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Maulana Arrested for Converting People Using Foreign Funds



- Fight for Power in Imarat-E-Shariah
- Talks Likely Between Iran and US
- Shariah Law Imposed in Afghanistan
- Second Marriage of Muslim Man with Hindu Woman Invalid

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Summary

The Uttar Pradesh ATS has arrested Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui. He has been accused of converting hundreds of people into Islam through allurements and blackmail with the help of foreign funds. In this connection, one Umar Gautam and Mufti Jahangir Qasmi were also arrested earlier in June. Additional Director General of Police (law and order) Prashant Kumar claimed that the gang has been running the conversion racket in the guise of social harmony and human welfare and an inquiry into their bank accounts confirmed that they received Rs 20 crore from abroad for conversion activities. The ATS has taken into custody nearly a dozen associates of Kaleem Siddiqui and they are being interrogated. The gang has been using some Hindus who had converted to Islam to lure more and more Hindus into their trap.

A fierce fight broke out between two groups to grab the post of Amir in the country's largest Islamic organisation, Imarat-e-Shariah, in Patna. Interestingly, not a single national or regional newspaper even reported this incident. This Islamic organisation, Imarat-e-Shariah, was established in 1921 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and other Muslim leaders. Its aim is to give guidance to Muslims on matters of religion and to spread Islam. This organisation is the main guidance for crores of Muslims in Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. It has more than 500 employees on its rolls. Its Amir, Maulana Wali Rahmani passed away in June. Now, various Sunni Muslim groups are fighting over the election of his successor.

The results of the civil services examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission have been announced and 29 Muslim candidates have emerged successful. A number of them had studied in madrasas and had given their examination in Urdu language. Currently, nearly 200 Muslim organisations are running coaching centres in different parts of the country with the aim of increasing the representation of Muslims in the nation's administrative set up. These centres are not only giving free coaching to the candidates but are also taking care of their accommodation, food and books.

After assuming power in Afghanistan, Taliban has imposed Shariah law in the country. As per the law, offenders' heads or limbs would be cut and publicly displayed at intersections. The Islamic government has also banned women from appearing in public without a burqa. A prominent Taliban leader Mullah Nooruddin Turabi said the world has no right to give advice to us on what law we should formulate and which rule we should implement. We would implement Quran and Shariah under any circumstance. ■

Maulana arrested for converting people using foreign funds



Huge money has been pumped in from foreign countries for the past several decades to convert Hindus to Islam. In this connection, a team of Uttar Pradesh ATS arrested Delhi-based Umar Gautam and Mufti Jahangir Qasmia few months ago and after getting information from them, arrested nearly a dozen others linked to the same gang from different parts of the country. Now, after collecting more information, Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui and a number of others linked to his gang have been arrested. After the arrest of Kaleem, those who sustain themselves on money from Islamic nations are very upset and they have unleashed a nationwide campaign to get him released. Urdu newspapers have also jumped into this campaign.

Inquilab (September 23) has published the report of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui's arrest as its main news and said that Uttar Pradesh Additional Director General of Police (law and order) Prashant Kumar had claimed that people linked to the organisations of Kaleem--Global Peace

Centre and Jamiat-e-Waliullah--had been converting people through allurements and threats. Prashant Kumar also claimed that these organisations recently received Rs 3 crore from abroad, out of which Rs 1.5 crore was remitted into the account from Bahrain alone. The ATS raided Phulat village in Muzaffarnagar where Kaleem has his main office. Phulat and neighbouring localities are strongholds of Wahabi institutions of Saudi Arabia right from the beginning and the Maulana Kaleem has been actively involved in conversion activities in the region. Prashant Kumar said Kaleem has been running a trust named 'Jamia Imam Waliullah' at his ancestral place Phulat and it has been functioning as a conversion syndicate under the guise of fraternity, humanity and social welfare activities. Money is given to Islamic madrasas in different parts of the country on behalf of this trust. Under the guise of humanity, Kaleem Siddiqui used to give his books free for conversion activities. Prashant Kumar said that Umar Gautam and Maulana Jahangir Qasmi were

arrested from Delhi on June 20. Later, more than a dozen people associated with this gang were nabbed from several places like Gujarat and Maharashtra. The main arrested persons include Salahuddin Sheikh, Rameshwar Kawde alias Adam, Kausar Alam and Bhupriya alias Arsalan Mustafa.

Prashant Kumar also said that Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui passed intermediate in science from Pickett Inter College Khatauli and later did BSc from Meerut University. Not only this, he passed the pre-medical entrance test for admission to MBBS course. But instead of joining the medical degree course, he joined Darul Uloom Nadwa, from where he secured an Alimiyyah degree and later established an Islamic madrasa. Later he launched several organisations using foreign funds. Maulana Kaleem has several centres and residences in different parts of the country. He has a house in Okhla in Delhi from where he runs Global Peace Centre.

Inquilab in its latest edition has carried a joint statement of Muslim maulanas, in which it is claimed that the issue of conversion has been raised in view of the forthcoming elections to Uttar Pradesh Assembly and its aim is polarisation of votes. The student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, Student Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), has condemned the arrest of Kaleem Siddiqui and his colleagues and demanded their immediate release. Congress leader in Okhla, Abbas Mastan, claimed that since the Modi government has failed in all fronts, it is targeting Muslim scholars like Kaleem Siddiqui in order to hide its failures. Muslims staged huge protests in Delhi, Aligarh, Muzaffarnagar and Meerut seeking the release of Kaleem Siddiqui.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 27) reports that the colleagues of Kaleem arrested by ATS include Hafiz Mohammad Idris Qureshi, Mohammad Salim and Kunal Ashok Chaudhari alias Aatif. Prashant Kumar said that as per the latest information, it has been confirmed that Maulana Kaleem's trust has received Rs 20

crore from abroad. Kunal alias Aatif is a resident of Maharashtra. He completed medical education from Russia and returned to India and became a Muslim. Hafiz Idris constructed a house in Phulat by spending Rs 60 lakh he received from abroad and also purchased a motorcycle for Rs 2.5 lakh. He also has many properties in Delhi and Muzaffarnagar. During interrogation, he could not give any satisfactory explanation about the source from where he received this much money. According to ATS, so far 14 persons have been arrested in this connection.

In the September 29 edition of the same newspaper, it has been claimed that a senior IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh, Iftikharuddin, is also involved in religious preaching and religious conversion. The Uttar Pradesh police has started an investigation in this connection. Currently, Iftikharuddin is posted as a director in the tourism department in Lucknow.

Siasat (September 30) has claimed that the video that has been used to book this senior Muslim official is of the 2007-18 period. He belongs to the 1985 IAS batch. Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi alleged that the BJP has targeted the Muslim officer in order to garner the votes of majority community.

Mumbai Urdu News in its September 27 edition claimed that Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui has been trapped in a fake case due to political reasons and the issue is linked to the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. The newspaper said that BJP is deliberately targeting Muslims and they are being trapped in fake cases. The seeds of hate are sown in the society through media trial. This is the reason why an atmosphere has been created against Muslims in the country.

Avadhnama (September 29) published an article by Masoom Moradabadi titled, "What mistake has Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui committed"? According to the Indian Constitution, every citizen has the freedom to propagate his religion and Maulana Kaleem and his

colleagues were spreading Islam as per the Constitution. The article also claims that the police have not received even a single complaint that alleges that Kaleem Siddiqui had used blackmail or allurements to convert any person. If anyone has converted his religion on his own then the government has no right to interfere in it. The article also says that if Kaleem has received any kind of money from abroad, then there are countless numbers of such institutions in this country which receive money from abroad for different purposes. Why no action has been taken against them till now?

Avadhnama (September 23) has condemned the arrest of Kaleem Siddiqui and alleged that Muslims are deliberately harassed in Uttar Pradesh. The newspaper has also demanded his release.

Siasat in its September 23 edition said that Maulana has been trapped in a fake case due to political reasons and hence he should be released immediately.

Etemaad (September 23) also said that Maulana has been arrested on a fake case. The BJP is using such incidents to ensure its victory in elections. What is shocking is that secular parties are also remaining mute witnesses to the harassment of Muslims.

The same newspaper in an editorial published in September 24 claimed that after Gujarat, BJP is trying to ignite religious hate in Uttar Pradesh and capture power in the state. From Dr Kaffil Khan to Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, from the arrest of Azam Khan to the attack on the house of Asaduddin Owaisi, organising the riots in Delhi, closure of hundreds of slaughterhouses in the name of Gauraksha, describing love jihad and conversion as illegal and changing the names of cities are among the deeds of the Yogi government, through which he is trying to reach the stature of Modi.

The newspaper said that the allegation levelled by ATS against Kaleem Siddiqui is baseless. Promotion of religious harmony and spreading the virtue of Islam are not illegal. Instead, these are his

fundamental rights. He said the way the Muslims have been targeted in the country, and the media and the opposition have turned a blind eye towards it, is a serious danger to the democracy.

Hamara Samaj (November 23) said that Maulana Siddiqui has become a target of BJP's politics and its Muslim enmity. His case would be fought by Jamiat Ulema and he would be given all kinds of legal aid. For this, a team of 12 Muslim lawyers have been formed under the leadership of senior advocate Pathan Tahovar Khan.

Hamara Samaj (September 23) reports that the chief of Rihai Manch, Mohammad Shoeb, has alleged that the Yogi government is trapping Muslims in fake cases with the aim of polarisation of votes in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh which is a violation of the Constitution and the citizens' rights. He said that the Rihai Manch would launch a nationwide campaign against the conspiracy of Yogi government.

Hamara Samaj in its September 25 edition has described the arrest of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui as an open attack on Islam and urged Muslims to strongly oppose the government.

Inquilab in its editorial on September 25 has claimed that the Yogi government has trapped Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui and his colleagues in fake cases for its political benefits and in order to amass the votes of the majority community in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Roznama Sahara (September 27) in its editorial condemned the arrest of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui and his colleagues and described the development as politically motivated.

Jadeed Markaz (October 3) in an editorial titled 'Arrest of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui' alleged that ever since the BJP government was formed in Uttar Pradesh under Yogi Adityanath, a campaign has been unleashed to frighten Muslims and demoralise them. The latest incident is the arrest of the chief of Madrasa Jamia Imam

Waliullah, Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui. If one is a Muslim political leader or a religious leader, the Yogi government is trapping him in fake cases so that Muslims could be frightened. The unsubstantiated charges filed against Kaleem Siddiqui will not stand in any court of law. Prashant Kumar has presented Kaleem Siddiqui in such way as if he is Al Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. Prashant Kumar has also

claimed that the Maulana has converted 350 people in a single year. But has a single person among them has so far filed a complaint with the police yet? The newspaper said that first the Yogi government should immediately dismiss Prashant Kumar. Because when he was the Inspector General of Police in Meerut, why he did not inform the government about the activities of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui?

Fight for power in Muslim organisation Imarat-e-Shariah



Inquilab (September 23) reports that a huge fight had broken out between two groups for power in Imarat-e-Shariah, the largest organisation of Muslims in Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. According to the newspaper, the fight is over the election of the eighth Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah. Deputy Amir-e-Shariah, Maulana Shamsad Rahmani is adamant in calling a meeting for the election of the new Amir on October 10 as per the announcement made earlier. On the other hand, a parallel group has announced its decision to call a meeting at a madrasa in Samanpura in Patna on October 9 to elect the new Amir. It is clear from this that there is a huge difference of opinion over the leadership of the largest religious organisation of

Muslims and hence one doesn't see any possibility of a unanimous election of Amir-e-Shariah as of now.

The seventh Amir-e-Shariah, Late Maulana Wali Rahmani's son, Maulana Fahad Rahmani had called a press conference at a hotel in Patna on September 20 and described the scheduled meeting to elect the new Amir on October 10 as "unconstitutional" and announced the decision to call a meeting before it on October 9 at Samanpura to elect the eighth Amir and this has been opposed by the Deputy Amir Maulana Shamsad Rahmani. Members of the executive committee Dr Ahmad Abdul Hai and Ashfaq Karim have tried to stop the October 9 meeting.

However, the attempt failed and a huge slogan shouting took place against it.

The supporters of Fahad Rahmani demanded that the executive remove Acting Amir Maulana Shibli Qasmi from his post ahead of the elections which was opposed by the supporters of Maulana Shibli Qasmi resulting in a huge fight between the two groups. Later the police intervened and controlled the situation.

In order to hide the row between the groups, the Imarat-e-Shariah has issued a press note, in which it has been denied that the supporters of Fahad Rahmani have misbehaved with Shibli Qasmi in any manner. The press note also claims that Fahad Rahmani had brought some controversial persons along with him, which includes a man called Arman Malik who has a criminal record and he had been in jail on serious offences and he is a notorious character as far as the people of Patna are concerned. Hence his presence was opposed by the people of Phulwari Sharif and they demanded his expulsion from the meeting.

Soon, a fight broke out between Arman Malik and the other group but neither Fahad Rahmani nor the executive members who came with him got involved in it. In the meantime, the SHO of Phulwari Sharif police station Rafikul Rahman reached the spot with policemen and pacified those who were creating the ruckus and the controversial persons were removed from the spot. The Imarat-e-Shariah has claimed that no scuffle took place with Fahad Rahmani and the issue has been raked up with the intention of giving a bad name to Imarat-e-Shariah.

Inquilab (September 29) has published another report in which it is mentioned that the row over the election of eighth Amir has not ended. Recently, a few people in Jharkhand had announced a decision to call a meeting on October 7 in Ranchi for the election of Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah. The controversy has aggravated after this. The members of the executive are also divided into different groups. There is a possibility that Imarat-e-Shariah

may get split into two groups. One group claims that the stand of Naib Amir of Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand, Maulana Mohammad Shamsad Rahmani is partisan. Earlier, he had convened an online meeting of the executive committee on June 20 in which he had smartly announced extension of his tenure and also decided that once the lockdown is lifted an 11-member committee would decide on convening the meeting to elect the new Amir. After this, he started making efforts to elect a new person as the Amir. Member of Majlis-e-Shoorah, Shahnawaz Ahmad, made an announcement to convene a meeting on October 10 through e-mail. Shahnawaz also described the meeting convened on October 9 as “unconstitutional.”

Avadhnama (September 18) has published an editorial titled, ‘Dark clouds over Imarat-e-Shariah.’ The editorial claims that Imarat-e-Shariah is the biggest institution of Muslims in eastern India and it was established in 1921 by Maulana Abul Mohsin Mohammad Sajjad. In 1857, after the end of Mughal empire, in order to find a solution to the frustration among Muslims, the Imarat-e-Shariah, Bihar was established with the cooperation of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Maulana Mohammad Ali Muregi and Maulana Syed Badruddin Qadri. An Amir-e-Shariah has been elected to run the institution. Imarat-e-Shariah has several wings and departments for matters like issuing fatwa, create a system for Islamic education, propagation of Islam, protection to Muslims, Islamic bank, education and welfare trust, hospital and publications division, among others. Currently, it has more than 500 employees. So far seven Amir-e-Shariah and seven Deputy Amir-e-Shariah have been elected by the institution.

Currently, it gives guidance to Muslims in three states namely, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. All the three states have a huge Muslim population. However, for the past five-six months, such a big institution of Muslims is stuck in a controversy. Now efforts are being made to

split the institution. This year, Amir-e-Shariah Maulana Wali Rahmani passed away on April 3. After this, the organisation has been passing through a critical phase. Four days after his death, a teacher of Darul Uloom Waqf had been declared as Naib Amir in a secret manner. This decision has become a dispute. It is being said that the appointment of Naib Amir was claimed to have been done before the death of Maulana Wali Rahmani. However, the announcement could be made only after his passing away and it has also been alleged that the signature of Wali Rahmani on the appointment is fake. However, three months have passed and till now the new Amir could not be appointed. Now different groups are making all kinds of claims and it is now being feared that these controversies may lead to the division of the organisation. If it happens, then it

would a regrettable incident for the country's Muslims.

Qaumi Tanzeem has published an article on December 22 which contains a detailed description of the controversy surrounding the forthcoming election of Amir in Imarat-e-Shariah. The newspaper published another article on September 30 in which it is claimed that Imarat-e-Shariah was established by the Prophet himself in Medina. Through this institution, Muslims are given training so that Islam gets expanded and disseminated. The article alleges that the Imarat-e-Shariah in Bihar has never focused on the spread and dissemination of Islam. Their only aim is to gather a few Muslims in masjids and deliver lectures in front of them. In order to spread and disseminate Islam in the country, it is necessary for organisations like Imarat-e-Shariah to become more active.

Violence and firing over control of dargah



Inquilab (September 28) reports that clashes erupted between two groups of Muslims over the control of dargah Mir Mohammad in Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh, resulting in firing. Later, the administration arrested 25 people including the chairpersons of both committees and sent them to jail. The police raided several places in Uttar Pradesh in search of 38 identified and 30 unidentified accused in

the case. In order to maintain peace, the district administration locked the dargah and deployed policemen on the spot. The supporters of the chairperson of the newly constituted committee under the Waqf board and Sajjadanashin, Syed Gyasuddin Ali, accused the district administration of negligence and said had they taken legal possession of the dargah on the basis of

documents, this incident would not have taken place.

According to the newspaper, stick fights and firing took place between two groups over the control of the prominent dargah of the region, Mir Mohammad, on the night of Sunday, in which many were injured. On getting information about the incident, officials of the administration arrived on the spot with a huge police force and arrested those who indulged in violence and took them to police station. As per the information, a committee headed by Madhe Khan has been running the dargah for the past several years. One month ago, Sajjadanashin Syed Gyasuddin Ali formed a management committee under his leadership and registered it with Waqf board and on the basis of these documents, demanded possession of the dargah from the district administration and the police. However, it was alleged that instead of giving possession of the dargah on the basis of the papers of Waqf board, the administration kept it pending, following which the chairman of the newly formed committee, Syed Gyasuddin Ali, announced that after the Friday prayers, he

and his supporters would go to the dargah on Sunday to read the Quran and take over the dargah. When he reached the dargah as per schedule, a clash erupted between the two sides. The supporters of Gyasuddin said that the supporters of Madhe Khan attacked them with sticks. Whereas the supporters of Madhe Khan claimed that they were attacked first. On getting information about the violence, officials of the district administration reached there with a huge police force and locked the dargah and deployed police on the spot. The administration has sent 25 people from both the groups to jail. District magistrate Priyanka Niranjana and police commissioner Ravi Kumar visited the dargah and directed police officers to take stringent action against those involved in rioting. Chairman of Sunni Islamic Mission of Uttar Pradesh, Syed Sultan Ahmad Hashmi, expressing concern over the incident, said that such incidents bring a bad name to Islam and people would get a wrong impression about dargah. He appealed to both the sides to reach an agreement so that Islam won't get a bad name. ■

29 Muslims selected in Civil Services Exam, 2020

Hamara Samaj (September 25) reports that the Union Public Service Commission has announced the results of Civil Services Exam, 2020 in which 761 candidates emerged successful. Among them, 545 are men and 216 are women. Shubham Kumar from Bihar is the topper and among the top five, three are women.

Roznama Sahara (September 25) reports that 29 Muslims have cleared the UPSC Civil Services Exam. They include Sadaf Choudhary, Faizan Ahmed, Manzar Hussain Anjum, Shahid Ahmed, Shahansah K S, Mohammad Aaqib, Shahnaz I, Waseem Ahmad Bhat, Bushara Bano, Reshma A L, Mohammad Hariz Sumair, Altmaz Ghazi, Ahmad H Choudhury, Sarah Ashraf, Mohibullah Ansari, Zebah Khan, Faisal Raza, S Mohammad Yakub, Rehan



Khatri, Mohammad Javed A, Altaf Mohammad Sheikh, Khan Aasim Kafiyaat, Syed Zaheed Ali, Shakir Ahmad A, Mohamed Riswin I, Muhammad Sahid, Iqbal Rasool Dar, Amir Bashir and Majid Iqbal Khan.

Inquilab (September 26) states that the first place among Muslim candidates in the UPSC exam has been secured by Sadaf Choudhary. She is the daughter of the manager of Gramin Bank in Saharanpur district, Mohammad Israr. She originally belongs to Deoband. Bushara Bano of Firozabad also cleared the exam. According to the newspaper, there are more than 70 institutions in different parts of the country which provide not only free coaching to Muslim boys and girls but also provide them free accommodation, food and books in order to rapidly increase Muslim representation in All India Services.

According to another report, 20 students got selected from the centre of Jamia Milia Islamia that provides coaching to candidates who appear for the UPSC exam. As per another report, two students from MS IAS Academy, an institution that gives coaching to Muslim students in Hyderabad, got selected in the exam. The

senior director of this institute, Dr Moazzam Hussain, said that his aim is to create a facility to select as many Muslims as possible in All India Services so that Muslims could play their part in the country's administration.

Earlier, in the 2019 examination, 42 Muslim candidates had tasted success. In 2018, 40 Muslim candidates had cleared the exam. In 2017, the number of Muslim candidates who passed the exam was 52, which gives an idea about the average success rate of the candidates who clear the exam. In 2016, 36 Muslim candidates had cleared the exam, whereas in 2015, their number was 38. In 2014, it was 34, in 2013 it was 30, in 2012 it was again 30, in 2011 again 30, 2010 it was 31 and in 2009 it was 21. Recently, the Zakat Foundation has launched 17 centres in the country which provide free coaching to Muslim candidates in the UPSC exams. This apart, they are given free accommodation and food.

Row over removal of encroachment on government land in Assam

The campaign launched by Assam government to remove illegal encroachments by Bangladeshi infiltrators in the state has resulted in a new controversy. Various Muslim leaders and organisations have sharpened their attack on Assam government on the issue.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 24) has published a news report on its front page in which it is claimed that three persons were killed during a drive to remove illegal encroachments at Sipajhar region in Darrang district in Assam. However, government sources are yet to confirm this development. Several policemen and protesters were injured in clashes between the two sides. It is being said that the police issued notice to those who had encroached government land, resulting in huge anger among the people and they came out on streets to protest. This resulted in clash between the police

and the protesters. According to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the police have freed 11,778 acres of land from illegal encroachers, out of which 800 were houses. One photojournalist covering the event was injured in the clashes. The region where the incident took place is known for its huge settlement of Bangladeshi infiltrators. The land belonged to a Shiv temple. The government claimed that the land has been cleared for allotting it to agricultural purposes. The newspaper stated that the police commissioner of Darrang district is the real brother of the chief minister. Nine persons were injured in the attack by protesters, out of which the condition of two were stated to be serious. Expressing concern over the incident, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that Assam is deliberately dragged into the vortex of violence. I am with the brothers and sisters of Assam in this difficult

situation, he said. He flayed the state government for the violence in the state. The state government has decided to order a judicial inquiry into the incident. The inquiry will be conducted by a retired judge of the high court.

Inquilab (September 26) states that instead of condemning the incident, the Assam chief minister has tried to give a communal colour to it and even after strong reaction to the incident from different parts of the country, the chief minister chose to blame the victimised Muslims and also instead of taking action against the policemen responsible for the incident, alleged that the protesters were provoked by the Popular Front of India. The chief minister alleged that in order to stop police action, Rs 28 lakh was distributed last month. Secondly, it is informed that the issue of making Muslims homeless in the name of illegal occupation is being heard by the high court. However, even before the court's decision came, the state's BJP government unleashed the campaign to make Muslims homeless with the help of bulldozers and police and no notice was given to those whose houses were razed. Secondly, condemning the incident, Popular Front of India said it would extend legal help to the Muslims who became homeless. According to Popular Front, three Muslims died in the incident including a 12-year-old boy.

According to the newspaper, protests have erupted in several parts of the country against the barbaric action of police and several student organisations in Delhi, while protesting against the police action, demanded the resignation of Assam chief minister and the immediate dismissal of the police commissioner of Darrang district.

Inquilab (September 25) has published a news item as its lead story in which Muslim leaders have condemned the barbaric act of the police. Those who condemned the incident include Jamiat Ulema leader Arshad Madani, Mahmood Madani, Qasim Rasool Ilyas of Welfare Party and the general secretary of All India Milli Council Mohammad Mansoor Alam. According to the newspaper, a bandh was observed in Assam on the basis of an

appeal by Muslim organisations against the incident.

Hamara Samaj (September 30) reports that after visiting Assam, the Amir of Jamat-e-Islami, Syed Saudutullah Hussain, held a press conference in Delhi and said that the police and the administration are deliberately targeting Muslims. He demanded that immediate action should be taken against policemen responsible for the incident and those who were rendered homeless in the action should be given monetary compensation for their rehabilitation.

Hamara Samaj (September 26) in its editorial has condemned the action taken by Assam police and said that the government which has been raising the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' has given a deceptive treatment to Muslims and are driving them out of their houses. The newspaper has demanded that a campaign should be launched for the rehabilitation of the homeless people and to give them compensation.

Etemaad (September 25), in an editorial condemning the eviction drive against Muslims, said the BJP government in the guise of illegal colonies has launched a campaign to make Muslims homeless, who were staying there for centuries. The newspaper has described as wrong the claim of Assam police that the drive has been launched to free government land from illegal encroachers. However, the truth is that following the recent floods, a few homeless people had erected temporary settlements in some places. Now the government has evicted them from these places and a false propaganda has been unleashed that they are infiltrators. The MP from Barpeta, Abdul Khaleque, has written a letter to the chief justice of the high court, condemning the drive and said that more than 20 lakh people have been staying in islands built in river Brahmaputra. They became homeless and they started settling in other places temporarily. Now the government has made lakhs of people homeless and no land has been given to resettle them. ■

Shariah law imposed in Afghanistan



Siasat (September 19) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has created a new political structure in the country. As per a 24-point programme, Islam will be the official religion of the government of Afghanistan. The foreign policy will be based on Islamic Shariah. Citizens will get justice as per Islamic law and all controversial issues will be settled through talks with neighbouring countries.

Inqilab (September 24) reports that a prominent leader of Taliban, Mullah Nooruddin Tarabi had announced that in future people's head, hands and legs would be cut off as punishment as per Islamic Shariah. He said that those who are opposed to public hanging have no right to interfere in our Islam and Islamic Shariah. He said the accused would be openly given punishments in stadium. It is part of our Shariah. Tarabi said nobody has any right to tell us what law we would adopt. Our faith would be on Islam under any circumstance. We will make our law as per Quran. They would be imposed as per Shariah. We are bothered not even a bit about what the world says. This is because we live as per our religion.

According to the same newspaper, the leader of Hazara Biradari, Muhammad

Mohaqiq alleged that the Taliban is forcing people to vacate their land and flee. Nobody has given them the right to seize the property of the people. It is the highhandedness of Taliban which the people have to oppose unitedly.

Inqilab (September 26) reports that the Taliban has announced a change in national identity card and the passport. The new passport and identity card will have Islamic Emirate written on them. Currently, the Afghanistan passport has Islami Jamooriah Afghanistan written on it. After coming to power, Taliban removed Mohammad Usman Babri, a PhD degree holder from Germany, as the Vice-Chancellor of Kabul University and appointed a graduate, Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat, in his place. The professors of Kabul University condemned this appointment and said that only those who have received higher education are given charge of universities throughout the world whereas in Afghanistan, the Taliban are doing just the opposite of it. The professors' union has demanded the Taliban to immediately remove Mohammad Ashraf from the post and appoint somebody else who received higher education as the Vice-Chancellor. A

senior leader of Taliban, Sheikh Fakir Ullah, also criticised the appointment of Mohammad Ashraf as the Vice-Chancellor. Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Journalists Union alleged that the hand of Mohammad Ashraf was visible behind the murder of journalists killed in the country. It was he who provoked Taliban to murder journalists. Secondly, Mohammad Ashraf has claimed that an anti-Islam propaganda has been unleashed against him. He said the current form of syllabus in the university is being changed in tune with Islam and in future only Islamic scholars will be appointed in all universities of the country. He said that higher education will be liberated from the clutches of those who have got their education from abroad.

Roznama Sahara (September 27) reports that the Afghanistan government has claimed that cash worth nearly 1.2 crore dollars in foreign currency and huge amounts of gold were seized in raids conducted at the residences of the officials of former government. As per a report published in Dawn newspaper, almost a month has passed since an interim government has been formed in Afghanistan and even now the country is in the vortex of a huge financial crisis. The salary of government employees has been delayed by six to eight months now.

Nobody has right to withdraw more than 200 dollars from their account in banks. Huge queues are seen outside banks to withdraw money from accounts. There is a ban on bringing foreign currency from abroad or sending it back. Money can neither be brought from abroad through Western Union or Moneygram nor it can be send back. Taliban have given this direction that the all transactions in the country should be made through Afghan currency only. The 1.23 crore dollar cash and the gold recovered from the houses of the officers of the previous government have been deposited with the National Bank by the Taliban. All the banks and their branches have been closed in the country except in Kabul. The United Nations has announced a help of 1.2 crore dollar to overcome the current financial crisis in the country.

Inquilab (September 27) reports that four men accused of kidnapping a trader in Herat have been hanged in public in the province's biggest intersection and said that those who violate the Shariah law would meet the same fate. Governor of Herat, Sher Ahmad, said that those who injure or kidnap anyone in the Emirate-e-Islamia will be given death sentence. He said the accused would be cut to pieces using sword at the city's main intersection.

Eight killed in firing in Russian University

Inquilab (September 21) reports that eight persons died on the spot when a terrorist opened indiscriminate fire in Moscow State University while 28 others were seriously injured. Later the attacker got injured in a clash with police and he was arrested and taken to hospital. The government sources have not given any information about the terrorist organisation the attacker is linked to. There is a possibility of the number of dead going up as many who have been admitted to the hospital are in a serious condition.

In Russia, there are stringent restrictions on common people keeping any



weapons and only those in the Army or Police are permitted to keep weapons. This year in May, in the city of Kazan in central

Russia, a 19-year-old student opened fire and killed as many as 11 persons. He was found to be linked to an Islamic organisation. The Indian government condemned this attack that took place in a

government university in Russia and said that as per the sources in the Indian embassy in Moscow, Indian students studying in different universities in Russia are safe.

US, Britain and Australia enter into deal against China



Qaumi Tanzeem (September 17) reports that US, Britain and Australia have announced a special security partnership to contain the growing military power of China which includes helping each other in developing defence technology. The US and UK will provide Australia with higher nuclear technology which would be used to build nuclear-powered submarines. The deal has come at a time when the relationship between China and the West, including US, has got increasingly strained. The three-nation national defence partnership would be known as 'AUKUS.' The US, Australia and the UK also plan to deepen technology sharing across emerging security arenas like cyber, artificial intelligence and underwater security system. The three countries also expressed concern over increasing Chinese influence and military prowess in Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the three countries are already

members of an alliance which also includes Canada and New Zealand. He said that the new alliance would be a new chapter in our friendship. We would like to equip Australia with nuclear submarines to stop the increasing power of China in the region. Australia would become the third nation in the world which would be using American nuclear power on its platforms. Britain has already been using the US technology. In the wake of this new deal, Australia has cancelled one of its old deal with France. In 2016, France had entered into a deal with Australia to supply the latter with 12 submarines. This deal was worth 50 billion dollars. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his country would also equip its soldiers with Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The US is also convening a meeting of strategic dialogue group next month which would be attended by Australia, India and Japan. The meeting would

prepare a strategy to contain the activities of China in the region. The Chinese embassy in US criticised the new agreement and said that the deal would only increase the cold war.

Inqilab (September 17) reports that China has condemned the deal to handover the technology to build nuclear submarines to Australia by the United States and Britain and said the agreement deals a blow to regional peace and stability. The spokesperson of Chinese foreign ministry said that the US and Britain are using nuclear exports for geo-political gains which is a totally irresponsible attitude.

Siasat (September 20) reports that France has strongly opposed this deal and it has called back its Ambassadors posted in

United States and Australia. The main reason for France's resentment is Australia's decision to cancel its 2016 deal with France. France said the decision is a setback to the financial interests of European Union member countries. Now we will not be able to trust Australia. Australia is the third major stakeholder in European Union. In 2020, trade worth 36 billion Euros took place between the two sides. Service fee worth 26 billion Euros was also paid. The government Naval group in France had signed a deal with Australia to manufacture 12 submarines. However, these submarines were based on conventional technology. Now the US is handing over Australia the technology to manufacture nuclear submarines. ■

Pro-Khalistan party back in power in Canada

Inqilab (September 22) states that Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau has won for third time after defeating his rival conservative candidate in a tough fight. However, he has failed to secure a clear majority this time. Justin Trudeau is considered as a supporter of Khalistan. He has the support of 19% Sikhs staying in Canada. Last time, two of his ministers were Khalistan supporters. One of them was the defence minister. It is difficult to predict how many pro-Khalistan is would be there in his new cabinet. Last month, all of a sudden he dissolved the Parliament and conducted mid-term elections. However, unlike the past two times, this time he had to face a tough challenge from Opposition parties.

It is being said that he had to pay heavily for his inability to contain the spread of Corona pandemic. Following his victory in the elections, Justin Trudeau, while expressing his gratitude to the people, expressed hope that they would soon be able to end the pandemic and take Canada forward towards development. The 49-year-old Trudeau had to face a tough fight this time. He is the son of Canada's



most charismatic leader, Pierre Trudeau. He became the Prime Minister of the country for the first time in 2015. However, his grip in power got reduced and his party became a minority in the elections held in 2019. However, he retained power by entering into alliances with other parties.

Though he managed a landslide victory in the 2015 elections, he could not rise up to the expectations of Canadian people. Hence the Canadian voters expressed their resentment. Seventy three-year-old Douglas, who exercised his franchise in a polling booth in Trudeau's home city Montreal, said that Trudeau's functioning was not satisfactory during the pandemic period. Initially, the Prime

Minister had announced that elections would not be held until the pandemic is over. However, later when he felt that he could secure a victory if elections were held now, he announced the elections. It is clear from this that he told us a lie. Karl Anderson, a 25-year-old voter in Ottawa, said the government has failed to contain the pandemic. When Trudeau realised that his political influence is waning, he announced elections. He failed to win a majority in this election. He failed to secure 170 seats out of the total 338 seats in Parliament. Hence he had to form a coalition government. He got only 157 seats in the elections. His main rival Conservative Party got much lesser seats than him and hence they accepted their defeat.



supporter of Khalistan and Canada's defence minister Harjit Singh Sajjan won the elections for the second time with 49% votes. Another minister, Anita Anand, won from Oakville region. Minister for youth affairs Bardish Chagger also won from the same region. NDP party's Jagmeet Singh Burnaby has won from South region with 78% votes. His party got 16% vote in the 2019 elections which increased to 18% in the recent elections. His party got 25 seats in the latest elections. In the previous elections, his party had got 24 seats. Liberal Party's Indo-Canadian George Chahal also won the elections. He defeated Conservative Party candidate Jagdeep Kaur Sahota at Calgary Skyview constituency. Chahal has become an MP for the first time. He is likely to get a berth in the probable cabinet. The other Indian origin candidates who won the elections include Kamal Khera, Rubi Sahota, Sonia Singhu, Arif Birani, Sukh Dhaliwal, Randeep Sarai, Anju Dhillon and Chandra Arya.

Roznama Sahara (September 22) reports that 18 Indian origin candidates have won the recently held elections in Canada. These included three ministers from the previous government. A major

Taliban men who burnt Pakistani flag arrested

Siasat (September 23) reports that the Taliban have arrested those who removed Pakistani flags from aid trucks that arrived in Afghanistan carrying necessary food items from Pakistan. Expressing regrets over the insult to the national flag of Pakistan, spokesperson of Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid said that the incident has hurt the entire Alam-e-Islam and that we were very sorry that it has hurt the feelings of entire Pakistani people because we expect good relations with Pakistan. A function was organised at Torkham border to hand over 17 trucks carrying essential items sent to help the people of Afghanistan during which the chairman of Pakistan-Afghan Aid Forum, Habibullah Khan, along with other Pakistani office-bearers handed over these items to a Taliban leader.

Addressing Taliban in this connection, Habibullah Khan said that the

essential material has been given in good faith by Pakistan to the victims of the long war and the poor people of Afghanistan. In this connection, a video has gone viral on social media which shows some Taliban men removing the Pakistani flags from the trucks and some residents and Taliban fighters demanding tearing off and burning of these flags. It is being said that some people later burnt these flags. When the video of the incident went viral, it evoked a strong response in Pakistan and the Pakistan government was pressured not to extend any kind of help to the thankless people of Afghanistan in future. Later, expressing regret over the incident, the Afghan government arrested several accused persons and sent them to jail, which included a few Taliban fighters as well.

Talks likely between Iran and US



Inqilab (September 24) reports that in the recently held United Nations General Assembly, the new President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, had taken a tough stand against United States. However, according to diplomatic sources, later Iran had restarted efforts to hold talks with the United States on the nuclear deal. Iranian newspaper Shargh has claimed that there is a possibility of US and Iran restarting the talks as the two sides have reached to a point where it would no longer be able to continue with the deadlock. This is the reason why this time Iran has not targeted the UN nuclear watchdog. During the regime of former President Hassan Rouhani, Iran's stand was against the United States. In the United Nations, US President Joe Biden had indicated that it is willing to restart negotiations with Iran on the nuclear deal and lift the sanctions imposed on that country but remained firm that his country would make every effort to foil Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

According to sources in Iranian embassy in New York, it is being hoped

that Iran and US would restart their talks on nuclear energy in the next few weeks. Chief of the European Union foreign policy Josep Borrell said that the foreign affairs minister of Iran, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, had indicated that Iran is ready to restart the talks. However, he stressed that before the talks could begin, it is necessary that the sanctions imposed on it by the US needs to be lifted. In 2015, Iran has signed a nuclear agreement with six nations. They are US, China, France, Germany, Russia and Britain. Later, the US distanced itself from this agreement. Now, after Ebrahim Raisi has been elected as the Iran President in June, the possibility of talks resuming between the two countries have increased. After the US withdrew from the deal, Iran had also distanced itself from it but has now reviewed its policy. Iranian newspaper Shargh has published two photographs, in which one shows US President Joe Biden being told that if Iran wishes then the US is willing to come back to the deal. The other photo shows Iran President Ebrahim Raisi as saying that we

don't trust the announcements being made by the United States.

In another news, the spokesperson of Iran's foreign affairs ministry stated that both Saudi Arabia and Iran are trying to remove the misunderstandings between the two Muslim nations. In this connection,

talks are being held for some time now with lot of success. If the two countries reach an agreement, then it would be in the interest of the entire region. A friendly relationship between Saudi Arabi and Iran would be a stable one and beneficial.

Jews attack the tomb of Joseph

Inquilab (September 29) claims that nearly 500 Jews attacked the mazar of Prophet Hazrat Yousuf situated near the occupied West Bank territory. These Jews reached there in 20 buses and they wanted to seize the mazar, which was opposed by the Israeli soldiers. In the ensuing clash, some people opened fire from machine guns, injuring two Israeli soldiers. The reason for the clash is that they wanted to perform some religious ritual which the Israeli government refused to permit.

In news published in the same newspaper on September 27, five Palestinian youths were killed in a military action by Israel and the Israelis took several Arabs into custody. It is alleged that Israeli soldiers raided a village near Jerusalem and shot dead three Arabs. In another raid, two other Arabs were also killed. The Israeli government claimed that these five Arab youths were carrying weapons and they opened fire on soldiers,

injuring two of them. The five Arabs were killed in counter action by the Israeli military.

The Palestinians alleged that it is at the behest of the Israeli government that the soldiers are attacking Arab settlements and forcefully evacuating them. The Jordan parliament has condemned the killing of five Arabs by the Israeli soldiers and described it as a heinous crime. The Jordanian parliament has appealed to the Arab world and the world fraternity that they intervene to stop the incidents of desecration of religious places of Muslims and Christians in Palestine by the Israelis. The parliament also urged the Arab nations to unitedly oppose the conspiracies to infringe the rights of Palestinians. Recently, there was Israeli claim on Al-Aqsa mosque and the open interference in the religious affairs of Muslim employees caught there, which need to be stopped immediately.

Efforts to rein in Islamic terrorism in France

Inquilab (September 30) states that in order to curb the increasing Islamic terrorism in France, the government has decided to stop visa for citizens from its former colonies like Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and issue the visa only in emergency situations. It is being said that more than 40 lakh Muslims, originally from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, are currently residing in France. This is because these regions were once part of France. Hence there was no need for the citizens of these regions to get a visa to

come to France. Recently, the way Islamic terrorism is spreading in France, the French government has decided to send back the Muslims staying in France to their original places. The French government claims that these 40 lakh Muslims are not its citizens. Hence they have no right to stay in France. However, the governments of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are not prepared to take back these Muslims who stay in France. Hence France has refused to issue visa to citizens of these three countries.

If a French court rejects anybody's visa application, then the French government has to issue a special pass for the person to return to his original country. The person could be expelled from the country only after this. According to a spokesperson of the French government, the governments of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have refused to arrange for such a pass. Due to Corona pandemic too it has become difficult to expel the infiltrators staying in France. In 2018, France has created a strong law that refuses entry to Muslim refugees. According to French news agency, the French President wants the refugees from northern African countries to be sent back to their original places. This is because they are involved in Islamic terrorism.



Foreign affairs minister of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, described the decision of French government as injustice and said they would not accept this decision. This is because it is against principles of humanity and the French government is deliberately targeting people of a particular community. A statement has been issued on behalf of the Tunisian Presidential House which states that the decision of the France is unjustifiable. Marine Le Pen, who is expected to contest the presidential elections in France next year, said in a television interview that if she wins the elections, then she would make the law for entry and acquiring citizenship of France more stringent. The terrorist should not take undue benefit of the liberal French culture and our economic resources could be fully utilised for the social progress of French citizens and to create employment opportunities for them.

France has decided to limit the number of visa when the right wing parties of France put pressure on President Emmanuel Macron to adopt a strong

policy against illegal Muslim residents staying in the country in order to rein in the increasing Islamic terrorism in the country.

Inquilab (September 24) reports that tension between Algeria and its neighbouring country Morocco is increasing day by day. Morocco has cut its diplomatic relationship with Algeria while the latter had prohibited Moroccan planes from entering its airspace. It is being said that the reason behind this tension is that Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has cut off relationship with Morocco due to regional controversy. Algeria has alleged that Morocco has forcefully occupied many of its territories. However, Morocco has refuted this allegation. Morocco claims that a large portion of Western Sahara belongs to it. However, Algeria is supporting some terrorists active in the region. This terrorist group is opposed to Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara and it is involved in an armed rebellion for a long time. Morocco has condemned the restrictions imposed by Algeria. It claimed that due to Corona pandemic, the traffic between Algeria and Morocco is closed. Due to this recent ban, 15 flights from Tunisia would be affected. Now these planes have to fly over Mediterranean Sea to reach Morocco. Arab countries are making efforts to reduce the tension between these two countries. However, so far they have not succeeded in their effort.

Islamic terrorists attack Somali Presidential Palace



Roznama Sahara (September 26) reports that a suicide bomber tried to blow up the presidential palace situated in the Somali capital. The suicide attacker, described as a fidayeen, tried to enter the presidential house in a car filled with explosives. When he was stopped at a check-post at the presidential house, he blew up the car resulting in the death of eight persons at the spot and injuring nine others. According to police, the fidayeen is linked to Islamic

terrorist organisation Al Shabab. At the time of the explosion, both the Prime Minister and the President were present in the presidential house and they were holding discussions with senior officials. Somalia is in the grip of a civil war for a long time. An armed struggle is being waged in the country on behalf of the subsidiary organisation of Islamic terrorist organisation Al Qaida namely Al Shabab for the establishment of an Islamic State. As per media reports, two-thirds of Somalia is under the control of Islamic terrorist organisation Al Shabab. Only one-third of the country is under the control of the government. So far, more than one lakh people have been killed in this civil war and 20 lakh people have been rendered homeless and took refuge in neighbouring country.

Women take part in national day parade in Saudi Arabia



Roznama Sahara (September 23) reports that for the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia, women soldiers and officers took part in the military parade held on the

national day. The parade was organised in Riyadh. Every year, September 23 is celebrated as the national day as it was on this day in 1932 that Shah Abdul Aziz Bin Saud issued a royal decree and renamed the states of Hejaz and Nejd as Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On the orders of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, the doors of the military were opened for women for the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia and for the first time women were appointed in all the three wings of the military. These women have completed their training period and have become part of the Saudi military.

In another news report, the Saudi government has decided to increase the monthly salary of women employees compared to men. It is the first time since 2020 that the monthly salary of men has been fixed at 3,944 Saudi Riyals and the monthly salary of women have been fixed at 4,105 Saudi Riyals. As per the report, there is an increase of 603 Saudi Riyals in men's salary and an increase of 613 Saudi Riyal in women's salary.

Inquilab (September 17) reports that the Saudi government had announced that

anybody who violates the rules regarding the Corona pandemic would be fined one lakh Riyals. The fine would be imposed on those who fail to maintain a social distancing of five metres and make efforts to enter public places without checking the body temperature. As per government rules, a fine of one thousand Riyals would be imposed on those who violate the rules for the first time and if anyone is caught for the second time, then he would have to pay a fine of one lakh Riyals. ■

Military coup foiled in Sudan



Roznama Sahara (September 22) reports that the officers of Armoured Corps tried to overthrow the government in a military coup. The rebellion was headed by a general of the army who has been arrested. According to Arab media, nearly 20 senior officers of the army in Sudan, which is facing a political crisis, tried to capture the national television and the radio station. Several rebels were killed in the clash with the government forces. According to news agencies, the Sudani forces, with the help of tanks, kept a vigil on all roads leading to the parliament. A large number of rebel soldiers were arrested.

The government forces, however, refused to say how many people were killed in the clashes between the pro-government and rebel soldiers and how many people were taken into custody. The spokesperson of Sudan government confirmed that the rebels were planning the coup for a long time. When the intelligence sources got information regarding the same, they started

keeping an eye on the rebels. When the rebels staged the coup to overthrow the government, the loyal soldiers foiled their attempts. Umar Al Bashir, who has been ruling Sudan for the past 30 years has been removed from his post and he has been arrested. Since then, Abdullah Hamdok, has been functioning as caretaker prime minister. However, his government has been facing opposition from different regions.

Siasat (September 24) states that the Saudi government has expressed happiness over the rebellion being crushed in Sudan and mentioned that the efforts being made to destabilise Arab nations, especially African countries, should not be ignored and all Muslim nations should unitedly make efforts to maintain political stability in Islamic nations. The government spokesperson said that anti-Islamic elements want to create controversies in Islamic world in order to weaken Islam. ■

Masjids active again in Maharashtra



Mumbai Urdu News (September 25) reports that the Maharashtra government has issued an order stating that before the first day of Navaratri on October 7, masjids and other places of worship shall be opened for the general public. The state government had already decided to open schools in the

state from October 4. However, all institutions have to strictly follow the Corona rules. It is necessary to take the consent of the guardians before children are sent to schools. It has also been made mandatory for the employees and managers of all places of worship to take two doses of vaccine. ■

Second marriage of Muslim man with Hindu woman invalid

Mumbai Urdu News (September 16) reports that the Gauhati high court, in a decision regarding the Special Marriage Act, said that the Act doesn't provide legal protection to a Muslim man to marry a Hindu woman as his second wife and hence such a marriage is illegal. Mother of a 12-year-



old boy and the second wife of Shahabuddin Ahmad, Deepamani Kalita, filed a petition before the court in which she sought claim on her husband's pension. Her husband passed away in an accident in July 2017. At the time of passing away, Ahmad was working as an employee at the

office of the district collector in Kamrup district. Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana said that Section 4 of Special Marriage Act, 1954 states that the act would be applicable only to those who wish to get married for the first time. The court

said that before the present marriage, Shahabuddin Ahmad had another marriage in the past and there is no document to prove that the first marriage had been legally annulled. Referring to the decision of the Supreme Court, the judge said that as per the Muslim law, the nikah of a Muslim

man with a non-believer is not legal. If one person is not Muslim at the time of the marriage, then the nikah is not legal as per Shariah. In the present case, there is no evidence to prove that Ahmad solemnised

this marriage under Muslim law. This apart, the petitioner is even now using her Hindu name and no proof is produced to establish that she had converted to Islam before her marriage. ■

Mamata Banerjee accused of ignoring Muslims

Mumbai Urdu News (September 22) has alleged that the application forms of over 1,000 Muslim girls were cancelled by the West Bengal Police Recruitment Board because they were seen wearing scarfs or hijabs in the photos that they had attached with their forms. The board had said that among the applications received for recruitment of constables, 30,000 were rejected because there were found with lot of anomalies. As far as the issue of rejection of application forms of Muslim girls are concerned, it is clearly mentioned in the guidelines of the board that the face of the candidates should not be covered in any manner and they have been told that photographs covering the faces and those with sunglasses would not be accepted. It is on this basis that the applications of these Muslim girls were rejected.

News platform Clear Line reports that the Muslim women whose forms were rejected said that wearing of hijab and scarf is their religious right. "I had given many applications with my photograph with a

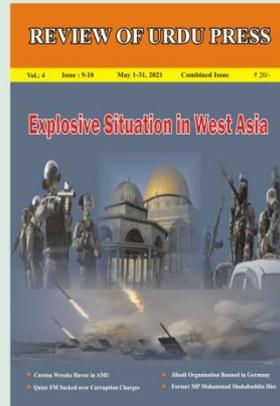
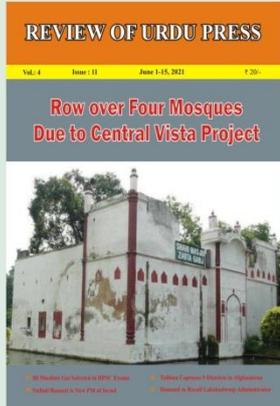
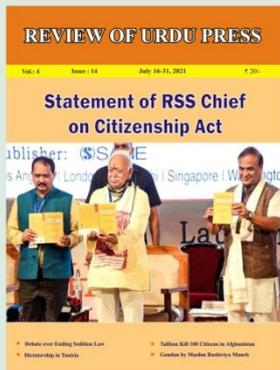
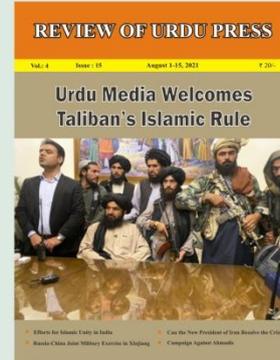
hijab in different offices and my applications were never rejected solely because the photograph had a hijab", Samina Asmin of Murshidabad said. She asked that if the country's Constitution has given permission to wear hijab then how can she be stopped from applying for a job on the same basis? Another Muslim girl, Tehna Khatoon said that she tried to meet the officials of the board to register her protest but she did not get permission for the same. The girls, whose application forms were rejected, sent a memorandum to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

In a report published in the same newspaper on September 23, the new BJP president of West Bengal, Sukanta Majumdar accused Mamata Banerjee of disrespecting Islam. He said that it was publicised on behalf of Mamata Banerjee that during the recently concluded Bhawanipur elections, she visited a masjid. However, according to Islam, women do not have permission to visit masjid. Hence she had deliberately insulted Islam. ■

NIA raids in Jammu & Kashmir

Siasat (September 22) reports that the National Investigation Agency has raided eight places in Jammu and Kashmir. The raids were conducted following the seizure of 5 kg IED in Jammu region. IED weighing 5 kg was seized from a terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba on June 27, 2021 in Jammu. The terrorists were planning bomb explosions in Jammu. Three persons were arrested in this connection. They were linked to Pakistani intelligence agency ISI. The first raid was

conducted in Srinagar from where Mohammad Shafi Wani and his son Rais Ahmed were arrested. On getting information from them, raids were conducted in the houses of Wasim Ahmad Dhar in Kulgam, Bashir Ahmad Padar and Shakir Ahmad Bhatt in Anantanag. A few objectionable materials were seized from a government employee, Ghulam Moiuddin Wani. So far, more than a dozen people have been arrested in this connection. ■



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