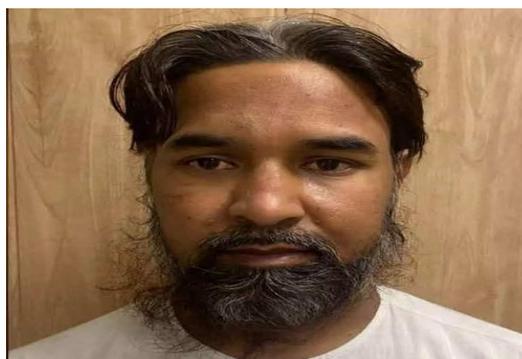
in Bandipora district. According to chief of Jammu and Kashmir police, Dilbag Singh, two terrorists named Azad Shah and Abid Hakkani, linked to the murders, were later killed in Bandipora. The worrying aspect is that when the attack took place on Wasim

Bari, nearly 10 policemen deployed for his security by the state government had disappeared from the spot. The police claimed that these security personnel were later arrested.

Roznama Sahara (October 11) reports that the police have admitted that the terrorists massacred seven innocent persons in Kashmir Valley at the behest of Pakistan, four of them belonged to Srinagar. It is being said that before killing them, the terrorists verified their identity cards and subsequently fired their guns only at non-Muslims. The victims included the Sikh principal of a local school, Rupinder Kaur. Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said that several persons accused of maintaining contacts with the terrorists have been arrested. A terrorist organisation named TRF has claimed responsibility for the killing of four minorities in Srinagar. This organisation is linked to Laskhar-e-Taiba. Those killed in Srinagar included two teachers including a woman, a Kashmiri pharmacy shop owner and Virendra Paswan, a man from Bihar who used to sell Golgappa.

Earlier, in the beginning of this year also the terrorists killed more than a dozen non-Muslims. After these incidents, Hindus and Sikhs have started fleeing the Kashmir Valley again. It is the first time since 1990 that non-Muslims have been collectively forced to flee Kashmir Valley. There were different claims over the number of people who have fled the valley. According to news agency ANI, those who fled the Kashmir Valley included 1,400 families while other sources said their number is around 10,000.

Inquilab (October 13) states that five terrorists were killed in an encounter in Shopian. It is being claimed that they were linked to the terrorist organisation TRF. Three terrorists were killed in the first encounter. Arms and ammunition were also seized from them. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Range, Vijay Kumar said that among those who were killed one has been identified as Mukhtar Shah, who, a few days ago, had killed Virendra Paswan,



a man from Bihar who used to sell Golgappa in Srinagar. He also said that the terrorists who were killed in encounter were also suspected to be behind the attack on Indian army soldiers in Poonch. According to Corps Commander in Srinagar, Lt Gen D P Pandey, when some Pakistanis were infiltrating through the border, the army personnel tried to stop them and in the process six soldiers got martyred. He said the army would not allow any foreign infiltrator to intrude into the country through the border under any circumstance. Expressing concern over the increasing activities of Pakistani terrorists in Kashmir Valley, former chief minister of J&K Omar Abdullah alleged it was due to the negligence of the government that such incidents are happening.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has foiled a Pakistani designed plan to create bloodshed in the national capital.

Inquilab (October 13) reports that the Special Cell has arrested one Mohammad Ashraf alias Ali Ahmad, trained by Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, from Ramesh Park in Laxmi Nagar in Delhi. He is a native of Narowal town in Pakistan. He has been staying in India, pretending to be an Indian citizen, for the past 15 years. As per the information received by police, he reached Nepal from Bangladesh and from there he entered Bihar and finally reached Delhi. During his stay in Deoband, he managed to create fake Aadhar card and other documents. He also married a woman in Loni, whom he abandoned after six months. After that he stayed in Shastri Nagar where he made a fake identity card in the name of Ali

Ahmad Noori. He used to lead namaz in different madrasas in the guise of being a maulana and used to provide vital information to Pakistani intelligence agency. The Delhi Police secured his custody from the court for two weeks and during interrogation the police got critical information from him.

Inquilab (October 14) states that this Pakistani spy has been involved in spying activities in Delhi since 2010. The Pakistani intelligence agency used to regularly send him money through a foreign agency. Apart from Delhi, he stayed in different places in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Bengal and did spying activities. The police have seized an AK-47 and some bomb making material from him.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 19) reports that the Mumbai ATS has arrested a Pakistani-trained terrorist, identified as Zakir Sheikh, from Jogeshwari. He has been booked under UAPA. After the arrest of Zakir, the police raided several locations in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and took several persons into custody and they included one Umaid-ur-Rahman and Shahrukh from Prayagraj among many others. Jan Mohammad, who was planning to explode bombs in different

places in Maharashtra during Ganeshotsav, was arrested from Kota railway station. He originally belongs to Mumbai. Umaid-ur-Rahman, arrested from Prayagraj, is said to be a relative of terrorist Amir Beg arrested from Lucknow. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh police had raided several places in the state and arrested many members of Pakistani terrorist gang. According to the director general of Uttar Pradesh police Mukul Goyal, six persons have so far been arrested in this connection. They include Tahir, Jameel, Imtiaz, Zishan, Amir and Moolchand. These people were arrested from Lucknow, Rae Bareilly and Prayagraj.

Hamara Samaj (September 16) reports that the family members of terrorist Abu Bakar, arrested from Bahraich district, said that Abu Bakar was on his way to Tablighi Centre in Delhi and he had nothing to do with Pakistan. However, the police claimed that Abu Bakar had recently returned from Pakistan after getting terrorist training there and several explosives were seized from him. It is being said about Zishan Qamar, arrested from Prayagraj had returned to India from Dubai nearly a year ago. On the basis of his revelation, the Uttar Pradesh ATS seized several items meant for making bomb from Naini region. ■

Faizal Rahmani elected eighth Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah

Faizal Rahmani has been elected as the eighth Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah by conducting the election ahead of the scheduled programme. He is the son of seventh Amir Maulana Wali Rahmani. He claimed that it was for the first time in the 100-year history of Imarat-e-Shariah that an Amir has been chosen through election. Till now, all the Amirs had been chosen unanimously. Interestingly, the new Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah did not study in any madrasa or went for Islamic education. Instead, he got his higher education in Computer Science from a University in United States.

Inquilab (October 10) reports that the election of Faizal Rahmani as the Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah has given more muscle to the groupism in the institution and it may lead to serious consequences.

Dainik Hindustan (October 10) states that Imarat-e-Shariah has a total of 851 members, out of which 558 people took part in the voting. Altogether, 293 people remained absent. These members are called Arbab-e-Hal-o-Aqd. The opponent of Faizal Rahmani and former Deputy Amir Maulana Aneesur Rahman Qasmi received 196 votes. Faizal Rahmani got 347 votes.



Inquilab (September 21) reports that former Naib Amir-e-Shariat, Maulana Shamshad Rahmani, had announced that the election of the new Amir would be held in Ranchi on October 10. However, the dissident group had called a parallel meeting in Patna on October 9 to hold the elections. The two sides clashed over the issue several times. Maulana Fahad Rahmani, addressing a press conference at a hotel in Patna, declared that the meeting being convened in Ranchi on October 10 is “unconstitutional.” In an effort to avoid the controversy, the Naib Amir and his supporter Shibali Qazmi called an executive committee meeting of Imarat-e-Shariah in Ranchi on October 30. However, before this meeting could be held, the other group held an election in Patna and seized control of the organisation.

Till yesterday, Faizal Rahmani was working in US. In the meeting, three names were proposed, that of Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, Maulana Anis-ur-Rahman Qasmi and Syed Ahmad Wali Faizal Rahmani. Later some people proposed the names of Shamshad Rahmani and Maulana Nazar Tauheed as well. However, amid the uproar, it has been announced that only two candidates—Syed Faizal Rahmani and Maulana Anis-ur-Rahman Qasmi—would finally be contesting for the post of Amir-e-Shariat. A huge ruckus took place during the voting.

Three supervisors—Maulana Yousuf (Amir-e-Shariat, Assam), Maulana Sageer (Amir-e-Shariat, Karnataka) and Maulana Atiqur Rahman Bastavi—were appointed to conduct the elections. However, due to the ruckus, they could not be heard. The rival group, alleging fraud, boycotted the elections. A number of people who were present in the meeting did not take part in the voting. While boycotting the polls, Maulana Ayoob Nizami said the election is against the constitution and hence he is boycotting it.

It is being said that a huge ruckus and violence took place during the voting. It is also said that the brother of Faizal Rahmani, Syed Fahad Rahmani, had brought some bouncers and created a din.

Maulana Faizal Rahmani is aware of the sentiments against him in Imarat-e-Shariah. Hence he insisted that the office-bearers of Imarat-e-Shariats wear by his hand and declare that they would abide by every direction given by Amir-e-Shariah.

Inquilab (October 12) states that the newly elected Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah along with his followers reached Patna’s Dargah Majidia where the Sajjadanashin of the dargah, Syed Ayatollah Qadri put a towel on his head and sprayed perfume. Later the new Amir visited many kabrs (graves) situated on the dargah premises and read fatiha.

400 leaders left Congress in the past seven years

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस Indian National Congress



Inquilab (October 10) has claimed that many Congress leaders, upset with the party, have taken refuge in other parties. In the past seven years, 399 prominent Congress leaders have left the party and found solace in other parties. A good majority of Congressmen who left the party have joined BJP. However, our tradition of shifting parties is quite an old one and many laws have even been created to stop it. However, the trend of changing parties has got new momentum recently. This could also be confirmed through the report of National Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms. After being eased out of power at the Centre, Congressmen started searching for greener pastures. The biggest impact of the changing political landscape in the post 2014 period was felt on the Congress party, while the BJP was the biggest beneficiary. As per the report, 399 leaders of Congress broke off their relationship with the party during this period. Among them, 222 had contested either Parliamentary or Assembly elections on a Congress ticket whereas 177 leaders were either Congress MPs or MLAs. However, 115 leaders from other parties also joined Congress during this period. In the same period, there was a huge rush of people from other parties to BJP. A total of 253 candidates and 173 MPs and MLAs came to BJP's fold after quitting their respective parties. In the same period, 111 leaders including 33 MPs and MLAs left BJP and joined other parties. They include big leaders like Mukul Roy and Babul Supriyo.

In West Bengal and Tripura, the BJP cadre are joining Trinamool Congress. After Congress, the biggest setback was suffered by Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party. After 2014, 153 BSP MP and MLA candidates have left the party and 20 MLAs also left BSP and joined other parties. However, 65 leaders also joined BSP during this period. Among different parties in the country, Trinamool Congress is the only one where a majority of the leaders who left have come back to the party. In the past seven years, its 26 MPs or MLAs have left the party. However, some 54 leaders have joined the party.

It is said in the report that it has almost become a tradition in Indian politics that one could do social service only by aligning with those in power. Hence leaders of the political party that has been thrown out of power soon join the party in power. They come up with the argument that, "I would not be able to serve the people if I continue in the party and hence I am leaving the party." Some raise the argument that they had to change the party due to pressure from voters. What is surprising is that among those who had given such arguments include many chief ministers and even a former foreign minister. This argument was put forward by S M Krishna when he left Congress and joined BJP. The funny thing is that BJP MP Babul Supriyo, who was enjoying the fruits of power in Modi's cabinet, gave the same argument

when he joined Trinamool Congress. Mukul Roy's argument is almost on the same lines.

The bitter truth is that a good majority of our leaders cannot survive without power. For them ideology and morality do not hold any value. They hold the flag that belongs to the party in power and raise the slogan that brings them benefits. This is the reason why we have seen a hardcore Sangh leader like Shankersingh Vaghela and Shiv Sena leader Narayan Rane chanting the lessons of secularism and people like Kalyan Singh and Sakshi Maharaj were forced to present themselves at the darbar of Mulayam Singh Yadav.

According to the newspaper, among the few big Congress leaders who left the party include Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Vijay Bahuguna, who was the chief minister of Uttarakhand from 2012 to 2014, and his sister and former Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Rita Bahuguna Joshi. The two are currently in BJP. Former Congress chief minister of Karnataka S M Krishna had also left Congress and joined BJP. This apart, those who left Congress to join BJP include the Gwalior maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada from Uttar Pradesh and Radhakrishna Wikhe Patil.

Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui's house raided in Delhi

Inquilab (October 6) reports that the Uttar Pradesh ATS, with the help of Delhi Police, raided four houses and offices, including the one in Delhi, of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, accused of converting people and claimed to have seized several electronic equipment and important documents. Additional director general of police (law and order) Prashant Kumar said the equipment and documents seized during the raids are being examined.



On the orders of the court, the raids were conducted at his house in Okhla, at the office of Jamia Imam Waliullah Trust and at the offices of Global Peace Centre and World Peace Organisation. The raids were conducted with the help of four commando squads. Recently, one Dhiraj Deshmukh from Maharashtra has also been arrested on charges of being linked to this gang. Dhiraj Deshmukh has embraced Islam allegedly on the pressure of Maulana Kaleem and he used to invite many groups to join Islam through WhatsApp.

According to director general of ATS G K Goswami, the police had sought seven-day custody of Dhiraj to interrogate him. This apart, another close associate of Maulana Kaleem, Hafiz Idris Qureishi, was produced in court after the end of his one-week custody and the ATS sought extension of his custody by four more days which the court had agreed. Goswami said the interrogation of the two may lead to many valuable information.

Inquilab (October 8) states that a colleague of Maulana Kaleem, Sarfaraz Jafri, was also arrested by police from Jamia Nagar. According to police, Jafri was working as the manager of Maulana's Global Peace Centre and he used to arrange jobs, provide employment and even arrange the marriage of those who converted. As per the claim of the police, he was arrested from Batla House and he originally belongs to Amroha and he has been the manager of Maulana Kaleem's centre since 2016. The police also claimed that the Maulana had formed an NGO called 'Humanity for all' through which many were converted. Those who embraced Islam were sent to the office of Umar Gautam from where necessary documents were provided. On the other hand, Sarfaraz Jafri used to provide cash assistance to those who converted. Earlier also, the police had taken Sarfaraz Jafri into custody and questioned him for four days before releasing him.

More than 100 namazis killed in blast in mosque in Afghanistan



Inquilab (October 9) states that more than 100 namazis were killed in a bomb explosion in a mosque in Kunduz in Afghanistan. Majority of those who were killed were Shias. It is being said that more than 200 people were injured in the blast. Confirming the attack, a spokesperson of Taliban government said the explosion was carried out by a suicide squad of fidayeen. After the blast, the Taliban have surrounded the entire region and conducted a search operation. According to Taliban, this is the first major attack in the country after the withdrawal of US and NATO soldiers from Afghanistan. It is reported that a few suicide squad members of Islamic State joined the namazis and they only executed the blast. Eyewitnesses said blood and body parts were found strewn all around the four sides of the masjid. There is a possibility of the number of victims going up. This is because the condition of the injured admitted in hospitals is stated to be very serious. Spokesperson of Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid, said earlier also the Khorasan wing of Islamic State had carried out more than a dozen blasts after Taliban

took over the reins of Afghanistan and they had even owned responsibility for the attack. Terrorist organisation Islamic State, which is active in Afghanistan, has been targeting the Shias for the past several months and has killed hundreds of Shias.

The Taliban, while condemning the blast that took place during namaz, said those who conducted the explosion are enemies of Islam. On October 3, a bomb explosion took place in a mosque in the capital Kabul in which many people were killed. The blast took place near Idgah mosque in Kabul. There the funeral prayers (Namaz-e-Janaza) following the death of the mother of Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid was taking place when the blast occurred. Experts say that the biggest danger before the Taliban is the Islamic State which is slowly increasing its hold in Afghanistan.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 4) reports that some unidentified men resorted to indiscriminate firing in Jalalabad in which at least four persons were killed, including a journalist.

Siasat (October 1) states that Taliban have directed its special forces that they launch a full-fledged campaign to eliminate Islamic State terrorists in the country. German news agency 'BPA' states that a Taliban spokesperson called Bilal Karimi had claimed that Taliban have intensified the process of arresting people linked to Islamic State throughout the country. Taliban forces and Islamic State terrorists have clashed in many places in the country, in which many people were killed and hundreds were arrested. However, the government spokesperson has not confirmed the regions where the campaign has been launched. But Bilal Karimi said in Afghanistan there is no visible stronghold of Islamic State but ignoring their invisible presence would not be in the interest of Afghanistan. He said they were hopeful that after the exit of US soldiers from Afghanistan, the attacks by Islamic State would come down. However, expectations belied us. Instead, such attacks have only increased.

Hamara Samaj (October 12) reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that it would be difficult for us to foresee what turn the politics of Afghanistan would take in future. Currently, the US is not present in Afghanistan. It is difficult to say who would fill the vacuum that has occurred due to this. In an interview on Pakistan TV, he said that Taliban itself is an option to get rid of Islamic State.

For the Islamic countries in West Asia, Afghanistan is the only way through which they could reach Indian Ocean and

Pakistan. He said that if the world powers abandon the Taliban and don't recognise it, or sanctions are imposed on it, then the entire world would have to face serious consequences. It was the US that received the biggest setback due to the developments in Afghanistan. This is because the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan contrary to the expectations of the US. They are unable to digest this fact and hence they are very angry, upset and in a state of shock. He said he held no discussions with US President Joe Biden in the recent past. The US is a super power and when they want to talk to us or not talk to us is purely dependent on them. Commenting on the situation in Afghanistan, Imran Khan said it was a fact that the Ghani government's control was limited to city areas whereas the entire rural areas were under the control of Taliban. The interesting thing is that now those who speak about human rights or those who claim that Afghanistan's land could not be used for terrorism, what were they doing all this while?

He said that the issue is not arisen today, but is more than two decades old. Even after spending 2 billion dollars and killing lakhs of people, the issue could not be solved. If chaos spreads there, then terrorist organisations like Islamic State would engulf the whole country. It would be a difficult situation for all of us, especially for Pakistan. Only a strong Afghanistan government would be able to contain the Islamic State and it is clear that Taliban is the best choice to get rid of Islamic State. ■

Talks between Taliban and US

Inquilab (October 13) reports that there is no breakthrough in the first phase of talks held between Taliban and the US.

Sahafat (October 12) states that the US has made it clear that holding talks with Taliban doesn't mean that it is recognition of its government. Secondly, the Taliban have claimed that the US has agreed to provide help to Taliban on humanitarian

basis. After the exit of US troops from Afghanistan in August, the first phase of talks held between the US and Taliban in Doha has concluded. In these talks held in Qatar, discussions were held on many things like not allowing Afghanistan to be used for terrorist activities, helping US citizens to leave Afghanistan, and providing help to Afghanistan on

humanitarian basis. Taliban claim that the US has assured them that apart from extending governmental aid to the citizens of Afghanistan, it would also help them get aid through other organisations. However, there is no confirmation from the US on this claim. A US spokesperson has said that it has been holding talks on providing help to the citizens of Afghanistan on humanitarian basis. The new foreign minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi said the two sides have agreed to abide by the Doha summit held in 2020. As per this agreement, the Taliban have agreed to rein in various terrorist groups like Islamic State and Al Qaida in Afghanistan so that they would not emerge as a danger to US and its allied countries.

Siasat (October 11) states that in the talks that started between the US and Taliban in Doha, the Taliban have stressed that the US should lift the restrictions on withdrawing deposits of Afghanistan Banks so that these funds could be utilised to provide amenities for Afghan people.

Etemaad (October 11) states that the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi, had warned the US against trying to destabilise the Taliban government in Afghanistan and if it does it,

then it would not be good for anyone. Taliban have also decried the statement of US that it would extend help to Afghanistan to rein in terrorist organisations like Islamic State and Al Qaida. He said that it is an internal matter of our country and we don't want to aggravate the matter by taking help from foreigners. The Taliban representatives have told the US that they should immediately lift the restrictions that they had imposed on withdrawing the funds of Afghan bank. This is because such a step is necessary for the economy of Afghanistan. The US spokesperson said they had urged Taliban to cooperate with US in extricating the US citizens still trapped in Afghanistan.

Inqilab (October 13) states that the United Nations General Secretary alleged that the assurances Afghanistan had given to the UN have not been fulfilled yet. The Taliban are not willing to provide facilities to the women and girls, due to which the education of nearly 30 lakh Afghan girls are in a limbo. After Taliban took over power in Afghanistan, the cabinet was expanded at least three times but neither a single woman has been inducted, nor anyone from the minorities has been made a member.

Threat to blow up Europe's largest mosque

Inqilab (October 9) states that the managers of the largest under-construction mosque in Europe received a letter that threatens to destroy the mosque completely. The mosque is being built in Strasbourg in France with the help of Turkey and it has been given the name EyyubSultan Mosque. It was written in the letter that all those involved in the construction of the mosque would be killed and the under-construction building would be blown up using bomb. We are against mosques and we will not allow Islam to spread terrorism in Europe. There is no place for Islam in France. The 40 lakh Muslims should either be evicted from France or they have to leave Islam. We



know that you will not leave Islam. Hence you don't have any right to stay in France, says the letter. The mosque will get ready by the end of this year and its 90% work is already over. Nearly 5,000 people can offer namaz in the mosque and it will have a museum, library and a restaurant.

81000 Rohingya refugees to be shifted to an island



Inquilab (October 10) states that after an agreement between Bangladesh and United Nations, arrangements are being made to send 81,000 Rohingya refugees to an island in the Bay of Bengal. According to French news agency AFP, despite the concerns of organisations involved in the rehabilitation programme, 19,000 Muslim refugees from Myanmar were sent from refugee camps to the four islands in the sea. According to the refugee commissioner of Bangladesh, Shah Rizwan Hayat, after the end of the cyclone that is expected to hit the Bay of Bengal in October, we would send nearly one lakh refugees to the four islands by the end of February. The island is spread over 53 square kilometre and it surfaced from the sea nearly two decades ago. The island is nearly 60 kilometre away from the main land of Bangladesh and so far 35 crore dollar has been spent to make it worth for rehabilitation. The Rohingya refugees have alleged that the Bangladesh government is forcefully sending them to this uninhabitable island. Currently, 8.5 lakh

Rohingyas are staying in refugee camps on Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Majority of them have fled to this region during the military action in Myanmar in 2017.

As per another report, the United Nations has confirmed its agreement with Bangladesh for the rehabilitation of refugees. The security agencies of Bangladesh are forcefully sending these refugees to the islands. The refugees who are sent to these islands say that the islands are not hospitable and there are no civic amenities there. Hence a number of refugees sent to these islands from Bangladesh by the security agencies have escaped and landed in main land. Last month, hundreds of refugees who escaped the island in boats got drowned in the sea. The Bangladesh government claimed that the United Nations has assured financial aid to Bangladesh for the rehabilitation of the refugees and UN officials are supervising the work being carried out there. ■

Massive earthquake in Balochistan

Inquilab (October 8) states that following a massive earthquake that struck Pakistan's Balochistan region, it has been confirmed that 40 to 50 people were killed and hundreds of injured were admitted in

hospitals. According to Geo News, strong tremors were recorded in Quetta, Sibi, Ziarat, Chaman, Qila Abdullah, Saryab, Loralai and Prashin regions. However, the maximum damage due to the earthquake

occurred in Harnai where the region has totally been wiped out. Balochistan is located in a quake-prone area. More than 30,000 people were killed in Quetta in a massive earthquake that hit Balochistan in 1937. As per the claims of Pakistan government, the magnitude of the earthquake has been recorded at 6 on Richter scale and its epicentre has been identified at 10 km deep from the surface in Harnai. The Pakistan government has sent soldiers apart from Disaster Management Authority officials to the quake-affected regions. Nearly a dozen people are still trapped in the debris and efforts to take them out are being carried out by relief and rescue teams. Electricity supply has been cut off to the entire region. Due to the emergency situation, doctors and relief and rescue teams are rushed to Balochistan via planes. The director



general of police in Balochistan, Nassir, said that majority of the worst-hit regions are mountainous places and mostly inaccessible regions and hence there is lot of difficulty in sending relief and rescue teams to these places. Food and water are supplied to the quake-hit regions with the help of Army helicopters. The Saudi Arabian government expressed condolences to the people of Pakistan and assured them full cooperation.

New chief for Pakistan's intelligence agency

Roznama Sahara (October 7) states that the Pakistan government has removed the chief of intelligence agency, Lt General Faiz Hameed, who played a major role in bringing Taliban to power in Afghanistan, from the post of ISI chief. It is being said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was angry over the activities of Faiz Hameed in Afghanistan and hence he took the decision to remove him from the high post. Now he will function as the commander of the Peshawar Corps of the Pakistan Army. Lt General Nadeem Anjum has been appointed as his successor in ISI. This appointment was made by Imran Khan himself. General Anjum is a resident of Guzar Khan in Rawalpindi district. Before this, he was the commander of Karachi Corps. He was elevated to the post of Lt General in September 2019. He belongs to



Punjab regiment. He was trained at Royal College of Defence Studies in Britain. He is considered as an expert in containing terrorism and action against violence and subversion in foreign countries. As the director general of Frontier Corps, he crushed the rising rebellion in Balochistan with an iron hand. He is also considered as an expert on Kashmir and an informed person on issues related to India.

Jews get permission to pray at Al Aqsa mosque



Inqilab (October 9) reports that a court in Israel has delivered a controversial judgment in favour of the Jews who wanted to offer prayers at Al Aqsa mosque on which the Palestinian Authority has registered its strong protest. According to news agencies, Rabbi Aryeh Lippo, who stays in Israel, had filed a petition in the court against the temporary ban on entry of Jews on the premises of Al Aqsa mosque. Delivering its verdict on the petition, the magistrate has directed the Israeli police that if the Jews offer prayers at Al Aqsa, then it should not be treated as an offence and nor shall they be stopped from offering the prayers.

As per the agreement signed between Israel and Jordan in 1994, the Jews are not permitted to offer prayers on the premises of Al Aqsa. Only Muslims are allowed to offer namaz in the premises whereas the Jews can offer prayers on the Western Wall. Opposing the decision of the court, the prime minister of Palestine, Mohammad

Ibrahim Shtayyeh, urged the United States to take steps to stop the Jews from entering the premises of the mosque. He said the decision was aimed at allowing Jews to forcefully enter its premises. Hence every Arab nation should unite and oppose this decision. Jordan, the protector of Al Aqsa mosque, also described the court order as a violation of the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Tel Aviv and also as a serious threat to the historical and legal status of Al Aqsa mosque. On the issue of Al Aqsa mosque, lawyer Khaled Zabarqa said the Israeli judicial system has no power to interfere in the issue of Al Aqsa mosque or change anything related to its centuries-old tradition. The court decision has to be confirmed by the high court and the Palestinian Authority. However, the statement of the Arabs is that under the guise of the court order, Israel would illegally takeover Al Aqsa mosque. Imam of Al Aqsa mosque, Shiekh Ekrima Syed Sabri, said that the courts in Israel or any other organisation have no power

to take any decision regarding Al Aqsa mosque. Al Aqsa mosque is a holy place only of Muslims and Jews have no claim over it and it is the religious duty of every Muslim in the world to protect the mosque.

Inqilab (October 3) states that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has strongly criticised the attack on Al Aqsa mosque by the Jewish government and alleged that Israel is forcefully evicting Palestinians from Jerusalem. Jewish colonies are illegally constructed and a drive has been carried out to wipe out Palestinians and efforts are being made to change the geographical map of the holy city. The organisation has condemned the hoisting of Israeli flag at Al Aqsa mosque, the most sacred place of Muslims, and appealed to countries all over the world to stop Israel from insulting the mosque. This apart, the

Palestinians held a protest and condemned the actions of Jews.

As per the report of Palestinian information centre, the Palestinians held strong protests in different places in Palestine against the Jewish attack. The Israel took action against the protesters, resulting in injuries to seven Palestinians. The Jewish government used drones to fire teargas shells on the protesters. In the process one drone crashed and got destroyed. The Jews launched an attack on a city called Khalil during which violent clashes with Palestinian youths took place. Eight Palestinians were killed in this incident. Muslim fundamentalist organisation Hamas has alleged that Israelis are trying to forcefully take over Gaza. Hamas leader Musha Mohammad Abu Marzook announced that Hamas would not remain silent and would take strong action against Israelis. ■

UAE aims to improve relationship with Iran and Turkey

Siasat (October 5) reports that UAE has begun a serious effort to improve its relationship with other Arab nations. President of United Arab Emirates, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan's diplomatic advisor Anwar Gargash said that in view of the current situation, it is necessary to review the old policies so that efforts could be taken to resolve the dispute between Iran and Turkey, which has been continuing for a long time now, through talks. This would ensure that no new conflict arises in the region. He indicated that his country would like to keep itself away from the potential cold war between the US and China. He told a press conference that we are worried about the increasing tension between US and China. The Gulf countries have very good and strong trade relationship with China. Secondly, all these countries are dependent on the US military help and

their security system. Anwar Gargash said that US and other Western countries are making efforts to reinstate their nuclear deal with Iran. However, after Taliban took over the reins in Afghanistan, a number of fresh issues have cropped up. Due to the presence and dominance of US in our region, there is a possibility of many difficulties in future. Hence it is difficult to say which turn the situation would take. Due to the changing situation, it is necessary for us to remain active and find solution to the problems of our region. The vacuum that has been created in Afghanistan can lead to a variety of problems. That is why, for the past several months, we were making efforts to ease the tension by holding talks with Iran and Turkey. The UAE and Saudi Arabia believe that unless the missile programme of Iran is restrained, the nuclear deal is irrelevant. The recent

decision of Turkey to start reviewing its policy on Egypt, Ikhwanul Muslimeen and Saudi Arabia, is a welcome step. We can find a way out of it. Till now, our talks with Turkey were positive. However, what is worrisome is that will Iran change its policy towards this region? But it is clear that even Iran is concerned about the changing circumstances. The changing political perspective in the post-Covid pandemic period has become important for us. We want to save ourselves from getting trapped in the competition between the US and China.

Etemaad (October 5) states that the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faizal bin Farhan, said that the talks we were holding with Iran to settle the disputes are now in its preliminary stage. In a joint press conference with Josep Borrell, head of European Union's

security policy, he said that we were making efforts to ensure that Iran reviews its missile programme and its nuclear development policy. Otherwise it can create regional imbalance and may also lead to a new era of arms race. We are also trying to ensure that the European Union exerts pressure to end the war in Yemen. He said that the Houthi rebel attacks on Saudi Arabia are an open violation of international law. In this connection, Josep Borrell said that the European Union is the biggest partner of Saudi Arabia. Hence we want to peacefully resolve the issue of Yemen. The Saudi government spokesperson said that they were trying to improve the relationship with the new government of Ebrahim Raisi in Iran. We want to get rid of the differences between Shia and Sunni Muslim countries and want to unite all Muslim nations. ■

Israeli Embassy inaugurated in Bahrain



Siasat (October 3) states that the Foreign Minister of Israel Yair Lapid has inaugurated the Israel embassy in Bahrain capital Manama. On the occasion, the Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, was also present. Later, the Foreign Minister of Israel held talks with King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isla Al Khalifa. This is the first visit of

any Israeli minister to Bahrain after the establishment of diplomatic relationship between Israel and Bahrain last year. Residents held protests in different cities in Bahrain against the visit of Israel's minister and also against opening of Israeli Embassy in Bahrain. Israel and Bahrain signed five agreements on this occasion which included cooperation

between the two countries on hospitals, drinking water and electricity production.

A spokesperson of Israel said that Bahrain expects cooperation from Israel in the fields of economy and technology and we would be extending the same. He said that the two countries have so far signed a deal for 12 projects related to transportation, agriculture, information

technology and cooperation in financial sector. An air service has also been started between the two countries. Bahrain's national carrier Gulf Air has started an aircraft service to Tel Aviv. It was due to US pressure that Bahrain and UAE started relations with Israel. However, people are opposed to this relationship. ■

Iran's efforts to improve relations with Russia



Inqilab (October 7) states that the Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amirabdollahian recently visited Moscow and urged Russia to keep an eye on the aggressive acts of Israel. This is because Israel, with the cooperation of United States, is trying to destabilise the Arab world. As per news reports, the Iran's Foreign Minister reached Moscow on a special invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. The Foreign Minister of Iran said he would hold talks with Russia on nuclear agreement and cooperation in other security areas. The Russian foreign ministry in a statement said the visit of the foreign minister of Iran is linked to issues like stopping the spread of terrorism in the region, ban on smuggling of drugs, providing international aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and efforts of Iran and Russia to find a solution to the issues in Syria.

Inqilab (October 2) states that Russia has claimed that Afghanistan and Tajikistan have deployed their soldiers in huge numbers on their border. There is a constant increase in the tension along their border region. On seeing the increasing tension on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, Iran started a huge military exercise on its region near the border and Iran too deployed its troops on a large scale near the border. Following this, tension further increased in the region. Iran has also started amassing its weapon systems and hundreds of soldiers of special force units on its region near the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon has claimed that due to Taliban's seizure of Afghanistan, tension has increased in the region. Tajikistan has refused to give recognition to the new government in Afghanistan. The Taliban government has expressed strong reaction on this and

said that Tajikistan has no power to interfere in our affairs.

Qaumi Tanzeem (October 8) states that Iran has issued a strong warning over Israel's increasing influence in Azerbaijan. Addressing journalists in Moscow, Iran's foreign minister said that due to the pressure of Israel, Azerbaijan has not only started military exercise on Iran's border but also deployed soldiers in huge numbers and recently experts from Israel also visited this region. According to media, Iran, in tandem with Turkey, is gathering troops in the region. Tension is building up in Iran and its northern neighbouring countries because Azerbaijan's Azeri Kabila group is present in large numbers in Iran and Israel is trying to provoke them against Iran.

Etemaad (October 7) states that the foreign minister of Russia has told correspondents that despite US sanctions, Russia's trade with Iran increased by 42%. He said his country would not succumb to the pressure being put on Iran by the US and Western nations under any circumstance and would fully cooperate with Iran. We will continue to cooperate with Iran and Turkey, he said.



Mumbai Urdu News (October 11) states that Iran has started a huge supply of arms and ammunition to Venezuela. According to a newspaper in Columbia, a number of Boeing aircraft of an Iranian company, Qeshm Fars Air, carrying huge quantities of arms and ammunition, landed in a military airport in Libertador in Venezuela. Through these aircraft, Iran supplied 2,000 missiles, 400 bombs and other arms and ammunition to Venezuela. As per report, in order to provide training on these weapons, a number of senior officials of Iranian military and intelligence wing have also reached Venezuela. It is reported that Iran has taken this step in order to exert pressure on US.

Tunisia's first woman prime minister

Inqilab (October 1) reports that the president of Arabic nation Tunisia, after dissolving the parliament and dismissing Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi, appointed a relatively unknown woman named Najla Bouden Romdhane as the country's first woman prime minister. President Kais Saied issued a decree empowering Najla Bouden to constitute a new ministry. The president in a video message said that it is for the first time in the history of Arab countries that a woman has been appointed as prime minister. He expressed hope that she would be able to

defeat corruption and chaos spread in the country's administrative setup and would give a new direction to the country's politics.

Reports say that the new PM was never active in the politics of Tunisia. Hence speculations are rife over her appointment. She is nearly 63 years old. She is an engineer by profession. She was born in Tunisia's central region Kairouan in 1958 and she was the principal of National Engineering School of Tunisia. She was appointed as the chief of higher education wing in 2011.



Siasat (October 5) states that after Pakistan and Bangladesh, Tunisia is the third Muslim country to appoint a woman as the prime minister. The first woman prime minister in a Muslim country was Benazir Bhutto who was killed in a terrorist attack. In Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina is currently holding power, and she is the daughter of the father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Tunisia has a population of 1.1 crore. The government there has failed to contain the Corona

pandemic. Hence the people's sentiments were against the previous government. Taking advantage of the situation, President Kais Saied scrapped the Constitution of 2014 and took entire powers in his hands. Political observers claim that since the new prime minister has no experience in politics she would not be able to find a solution to the financial crisis or bring down the increasing prices. This apart, she has no support from any political party in the parliament.

Over 16000 infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia

Inquilab (October 10) reports that 16,151 people staying illegally in the country were arrested in the past one week as part of campaign against infiltrators in Saudi Arabia. These people have illegally entered Saudi Arabia after violating the law enacted in 1970. Nearly 7,000 of the arrested persons were working in the country by violating the labour laws of Saudi Arabia. Nearly 8,000 were arrested while illegally trying to enter the country through border areas. Among those arrested, 44% belong to Yemen, 54% belong to Ethiopia and the rest 2% are citizens of other countries. Some 26 people who were trying to leave Saudi Arabia for



other countries were also arrested after they crossed the border. Thirteen others who helped them to hide were also arrested. So far, 69,000 people have been arrested and expelled from the country on charges of illegally staying in Saudi Arabia.

Concern over increasing talaq cases among Muslims



Siasat (October 12) states that various speakers attending a meeting of Muslims in Gulbarga have expressed serious concern over increasing incidents of talaq among Muslims. For example, in the past six months in Warangal, there were 34 cases of talaq, while only one nikah took place. Managing editor of **Siasat**, Zaheeruddin Ali Khan, said that Muslim girl students are taking education seriously. But Muslim boys are hardly interested in getting educated. They are getting away from Islam day by day and

have become drug addicts. He urged Muslims to take more care in bringing up their children and stop them from falling into the trap of Love Jihad. He said that due to the increasing prevalence of dowry among Muslims, Muslim girls are landing in the clutches of non-Muslim boys. Hence, in order to save Islam and its daughters, it is necessary to get rid of wasteful expenditure during marriages and every wedding should be held as a simple event in masjids by following the tradition of the Prophet. ■

Charminar completes 430 years

Siasat (October 11) states that 430 years have passed since the construction of Charminar, the Hyderabad's identity around the world. It is being said that its construction was completed on October 9, 1591. It was the first building built by Sultan Quli Qutb Shah for his new capital Hyderabad. There is different opinion about why the Sultan chose to construct this building. According to historians, the Sultan constructed this



building as per the wishes of his lover Bhagmati. It was designed by an Iranian architect, Mir Momin Astrawadi, and it was constructed in two years. According to historians, when Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb conquered Golconda in 1687, he had issued a decree ordering the destruction of Charminar. However, when he came to know there was a masjid atop the minar of Charminar, he withdrew the decree for its destruction. ■

Ashraf Ghani accused of stealing 16 crore dollars



Roznama Sahara (October 12) states that a security official of former Afghanistan president Ashraf Ghani has confirmed the allegation of a government agency in US that the former president, while fleeing Kabul, took away 16 crore dollars with

him. As per the report, the chief of former president's security, Brigadier General Piraz Ata Sharifi said that he has a video clip with him which shows the money being transported to Dubai. He said he has a CCTV recording of the Presidential Palace with him where an official of Afghan Bank could be seen reaching there carrying huge amounts of money and handing over the same to Ashraf Ghani. Ashraf Ghani has been accused of taking 16 crore dollars in a helicopter and fleeing to Dubai. However, later he refuted these allegations. Now his former security adviser has exposed him once again.

Unique manuscript of Quran on display

Inquilab (October 11) states that in the Dubai Expo 2020, an 18th century manuscript of Quran has been displayed which was once a property of the third president of United States, Thomas Jefferson. As per a report of Khaleej Times, the manuscript of the Quran is a unique treasure in the library of US

Congress. It has been brought from there and displayed in this expo. It is being said that the third president of United States had purchased this manuscript of Quran. The expo on Islamic heritage has been organised in Dubai after a gap of one year due to Corona pandemic.

200 women deputed to take care of mosques in Saudi Arabia

Inquilab (October 13) states that for the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, more than 200 women have been recruited as employees of the two biggest mosques in the country. These women are doctorate degree holders in Islam. Imam of Masjid

Al-Haram, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Sudais said that majority of the women who have been deployed to care of the masjids are young. He said that Saudi Arabia is the first Muslim nation to deploy women to take care of mosques.

Effort to set fire to cemetery of Muslims in US

Siasat (October 8) reports that a few anti-Muslim elementstried to destroy a Kabristan of Muslims in Minnesota state in the US. In a statement, Minnesota Council of American-Islamic Relations said that some anti-social elements in Castle Rock town gathered hundreds of old tyres of

vehicles and set fire to them near to a Kabristan, resulting in serious damage to the Islamic cemetery. The US Muslims have demanded the government to take immediate action against anti-Muslim elements so that such incidents do not occur in future.

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India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
 Tel : 011-26524018 • Fax : 011-46089365
 E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolicy@gmail.com
 Website : www.ipf.org.in