

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

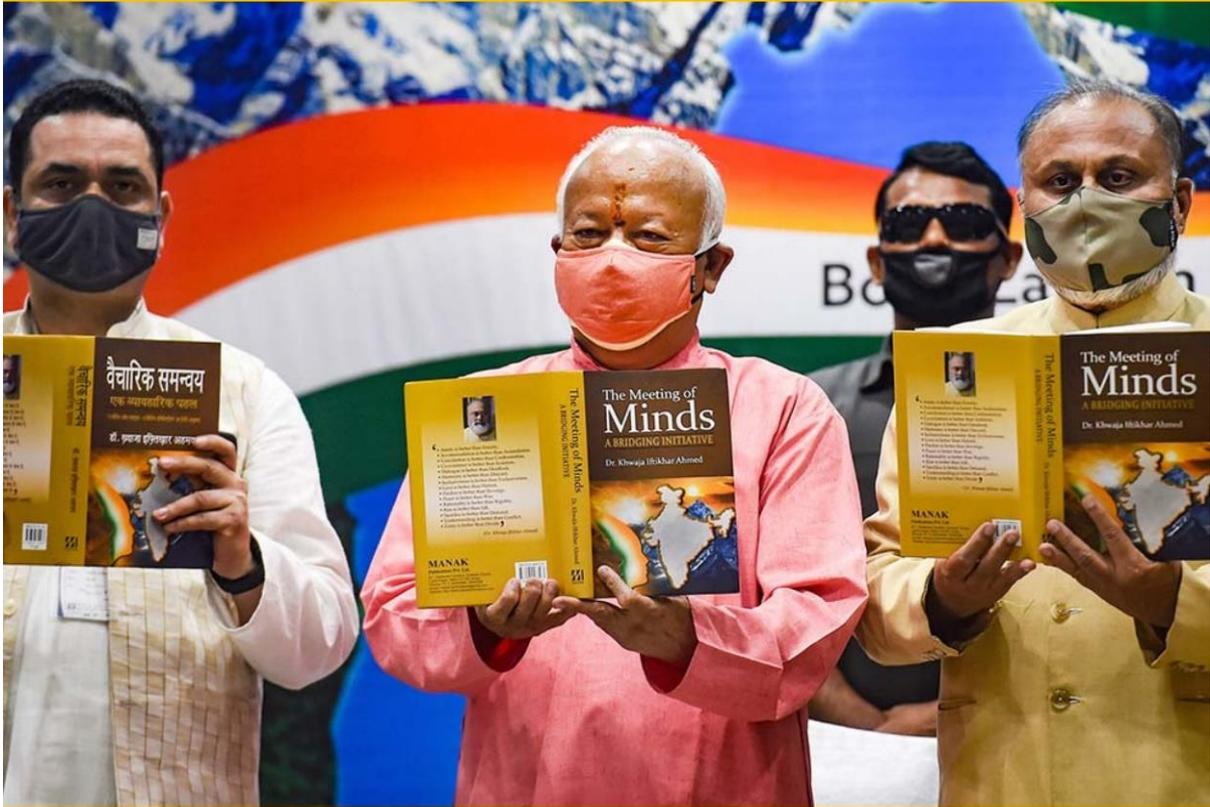
Vol.: 4

Issue : 13

July 1-15, 2021

₹ 20/-

Statement of RSS Chief in the Eyes of Urdu Newspapers



- Demand to Implement Uniform Civil Code
- Differences between UAE and Saudi Arabia
- Afghanistan on the Brink of a Civil War
- Mosque Demolition Declared Illegal

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

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Summary

Recently, at a function organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat said that “Talk of Hindu-Muslim unity is misleading as they are not different, but one. We were all born in the same soil.” He also strongly criticised mob lynching, saying that those who participate in such activities are against Hindutva. The DNA of all Indians is same and they cannot be differentiated on the basis of religion or mode of worship. Though many debates took place on national media about his statement, the Urdu press, especially majority newspapers owned by Muslims, chose to ignore it. Even if some newspapers reported it, they also did not carry it properly. A good number of Urdu newspapers also chose to target the Sarsanghchalak using harsh words through their editorials.

In Afghanistan, the threat of a civil war looms large over the country after the exit of foreign troops. Taliban has already captured nearly two-thirds of Afghanistan. The government troops are taking refuge in neighbouring countries after fleeing the battlefield. The Tajikistan government has even closed its borders with Afghanistan.

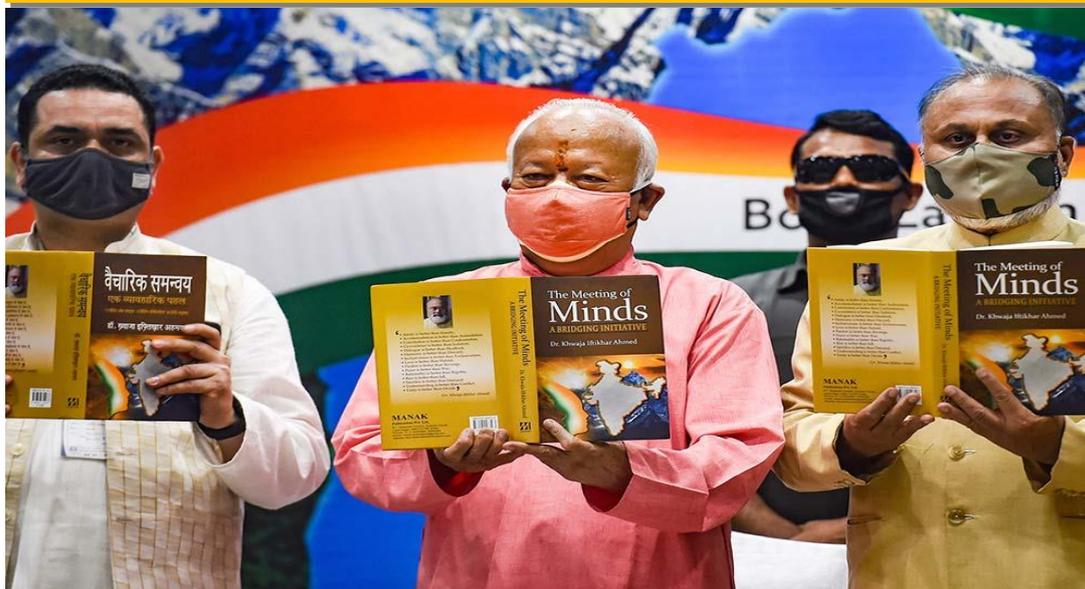
The Pakistan government has panicked as the armed conflict in Balochistan seeking an independent country has intensified. Prime Minister Imran Khan formed a high-level committee to start talks with the supporters of ‘Free Balochistan.’ The Baloch Liberation Army and other organisations are fighting an armed war against Pakistan Army for the past one decade in which thousands of people have already been killed on both sides.

Whether it is Pakistan or Taliban, the narrative of Muslim unity has been fully exposed. Almost every country in the world has condemned the torture of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China. However, Pakistan and Taliban are openly supporting the torture of Muslims by the Chinese government.

The Delhi high court, while hearing a petition, has directed the Union law ministry to take immediate steps to implement a Uniform Civil Code in the country. The court has reminded the government that the Supreme Court had given clear directions in this connection several years ago. However, the government has not taken any step so far. The court has sent a copy of the judgment to the secretary of Union ministry of law and justice so that it takes concrete action in this direction.

Controversial Urdu poet Munawwar Rana is back on the headlines of newspapers. He has alleged that he is being harassed by Uttar Pradesh police deliberately as his family has been criticising the government. He said that police raided his house at midnight, which is illegal. He threatened that he would return all the awards he received so far to the government, and will never bow down to tyranny. However, Uttar Pradesh police said that Munawwar Rana is involved in a property dispute with his own brother. Recently, his son Tabrez Rana faked a murder attempt on himself in order to implicate his uncle and cousins in fake cases. However, the CCTV installed at the spot helped expose his lies. The statement of the four accused arrested in the case makes it clear that the conspiracy for the attack was hatched by Tabrez Rana.

Statement of RSS chief in the eyes of Urdu newspapers



Recently, while releasing a book written by a Muslim author, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dr Mohan Bhagwat said that those who take part in mob lynching cannot be termed as Hindus. The DNA of Hindus and Muslims is same. However, majority of Muslim newspapers chose to ignore this speech of the RSS chief and instead published whatever others said against him and added more spice to their statements.

Inquilab (July 5) reports that Mohan Bhagwat, while releasing a book written by Dr Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed titled 'The Meeting of Minds: A Bridging Initiative,' at a function organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch, said that mob lynching is against Hindutva. The DNA of all those who stay in India is the same irrespective of the religion they are associated with. He said that talks about Hindu-Muslim unity can lead to confusion as they are not different, but one. People cannot be treated differentially on the basis of their method of worship. There are certain things which the politics cannot resolve. Politics cannot unite people and neither can it help people

unite. But it is capable of destroying the unity that exists. The basis of unity should be nationalism and the glory of ancestors. The Sarsanghchalak said that we are living in a democratic country. There cannot be dominance of either Hindus or Muslims. There can be dominance only of Indians. Those who are involved in mob lynching cannot be part of Hindutva. He also said that if one forgets about the different faiths, then the DNA of all Indians is the same. If any Hindu says that a Muslim should not stay in Bharat, then he is not a Hindu. Cow is a holy animal but if a murder is committed in the name of protecting it, then it is wrong. The law should act against such people without any discrimination.

Roznama Sahara (July 5), in a news published on its front page, said that RSS chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat, at a function organised in Ghaziabad, said the DNA of all Indians is same irrespective of religion. Muslims should not get trapped in the cycle of fear that Islam is in danger in India. He said that people cannot be differentiated on the basis of their method of worship. On mob lynching, he said that

people involved in it are against Hindutva. However, fake cases have also been registered against some people. The Sarsanghchalak said that in order to make Bharat a pride of the world it is mandatory that we work together. Because if want to make our country big and strong, then we have to carry everybody along. Without the unity of the country, development is not possible. Hence the unity should be based on nationalism and pride about the sacrifices made by our forefathers. He also said that it is important to hold talks between Hindus and Muslims for unity. The function that was held today is a first step in that direction. He said that talks about Hindu-Muslim unity is actually misleading because they are not different, but one. We are born in the same soil. We are part of one democracy. Here there is no question of a rule by either Hindus or Muslims, but the question is only about the rule by Indians. Beginning his speech, Mohan Bhagwat said he has come for the function neither to improve his image nor to indulge in vote bank politics. He said that Sangh is neither in politics nor it is interested in any image makeover. Sangh works to strengthen the nation and also works for the welfare of all classes of the society. We do not indulge in vote bank politics. However, we have a few opinions about the future of the country.

Addressing Muslims in his half-hour speech, the Sarsanghchalak said people know for the past 90 years what Sangh is all about. Sangh is not worried about its image and there is no need for us to go to people by changing our identity. We do our work, irrespective of what the world thinks about us. Whatever work we do, it benefits all. Hence we never try to change our image. This function has not been organised with the aim of getting the votes of Muslims in the next elections. We give importance to nationalism and we think only about the interests of the country. We appreciate those working for the nation, and we also cooperate with them. In politics, it is not possible to unite people.

Politics is not a tool for unity, instead it is a weapon that could spoil it.

Welcoming the visitors, author of the book, Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed, mentioned about the services of Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat and stressed on the need to strengthen the unity and brotherhood between Hindus and Muslims. He expressed hope that his book would help bridge the distance between Muslims and RSS, enrich the Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb along with nationalism, and also improve the mutual love and affection between the two communities and end hate. The function, organised under the banner 'Hindustan First, Hindustani Best,' was attended by Union minister General V K Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Zameer Uddin Shah, chairman of India Islamic Cultural Centre Sirajuddin Qureshi, Sah Sarkaryavah of RSS, Dr Krishna Gopal, director of Urdu Language Development Council Dr Mohammad Sheikh Aqil Ahmad, chancellor of National Urdu University, Dr Firoz Bakht Ahmad and the head of the department of Urdu in Delhi University, Prof Irteza Karim, among others. The meeting was conducted by Mohammad Afzal. Coordinator of Muslim Rashtriya Manch Hafiz Mohammad Sabarin, Dr Imran Chaudhary, Bilalurahman, Maulana Sohaib Ahmed Qasmi, Islam Abbas, Dr Majid Ali were among the dignitaries present at the meeting.

Comment: Roughly speaking, Muslim newspapers in Urdu did not properly report the speech of Dr Mohan Bhagwat. Only **Sahafat**, an Urdu newspaper published from Delhi, carried it as its main story on July 5. All other newspapers have generally limited it to a two-column story. If we take a look at the 61 Urdu newspapers, 48 among them are run by Muslims. Out of them, 16 newspapers carried reports on the speech of Bhagwat ji. Seven newspapers targeted him through their editorial. Out of the rest 15 Urdu newspapers run by Hindus, seven had carried reports on his speech and among them, three had written an editorial as well.

The Urdu newspapers who reported his speech mostly carried it on next day on July 6 and that too in inside pages as a two-column story. As far as the Urdu newspapers published by Hindus are concerned, they also did not give much importance to the event. However, they made positive remarks about Mohan Bhagwat's speech in their editorials. As far as the reaction to his speech is concerned, majority of other leaders were critical about him. Some newspapers repeatedly ran a campaign against his comments and also published remarks that were critical.

Siasat, published from Hyderabad, in its editorial on July 6, targeted both Mohan Bhagwat and the RSS. The newspaper wrote, "Now the RSS chief has also started an effort to lure Muslims. In Hindustan, RSS is an organisation whose workers were till now targeting Muslims across the country, were running a tirade against them and provoking people against them. Every effort has been made to brand Muslims as traitors. It is the organisations linked to RSS that often raise questions about the population of Muslims. There are talks about depriving Muslims of their voting rights. Muslims are being killed by cow vigilante terrorists. Those who kill Muslims are glorified and they are awarded with positions. But now RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has started developing sympathy to Muslims. He expressed this sympathy at a function organised by an RSS frontal organisation, Muslim Rashtriya Manch, whose chief's name cropped up after the bomb explosion that took place at the historical Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad. Now Mohan Bhagwat says that the notion of Hindu-Muslim unity itself is wrong as the DNA of all Hindustanis is one. One should not be differentiated on the basis of his or her way of worship. Those people who say that Muslims should not stay in Hindustan are not Hindus. The Sangh chief urged Muslims not to get trapped in the cycle of fear. Actually, this speech of RSS chief is nothing but an effort to improve the atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh and four other states ahead of the Assembly elections.

Now one can expect this kind of soothing speech from Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well. He may also do some sweet talking."

"During election times, more such talks can be expected to mislead Muslims and to improve one's own image. But the terrible experiences the Muslims had in the past years, those cannot be compensated. Once even the Prime Minister had made harsh comments against those involved in mob lynching. However, it was just a show. Because one minister in Modi government even openly praised those involved in mob lynching. The government has done nothing against such ministers. A number of plots have been conspired against Muslims by Sangh Parivar and its related organisations. In mob lynching cases, not only Muslims, even Dalits are put to death. Mohan Bhagwat is trying to mislead and make a fool of both the communities."

"There is no possibility that the organisations affiliated to Sangh would welcome the statement of the Sangh chief. The organisations keep doing their activities and they get appropriate funding for it. The Sangh chief cannot win the trust of Muslims through such rhetoric. Whether it's the hired workers of Muslim Rashtriya Manch or anybody else, they carry no weight among Muslims and these kinds of efforts would not yield any results."

Sahafat (July 6) reports that Muslim Rashtriya Manch is one of several organisations set up by RSS and its aim is to prove that the RSS is not what is being portrayed by others. But one thing that is sure is that whatever Mohan Bhagwat spoke at the meeting of RSS-supporting Muslims about mob lynching is something he has not said before. In such a situation, they are tainting their own image through such explanation. Whether Islam is in danger or not, it is none of RSS's issue. It is an internal matter of Muslims. If one remembers correctly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also once condemned mob lynching. He issued the statement when the Western media raked up the issue

on a largescale. As far as the issue of DNA is concerned, an ordinary Hindu or Muslim won't understand it and neither there is any need to know about it. During Kumbh Mela, despite opposition from Hindi and English newspapers, the devotees undertook holy bath resulting in the spread of Corona. On the other hand, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh imposed a ban on more than five namazis gathering together at one place. Whatever Bhagwat has said about Muslims and published by the newspapers are not satisfactory. What is required is to publish the entire speech of Bhagwat. Lifting bits and pieces from his speech does not help. Many innocent Muslims were killed in lynching. Has any justice loving person or any court talked about giving them compensation? Never. The issue of those who were killed was closed after declaring them entitled to the compensation. Will anybody believe this deceptive claim that those who commit mob lynching are against Hindutva? Hindu-Muslim unity is misleading as they are one, not different. Then why Muslims are openly told to go to Pakistan? Is Bhagwat's speech a treatment for this? The claim of RSS being totally detached from politics has no head and tail.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 6) in its editorial titled 'Mohan Bhagwat speaks' said that whatever RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said, is not easy to digest for people. This is because the Sangh chief has come up not just with a new, but with far-fetched claims as well. While addressing a function of Muslim Rashtriya Manch in Ghaziabad, he said that any talk about Hindu-Muslim unity itself is wrong. This is because they are not different, but one. Every Hindustani's DNA is the same. On his new theory, those in the know of things said that elections are scheduled to take place in Uttar Pradesh in the next few months and the shortcomings in tackling the Corona pandemic has resulted in an atmosphere totally against RSS. This issue has been worrying RSS and other organisations linked to it. Hence there is a change in their tone. From whatever



Bhagwat said, it is clear from that the RSS is very much worried about BJP. In Uttar Pradesh, the image of BJP has taken a beating. In such a situation, the address of RSS chief at a function of Muslim Rashtriya Manch reveals the fact that Bhagwat ji is worried about the situation. Even BJP chief Mayawati could not swallow his comments. MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi also said that this hatred comes from advocates of Hindutva. Mayawati described Mohan Bhagwat's comments as a 'praise on the face and stab from behind.' Whether it is at the Centre or in states where the BJP is in power including Uttar Pradesh, the administration is not run on the basis of the Constitution but on the basis of the despicable agenda of RSS, due to which there is an atmosphere of restlessness, violence, tension and chaos in society and the country. Those who keep a tab on politics say that RSS and its affiliated organisations keep working as per their agenda.

There is a special aim for Bhagwat as he harps on these new things. It is not necessary that even the RSS as an organisation takes his words seriously. Right from the beginning, Hindutvavadis had their own different narrative. It is being propagated across the country that Muslims are responsible for the increasing population of the country. They are multiplying their population with the intention of seizing the country. This is constantly conveyed to lakhs of people across the country through social media. Similarly, under the guise of cow protection, Muslims are publicly killed, instilling a sense of fear in them. No action



has ever been taken against the killers of Muslims by the governments controlled by RSS and BJP. In the same way, innocent people are arrested in the name of conversion and cases are filed against them. In such a situation it is difficult to trust the words of Bhagwat. It is a tradition for the RSS to spread hatred by changing its tongue. They have been doing this business of spreading hatred against Muslims since 1925. How can we trust such people so fast?

Hamara Samaj (July 7) has titled its editorial as ‘Gimmick by RSS.’ Sangh claims that it is involved in the reformation of the society and it keeps itself away from politics. However, the truth is that they want to convert the secular Bharat into a Hindu Rashtra and their pracharaks are working day and night with this aim. Along with it, their muscle in politics too is increasing. Now, RSS Sarsanghchalak has once again emerged with his latest statement and has become a talking point among both Hindus and Muslims. For some people, his statement seems to be a well thought out strategy, but for others it is just another general statement. One group of people interpret it as an effort to appease the voters in Uttar Pradesh ahead of Assembly elections. But it is clear from his statement that he is not sympathising with Muslims, instead wants to use them for political reasons.

The question that comes here is that if Bhagwat feels that Muslims are being lynched then why he did not feel it necessary to openly condemn it earlier? If people are lodged in jail despite being innocent, why the RSS never felt it necessary to provide them with legal help? Whatever Mohan Bhagwat said, he should act on it sincerely. For the audience, whatever the RSS chief said, its sole aim is to create a favourable atmosphere in the Uttar Pradesh elections. For the past five years, Muslims are branded as traitors and kept under pressure. For them, black laws like the UAPA are being created. After this, steps are being taken to send people of a particular faith to jails. Or one can say that the efforts to make Muslims as the scapegoat are in full swing.

Let the RSS chief make lakhs of speeches, and deliver rhetoric to Muslims, but that will not clear either his image or his organisation’s image. Muslims and Hindus are living like brothers in this country for centuries but now who is creating a rift between them and spreading hate against each other? We don’t know why the hatred between the two communities has increased a lot in the past five to seven years. Such statements are being issued to people that Hindus are in danger and the population of Muslims is increasing and hence Hindus should produce more children. The Sangh has never denied such statements. It will not be

wrong to say that the recent statement of RSS chief and on the other hand, the silence over the incidents of hatred against Muslims raise a question on his role. The RSS chief has failed to provide this assurance that the role of Sangh is not against one particular religion and it is an organisation that carries both Hindus and Muslims together for the country's growth.

Inquilab (July 6) in its editorial asked whether anyone has ever heard of Mohan Bhagwat raising his voice against Muslims being killed in any riot. Surprisingly, instead of mentioning of the dangers being faced by Muslims in the country, it is being propagated that Hindus are facing danger. Sometimes in the name of Love Jihad, sometimes by narrating the stories of forced conversion, sometimes through land jihad and sometimes on the pretext of bureaucratic jihad it is being fed into the minds of Hindus that Hindus and Hindutva are facing danger. Our view is that instead of saying that Islam is not facing any danger, Bhagwat ji should have said that Hindutva is not facing any danger and all such talks are false propaganda. Surprisingly, RSS men speaks about unity, peace and friendship, but when it comes to doing things, what we see is doing puja of weapons.

Hind Samachar, published by Hindus, in its July 6 edition described the statement of Mohan Bhagwat as an effort to bring together Hindus and Muslims and said that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, through Muslim Rashtriya Manch, is trying to bridge the gap between the two communities. They believe in 'nation first, religion later.' Mohan Bhagwat has rightly said that Muslims should not get trapped in the cycle of fear that Islam is in danger in India. It is necessary to end their fear that Sangh is against minorities. There is only one way to bring Hindus and Muslims together, by holding talks. We have to forget the differences on language, region etc and unite so that Bharat becomes the 'Vishwaguru.'

A political slugfest has erupted over Bhagwat's speech with Samajwadi Party

leader Ghanshyam Tiwari, Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress leader Digvijay Singh condemning the statement of RSS chief. However, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has come out in support of the statement of Bhagwat. It is hoped that the relationship between the two communities get strengthened following the statement of Bhagwat.

Sahafat (July 10) reports that national president of Indian National League Mohammad Salman has suggested that instead of criticising mob lynching, Mohan Bhagwat should ask his governments to form a law against it and ensure that it is stopped at any cost. He alleged that wherever the BJP or its allies are in power, there are many incidents of mob lynching in such places. He said that it is possible that the DNA of the people in this country is same but those who differentiate on the basis of religion cannot be a Hindu. Everyone has the right to lead a life as stipulated by his or her religion. Why there are no mob lynching incidents in those states where the BJP or its allies are not in power, the newspaper asked. In such a situation, the mere statement of Mohan Bhagwat that mob lynching is not correct will not satisfy the public. If he feels that mob lynching is wrong, then he should tell the country's Prime Minister to make a stringent law against mob lynching. Mohammad Salman also said that opposing government's policies or political ideology or holding a protest march against it cannot be termed as treason. What is surprising is that such people are termed as anti-nationals and sent to jail and serious charges are registered against them. Due to government pressure, hearings in the cases registered against them are not held.

Inquilab (July 6) reports that the president of Welfare Party of India, Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas has said that the statement of Mohan Bhagwat was meant to mislead people and aimed at improving his image. He said that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has just made an effort to improve the stained image of his organisation through his speech at a function organised

by its own Muslim Rashtriya Manch. Under BJP's rule, a hateful and provocative atmosphere has been created against Muslims. During election rallies, efforts have been made to inject poison into the minds of Hindus against Muslims. Several incidents have happened across the country where Muslims have been killed by a crowd, sometimes in the name of cow slaughter and sometimes in the name of Love Jihad. Questions were also raised on the citizenship of Muslims. Now the new thing unleashed in the name of population control has stained the image of the country in the eyes of the world. However, at international level, BJP and RSS are considered as a violent, anti-democratic and fascist organisation. Through his statement, Mohan Bhagwat has tried to claim that those who create an atmosphere against Muslims or do mob lynching or who claim to send Muslims out of the country, are against Hindutva. He has made an effort to mislead people by saying that whatever is happening against Muslims, these are wrong, but it's happening due to politics. After that he stressed on the need to hold talks to find a solution to the problem. Dr Ilyas said that the ideology of RSS and BJP is the same. If Mohan Bhagwat really wants development of the country and welfare, then BJP and all its other organisations should restrain their anti-Muslim activities.

In another news published in the same newspaper, it is stated that the chief of Akhara Parishad, Narendra Giri, welcomed the statement of Mohan Bhagwat and said that since the DNA of Hindus and Muslims is the same, the Akhara Parishad is undertaking 'ghar wapasi' for them. Rebuking Mohan Bhagwat, Om Prakash Rajbhar, a former ally of BJP, said that if the leaders of Sangh and BJP marry off their sisters and daughters to Muslims, then how can their DNA be different? Rajbhar also alleged that majority of the people involved in cow slaughter are linked to BJP. Such people polarise the society and target Muslims. Muslims have to unite to fight for their

rights. He appealed to the people not to fall into the trap of BJP. This nation is for all and will remain so.

Chairman of India Islamic Cultural Centre, Sirajuddin Qureshi, welcoming the statement of Mohan Bhagwat, said that he should make serious efforts to find solutions to the problems being faced by Muslims. He said that his latest comment is based on positive and comprehensive facts. My belief is that Muslims should contact those in power to find solutions to their problems. It is the duty of the government to remove the misunderstandings of minorities and find solution to their problems. This was said by Mohan Bhagwat ji as well. He rightly said that Islam is not in danger in India, neither is the Muslim. Its evidence and guarantee is our Constitution.

Chiding Mohan Bhagwat, chief of Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati also said that if forcible conversion is illegal, then implementing own agenda in a planned manner on its pretext is also wrong. He said that in whichever state the BJP is in power, instead of running the government as per the Constitution, those are run as per the agenda of RSS. The words and deeds of the Sangh chief are as different as the sky and netherworld. Hence there is an increase in caste discrimination, political animosity and communal violence in the country. She also said that what is surprising is that whatever Mohan Bhagwat said could not be get implemented even in BJP regimes. She said that the BJP is inciting communal passions ahead of the elections.

Former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay Singh, tweeted in reply to the statement of Mohan Bhagwat in which he asked whether his disciples, Sangh pracharaks and workers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal would abide by what he said in his speech. In this connection, will you ask Modi, Amit Shah and ministers of BJP to honestly implement your thoughts, he asked.

Inquilab (July 7) reports that Shia scholar Maulana Kalbe Jawad has welcomed the statement of Mohan

Bhagwat and said that mob lynching is a blot on any society. Hence, Mohan Bhagwat should create an environment across the country to overcome this situation. He said that the entire human race is the descendent of Adam and Eve and hence their DNA is same. He said that Mohan Bhagwat is a great personality and his organisation RSS is present across the length and breadth of the country. If he wants, he would be able to solve the campaign against Muslims. Today, it is very important to improve brotherhood and communal harmony so that our country emerges stronger. Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam said that Sangh wants to make Bharat a Hindu Rashtra right from beginning. Their effort is to make Muslims forego their different identity and merge into the stream of Hindutva. The statement of Mohan Bhagwat is an important step in that direction.

Etemaad (July 6) reports that leader of Majlis-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi had said that Bhagwat was

misleading people. Those who killed Junaid, Akhlaq, Pehlu, Alimuddin and others in the name of cow slaughter received support from Hindutva government. Targeting Muslims in the name of cow protection started in 2015 with the killing of Mohammad Akhlaq and it still continues. Who called for the mahapanchayat in support of the killers of Asif in Mewat? Owaisi said that stupidity, violence and murder are inalienable parts of Godse's Hindutva ideology.

Qaumi Tanzeem (July 6) states that the general secretary of All India Milli Council Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam said they hope the difference between the words and deeds of RSS would be bridged after this statement of Mohan Bhagwat. Till now, the stand of Sangh Parivar is in favour of those elements who target Muslims in the name of cow slaughter. What is necessary is that the promise made by Mohan Bhagwat should be implemented. The progress of the nation depends on this. ■

Demand to implement Uniform Civil Code



Inquilab (July 10) reports that a debate on Uniform Civil Code has begun once again. While hearing a case, Justice Prathiba Singh of Delhi high court said that it is time to implement a Uniform Civil Code in

the country. She said that the Indian society is gradually becoming homogenous. The traditional barriers based on caste, religion and class are slowly dissipating. Hence it is necessary to take

steps to implement a Uniform Civil Code as enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution. The judge said that a direction issued by the Supreme Court in 1985 has not been taken seriously even after three decades.

Commenting on the issue, retired judge Suhail Ajaz Siddiqui said that the Indian Constitution calls for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code. Hence the high court has not said anything new. Now the government has to make efforts to implement a Uniform Civil Code. The Central government needs to talk to people and take steps in this direction. However, there are many difficulties in implementing it. For example, there is a Hindu Law in the country. As per the Hindu Law, same gotra marriage is not allowed in north India. However, in south India, getting married to your real niece is considered as the best alliance. In such traditions, it is difficult to implement a Uniform Civil Code. He said that on issues where there is a dispute, those should be left for the next generations to decide and on subjects where there is a consensus, those can be implemented. Since there is a direction in the Constitution for its implementation, efforts should be taken for the same. Government should hold talks with religious leaders and find a solution to the issue.

When asked why Uniform Civil Code is always linked only to the Muslims, Justice Siddiqui said that it is a truth that whenever the issue of implementation of a Uniform Civil Code is discussed, our Muslim brothers suddenly become active. That is the reason why all allegations are raised against them. If they take things patiently, these baseless allegations do not affect them. Justice Siddiqui said that Muslims do not have a proper leadership. Every Muslim has become his own leader. Hence it has become easy for people to blame anything on Muslims.

Chief of All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, Naved Hamid, said the National Law Commission had stated it very clearly that it was not possible to

implement a Uniform Civil Code in the country. This issue is not related to Muslims. The question is which Uniform Civil Code will be implemented? How can the judiciary comment on a matter which is within the purview of the Parliament? The issue is one of guidelines. The judge who made the comment should also speak about the implementation of prohibition in the country. But nobody has the courage to speak about it. Because if liquor is prohibited, then it would affect corporate houses. The government that is currently in power is an ideologically-oriented one, according to which drinking alcohol is not a good habit. What is the opinion of the judge in this matter? Hamid expressed doubt that the judge made comments as part of an agenda and the issue is linked to somewhere else.

Etemaad (July 10) reports that the Delhi high court, while mentioning about the 1985 Shah Bano case, said that the government is expected to implement a Uniform Civil Code for its citizens as mentioned in Article 44 of the Constitution. It would help to end the gap between national unity and civil laws. The high court has also said that the Supreme Court had directed the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in the country several times. The Central government should make efforts to implement it. The high court also directed that a copy of this judgment should be sent to the secretary of the Union Law and Justice ministry so that he could take steps in this direction. The Delhi high court was hearing a petition on a question whether the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 would be applicable to the marriages of the members of Meena community. When the husband filed a petition seeking divorce, the wife opposed it, claiming that the Hindu Marriage Act would not be applicable in her case. This is because she belongs to Meena community, which is listed as a Scheduled Tribe community in Rajasthan. The court rejected the petition of the wife and said these kind of issues are discrepancies related to the absence of a Uniform Civil Code. The laws related to

marriage, divorce and succession should be same for all.

The judge said that during the hearing, both sides submitted that their marriage was held as per Hindu tradition and they believe in Hindu religion. Starting from the wedding card, multiple things were examined and it was revealed that the marriage was held as per Hindu tradition and the case was filed under Domestic

Violence Act. The court said that though the word 'Hindu' is not defined properly, the Supreme Court had stated that if members of Adivasi communities follow Hindu tradition, then the Hindu Marriage Act would be applicable to them. The Delhi high court also said that from the evidence presented before the court, it appears that the Meena community has a panchayat which deals with such issues.

Urdu poet Munawwar Rana lands in another controversy

Controversial Urdu poet Munawwar Rana has landed in yet another row. In an interview to **Inquilab** (July 3), he alleged that he had openly come out against the government and had returned the awards he received and hence his opponents are now trying to settle old enmity. But I am not among those who will get scared, he said. I have openly expressed my



opinion even before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and had said that 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' should not remain just a slogan. Please do something practical on it. When Yogi ji came to power, he stopped the sale of meat. Many became unemployed. They include Hindus as well. Due to political reasons, police raided my house at mid-night, tried to scare and harass family members, he alleged.

However, Uttar Pradesh police has claimed that the house of Munawwar Rana was raided in search of his son Tabrez Rana. Police claimed that a dispute has been going on in Rana family over ancestral property. In this connection, Tabrez Rana had filed a report against his uncle and his sons in Raebareli police station, in which he had alleged that his family members were trying to kill him. Raebareli police commissioner Ashok

Kumar has claimed that it was found during their investigation that Tabrez Rana has faked opening fire at himself in order to implicate his uncle and his sons in a case. In the complaint filed with police, Tabrez Rana had accused his uncle and his sons as attackers. But the police investigation has exposed his lies.

The newspaper has stated that the allegation of Munawwar Rana is that the midnight raid at his house in Lucknow was nothing but political vendetta. This is because his daughters had actively participated in the protests against Citizenship Amendment Bill. The police had also made viral on social media a video tape of the raid. The police commissioner of Raebareli has claimed that out of the four persons arrested in this connection, two of them, namely Satyendra and Shambhu, are sharp shooters. Whereas the

other two namely Aleem and Sultan are friends of Tabrez and he himself organised this fake attack on him. Tabrez wanted to implicate his uncle and his sons in the fake attack on him and also wanted police protection for him. Hence the police went to arrest Tabrez Rana.

Secondly, the elder sister of Tabrez Rana and a spokesperson of Samajwadi Party, Sumaiya Rana, had alleged that the police have been harassing her parents and brother because her family has been raising their voice against the harassment and dictatorship of the government and the chief minister. She said that they would approach the court in this connection. Munawwar Rana alleged that he never expected this kind of hooliganism from the police. When the police raided his house, they did not have a search warrant to conduct the raid. He said that he has no greed for any property or land. "I raised my brothers and created wealth from my own earnings, and set up own business. Now the intentions of my brothers have changed and they are after my life." He said that the property is the same one that he had offered to donate to build a masjid during the row over Babri Masjid. "Years ago, I had purchased this land for one-and-a-half lakh rupees and now it is worth crores of rupees and my brothers have set their eyes on it. Whatever the police want to do let them do it, but I will not retract my steps. I live the life of a fakir. But I am stubborn too. I will also take legal steps and would take help from the court." He said that after the police indulged in hooliganism and raided his house at midnight, he does not expect any justice from the government any more.

Inquilab (July 3) in its editorial supported the claim that the police raided the house of Munawwar Rana at midnight due to political vendetta. The newspaper stated that it could say with surety that had the police station in-charge telephoned Munawwar Rana and asked him to produce his son Tabrez Rana at the station, then Munawwar Rana would have definitely taken him to the station by holding his hand. This is because he himself is a law

abiding person. Raiding the residence of a person of national standing at midnight does not suit the reputation of Uttar Pradesh police. We do not know what kind of charges have been invoked against Tabrez Rana. But Tabrez Rana's name is not there among the accused mentioned in the case. Despite this, raiding the house at midnight to arrest Tabrez Rana cannot be justified in any manner.

Avadhnama (July 3) in its editorial stated that Munawwar Rana has become a controversial person in the past few years. Sometimes he hits headlines due to his statements and sometimes he comes into limelight due to the political activities of his daughter. Now he has landed in a fresh controversy. His son Tabrez has been accused of orchestrating an attack on himself in an effort to implicate his own uncle in a fake case. Munawwar Rana is involved in a property dispute with his brothers and nephews in Raebareli. Earlier, he had stated that he was ready to give his property in Raebareli for the construction of a masjid, but later he maintained silence on the issue. The latest controversy is related to his son Tabrez Rana who is said to have sold a piece of plot for Rs 85 lakh on which his uncle also had a stake. On this issue, a dispute arose between his uncle and his cousins. An attack took place on Tabrez Rana in a petrol pump and he blamed his uncle and his sons for the incident. However, after investigation, the Raebareli police said that it was a fake case registered by Tabrez Rana and he opened fire on himself in an effort to implicate his uncle and his sons. The entire incident was caught on CCTV. People like Tabrez never thought that nowadays a camera could be found on almost every spot and one would not be able to escape from it and the camera would unravel the truth behind every incident. Police claimed that Munawwar Rana's son had a meeting with the accused at Om Clarks Hotel in Raebareli nearly four hours before the attack on him. Two of the accused who were arrested in connection with the incident were sharp shooters who had been

to jail several times. Munawwar Rana seems to have landed in a difficult situation once again.

Comment: As far as Munawwar Rana is concerned, he is in controversies right from the beginning. Last year, when a school teacher in France was beheaded by a student over displaying cartoons of Prophet Mohammed, Munawwar Rana had openly justified the brutal killing. He had said that religion is like mother. If somebody makes a hostile cartoon of my mother or my religion or verbally abuses them, then I will kill him and it is justified. He said that the cartoon was made to provoke Muslims and one should not be forced to such a level that he has to commit a murder. There was lot of controversy over his statement and an FIR was registered against him at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow.

This year, extending his support to the farmers' agitation, Munawwar Rana tweeted that the Parliament should be

pulled down and it should be turned into an agriculture field and also demanded that the godowns of wealthy traders should be set on fire. Later when a controversy erupted over his comments, he deleted the tweet. Commenting about the agitation against Citizenship Amendment Act, Munawwar Rana had said that under Yogi's rule, a sense of fear has settled in UP and the aim of the BJP is to make India a Hindu nation. During the CAA-NRC agitations, Munawwar Rana and his daughters remained in the headlines of newspapers. The decision of the Supreme Court to allow the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya also did not escape from his caustic remarks and he had said that the issue was settled in favour of Hindus. Earlier, when a man named Akhlaq was killed in Dadri, a major controversy erupted over the incident and some intellectuals returned the awards which they had received from the government. Munawwar Rana too returned his awards and gained attention.

Maulana Arshad Madani elected Ameer-ul-Hind

Hamara Samaj (July 4) reports that the working committee of Imarat-e-Shariah Hind and a joint representative conference of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind elected Maulana Syed Arshad Madani as the Ameer-ul-Hind and Mufti Mohammad Salman Mansoorpuri as the Naib Ameer ul-Hind. The session was presided over by the head of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani. Addressing the session, president of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani said that after the passing away of Qari Syed Mohammad Usman, the most suitable person to occupy the post of Ameer-ul-Hind is Maulana Syed Arshad Madani Sahab. In addition to the needs of the community, there is an urgent need for a qualified leader to run the affairs of Imarat-e-Shariah Hind smoothly. The statement of Maulana Mahmood Madani was supported by Maulana Nematullah Azmi, Maulana Abdul Aleem Farooqui, Maulana Rahmatullah Kashmiri, Maulana Syed Asjad Madani, Maulana Badar

Ahmad, Ameer-e-Shariat Assam and others.

In the beginning, Maulana Arshad Madani said that it would be difficult for him to discharge this responsibility due to his old age. Later, due to pressure from different Maulanas, he agreed to take the responsibility. He said that in order to make Muslims live as per Shariah, it is necessary to instil in them a sense of acceptance of Shariah.

Currently, more than 100 Shariah courts are run in the country under the aegis of Imarat-e-Shariah-e-Hind. What is required is that a Shariah court needs to be established in each district of the country. This will help Muslims keep themselves away from the country's judicial system while finding solutions to their problems. While specifically mentioning about the need to properly reorganise the madrasa system and connect the new generation of Muslims with madrasas, he said that madrasa is the fort of Islam and this alone



will protect Islam. He said that in 1986, the Imarat-e-Shariah was reconstituted in the country and Maulana Mohammad Sajjad Bihari had established Imarat-e-Shariah in Patna. He also stressed that it is important to connect Muslims with Islam so that Islam spreads widely. He said that there is lot of degeneration in Muslim community. In order to fix the problem, it is necessary to strengthen the system of Shariah courts and launch a campaign to reform the Muslim community.

What is the importance of Ameer-ul-Hind?

The post of Ameer ul-Hind has a special place among Muslim community. Interpreting the duty of Ameer-ul-Hind in his book Maqalat-e-Habib, Maulana Habib-ur-Rahman Azmi said that as per Shariah-e-Muhammadi, he is actually a representative of the Caliph of Muslims. Hence it is the duty and religion of every Muslim to follow his directions. Ameer has to take special steps for the expansion of Islam and also take such measures that would benefit Islam and the Muslims in Hindustan so that they would be able to spend their life as per the teachings of Quran and Sunnat and in the light of Nizam-e-Mustafa. However, Muslims in India are divided into several sects. The duty of Ameer-ul-Hind is to ensure that

they remain united. In order to uphold the religious rights of Muslims and the prestige of Islam, he should also maintain a close relationship with Islamic nations across the world. Also, relentless efforts should be made for the religious, academic, moral, financial and political progress of Indian Muslims so that Islam emerges stronger day by day. If any authority raises objection to the implementation of Shariah, then it is necessary to make every effort to overcome the hindrance. In order to strengthen Imarat-ul-Shariah, it is necessary to establish different wings associated with it. The Ameer-ul-Hind should establish Shariah courts, a Muslim fund, the department that issues fatwa, a publicity and dissemination wing and a Ruet-e-hilal committee for it.

Almost every Urdu newspaper carried the news of Syed Arshad Madani becoming the fifth Ameer-ul-Hind on their front page. There is not a single Muslim newspaper that did not carry a special report about the contributions made by Maulana Arshad Madani for the community. The interesting thing is that the new Ameer-ul-Hind has declared that his aim is to establish a Shariah court in every district of the country so that Muslims need not approach civil courts in the country and instead approach Islamic sharia courts for religious and personal matters.

Jamiat Ulema comes out in open support of terrorists

Inquilab (July 8) reports that Jamiat Ulema has approached the courts to save Dr Rahees Rashid, who was arrested on the charges of providing training to the cadre of Popular Front of India and hire them as members of the dreaded jihadi organisation ISIS in India. President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Arshad faction), Maulana Syed Arshad Madani, claimed that Jamiat has decided to plead the case of Dr Rahees Rashid and in this connection a petition is being filed in the high court. He also claimed that due to the efforts of Jamiat, hundreds of young men caught for terrorist activities have been released by courts. It is established from this that police and investigating agencies have been arresting Muslim youths due to religious animosity and without any evidence. He has demanded that fast-track courts should be established to conduct the hearings of those who were arrested in terrorist cases. Chief of the Jamiat's legal assistance committee Gulzar Azmi said that advocate Mujahid Ahmad has filed a petition seeking the release of the accused in this case. Even three months after the arrest of the accused, the National Investigation Agency has not filed the charge sheet in the court. However, the lower court has granted three more months' time to file the charge sheet. He alleged that the court has taken a unilateral decision and did not allow the lawyer of the accused to present his case properly in the court. However, he admitted that under the provisions of UAPA, the investigating agency can continue with the probe for six months.

The Uttar Pradesh STF had nabbed the training commander of Popular Front Rasheed from Sidharth Nagar when he was about to leave for Mumbai. He has been booked under charges like waging war against the state, treason and conspiracy. Superintendent of Police of Basti, Hemraj Meena claimed that they recently arrested a few activists of Popular Front for attacking



the office-bearers of a Hindu organisation and when they were questioned, they revealed the name of Rasheed, who was subsequently arrested. The SP claimed that several incriminating documents were also seized from him. Later the Uttar Pradesh police handed over the case to National Investigating Agency which arrested four more terrorists from Kochi in Kerala who are linked to terrorist organisation ISIS. The leader of this gang is a Malayali youth named Abu Yahya. It is being said that he used to recruit youths from Kashmir and sent them to ISIS training camps abroad. According to National Investigating Agency, Yahya returned to India from Bahrain in March 2020 and stayed in Delhi for some time and established contacts with terrorist organisations operating in Kashmir and later he recruited more than two dozen youths from Kashmir and sent them to secret camps abroad for training in conducting war. On getting more information after his interrogation, the NIA raided eight places in Kerala including Kollam, Kannur, Malappuram and Kasargod. Following the raid, five more persons linked to ISIS were taken into custody, including two women. NIA SP Uma Behara told media persons that the gang had sent at least 50 persons from Kashmir and other places of the country to foreign nations to get training in warfare and also to establish Islamic State. It is significant that Jamiat is now openly trying its best to secure the release of dreaded terrorists from the clutches of law. ■

Afghanistan on the brink of a civil war



The situation in Afghanistan is turning explosive day by day. Taliban has intensified its efforts to seize various places from government forces. Tajikistan has closed its entire border with Afghanistan. More than 1,000 Afghanistan soldiers have taken refuge in Tajikistan along with their military equipment. Taliban has claimed that except Kabul, most of Afghanistan is under its control. As of now, more than 200 districts under 34 regions are under its control and the war against Afghan government forces are still on in many places. Currently two-thirds of regions in Afghanistan are under Taliban control. Afghan government forces are taking refuge in neighbouring countries due to the fear of Taliban. Taliban has also been pressured to sign on some peace treaty after the leaving of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Taliban spokesperson has claimed that it has been preparing the draft of a written agreement for establishing peace in the country. The spokesperson has admitted that talks had entered a delicate stage. We will present a draft written

document to the Afghan government to establish peace in the country by next month, he said.

Inqilab (July 3) states that the US soldiers vacated overnight their 20-year-old biggest military station at Bagram air base without even informing the Afghanistan government. The US defence spokesperson has confirmed that the US has withdrawn nearly 90% of its troops from Afghanistan sans their equipment and not a single soldier has been left behind in Bagram airbase. The spokesman said that wherever the military equipment and vehicles could not be brought back along with soldiers, they were left there itself. The interesting thing is that the over 5,000 Taliban fighters that the US had been keeping as prisoners at the airbase would become a headache for the Afghanistan government in the coming days. Following the withdrawal of US troops from Bagram airbase, the morale of Afghanistan soldiers has hit rock bottom and instead of fighting the Taliban, they are trying to save their own lives by taking refuge in neighbouring countries.

According to the US military spokesperson, a few US soldiers are stationed at the US embassy in Kabul for its protection.

Last month, US President Joe Biden had told Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani that now the Afghan government has to take decisions about its own future and also has to deal with the situation arising out of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. As per the agreement reached between the US and Taliban last year, the foreign troops in Afghanistan have to return to their native countries and their withdrawal would be complete by September 11. Taliban spokesperson Jabiullah Mujahid has welcomed the US step of vacating Bagram airbase and said that it would help establish stability and peace in Afghanistan.

Siasat (July 8) states that the foreign affairs minister of Iran Javad Zarif has confirmed that the Taliban has captured several regional capitals in Afghanistan. The Afghan soldiers were caught unaware as US soldiers left military stations all of a sudden. They did not expect the US soldiers to leave Afghanistan so early. He said that fighting is on between Taliban and Afghan government forces in more than

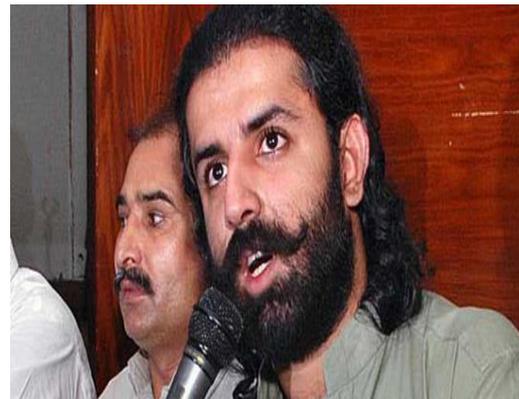
100 districts as of now. Taliban has captured government offices, police headquarters and intelligence departments in different places.

Governor of Badghis Husamuddin Shams told mediapersons that Taliban has entered the capital of his province and the fighting is on in several places. Yet another government spokesperson Abdul Aziz Beg has confirmed that nearly 100 Afghan soldiers have surrendered themselves before the Taliban.

Siasat (July 2) states that Taliban has launched a major offensive with the aim of capturing Ghazni. Its fighters are advancing towards the city from different directions with the purpose of seizing it. A fierce fight is on between the two sides to capture the main road that connects Ghazni with Kandahar. US commander General Scott has threatened Taliban that if they don't stop the war, then they should be prepared to face air strikes. He claimed that though the US has withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan, it still maintains its ability to conduct air strikes and crush them. As per Afghan media, all the German troops too returned to Afghanistan after 20 years.

Pakistan to holds talks with Baloch separatists

Quami Tanzeem (July 11) states that the Pakistan government has started a major initiative to hold talks with Baloch separatists. Due to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan faces the prospects of an organisation called Baloch Liberation Army getting more active in Balochistan and giving sleepless nights to Pakistan government. In order to start talks with Baloch separatists, Imran Khan has sought the help of former interior minister of Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti and Anwar al-Haq Kakkar. According to 'Dawn' newspaper, Imran Khan has sought the cooperation of leaders from Balochistan to establish peace in the region and also to step up developmental activities there. In order to hold talks with separatist leaders, a



high-level committee has also been set up and the president of Jamhoori Wattan Party, Shahzain Bugti has been nominated as its convenor. He has been asked to start talks with separatist leaders on behalf of the government. Recently, following a visit to Godhwar, Imran Khan had announced

that he was ready to hold talks with the rebels of Balochistan. Information minister of Pakistan, Fawad Chaudhry has expressed apprehension that the rebels in Balochistan have links with India. Recently, Pakistan President Arif Alvi had alleged that India is flaring up tension in Balochistan and Pakistan from Afghan land.

Comment: Soon after the formation of Pakistan, a rebellion began in Balochistan against the Central rule of Pakistan. The Khan of Kalat princely state had refused to merge his vassal state with Pakistan. Soon, the Pakistani Army forcibly occupied the princely state of Kalat in Balochistan. Since then, the flames of rebellion has been raging in Balochistan against the rulers of Pakistan. Due to the disturbance, the Pakistan Constitution in 1973 assured that Balochis would be given independence in internal matters. However, this assurance has not been met so far. The Balochis have also opposed the increasing relationship between Pakistan and China. In the past three years, the Balochi separatists had launched 48 major attacks

on Pakistanis and Chinese and killed 242 soldiers and engineers. Currently, three major rebel organisations are active in Balochistan. They are Baloch Liberation Army, Baloch Republican Guard and Baloch Liberation Front. In the beginning, the Baloch rebels were led by Akbar Khan Bugti and Baloch Mari. It is being said that there were at least 3,000 armed rebels who had been fighting against Pakistan government. During the regime of General Pervez Musharraf, two brigades of soldiers were sent to Balochistan to crush these rebels. The Pakistani soldiers killed more than 5,000 Balochis including Akbar Khan Bugti. But despite all this, the Baloch rebels still remain active. Last month, 500 armed fighters of Baloch Liberation Army attacked Pakistani Army outposts and killed 21 Pakistani soldiers. Last month, Balochis held a protest outside the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva against the Pakistan government and demanded that the UN General Assembly should intervene to stop the massacre being committed by Pakistani Army in Balochistan.

Pakistan feels the heat over refugee influx from Afghanistan



Inquilab (July 12) reports that Pakistan has tightened security on its border with Afghanistan due to the possibility of refugees infiltrating from that country. Spokesperson of Pakistan Army Major General Babur Iftekhhar said that currently

almost 90% of Pakistan-Afghanistan border is fenced using barbed wire. This is because we apprehend that due to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, there is a high possibility of citizens from that country taking refuge on a largescale in

Pakistan. Spokesperson of external affairs ministry Tasneem Aslam said that Pakistan is concerned that terrorists may enter Pakistan under the guise of refugees and can wreak havoc in our country. This apart, there could be an increase in the smuggling of narcotics and weapons.

Hamara Samaj (July 9) reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that if neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan like Iran and Uzbekistan also come together to play a role in finding a political solution, it is possible to find lasting peace in Afghanistan. Imran Khan said that if peace is not established in Afghanistan, then apart from financial and commercial challenges, Pakistan would also have to face the issue of refugees arriving Afghanistan. He said that firstly, foreign troops are leaving Afghanistan. Secondly, the talks between Afghanistan government and Taliban, which started in Doha last year, have been stalled. Due to increasing incidents of violence in Afghanistan, the security situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating day by day. Imran Khan has appealed to the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to play an active role in finding a political

solution to the problem. He said that his government has been making efforts to ensure that talks are held with Taliban as well to find a solution to the problems in Afghanistan. Recently, while presenting a report at the meeting of the National Security Council, the military officials of Pakistan expressed fear that the security system in Afghanistan is likely to deteriorate after the withdrawal of foreign troops and Pakistan would have to face a flood of refugees from that country. Commissioner for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Salim Khan said that they are on alert. If Afghan refugees arrive in Pakistan, then we would take up various measures to settle them temporarily and we have already started making preparations for the same. He said that already there are 30 to 40 lakh Afghanistan refugees present in Pakistan and it is difficult to provide shelter to more refugees. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan during a telephonic conversation with the newly elected President of Iran, Syed Ebrahim Raisi and said that if the situation worsens then both Iran and Afghanistan would face serious consequences. ■

Islamic terrorists attack school in Nigeria

Sahafat (July 8) reports that armed Islamic terrorists had kidnapped 140 students during an attack in Nigeria. The school where the attack took place belongs to Christians and it is located at Kaduna city, which is nearly 80 kilometres away from the Nigerian capital of Abuja. The mother of a student said that terrorists came to the school in large numbers on motorcycles. They killed the security guards at the school and took students as hostage and later kidnapped students from the hostel and took them to the forests. The government soldiers later secured the release of one woman teacher and 26 others from the clutches of the kidnappers.

According to media sources, students are kidnapped from schools and universities with the purpose of extracting

ransom. Earlier, a hospital named Jariah was raided and eight persons were kidnapped from there, including two nurses. The director of the school has confirmed that at least 180 children have been kidnapped. He said that he doesn't know who were behind the kidnapping. A spokesperson of Nigerian government said that the government forces are trying their best to trace the children and their kidnappers. In the past one year, at least 1,000 children have been kidnapped in the same manner. They include children aged between 3 years to 15 years. It is being said that these kidnappers are linked to terrorist organisation Boko Haram, which in turn is linked to Islamic terrorist organisation Al Qaida. ■

Pakistan and Taliban back China on Muslim persecution

In an effort to appease China, Both Pakistan and Taliban have forgotten their love for Muslim unity. **Etemaad** (July 11) reports that Taliban has announced that it considers China as its friend and hence it would not support the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province. According to Chinese government, Al Qaida is provoking the Chinese Uyghur Muslims and they want to establish an independent Muslim-majority nation in China. In order to crush this rebellion, the Chinese government has been using the military against the rebel Uyghur Muslims and more than 50 lakh Uyghur Muslims have been detained in detention camps.

Roznama Sahara (July 2) reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that the views of Islamic world and China are different with regard to Uyghur Muslims and Pakistan supports China on the issue. The allegation across the world is that China has detained more than 50 lakh Uyghur Muslims in special detention centres where they are being brainwashed to keep them away from the teachings of Islam and Prophet Mohammad. Islamic nations across the world and United Nations have several times expressed their opposition to the attitude of China on this issue. Media organisations in Western countries also claim that the children and youths of Uyghur Muslims have been separated from their families and kept in special detention centres. China has admitted that these Muslims have been put up in training centres to make them conform to a particular ideology. Whereas Western media claim that these are detention centres where the Muslims are forced to separate themselves from Islamic tradition and Islamic worship system so that they could



mentally conform to the Communist ideology in China.

Imran Khan told journalists that there is a huge difference of opinion between the Western media and China over the camps built for Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China. However, he admitted that the Pakistan-China economic corridor being built with Chinese cooperation would give a new impetus to Pakistan's economic development. He said that he would soon be visiting Gwadar for the inspection of a major port being built with Chinese cooperation and once the project is completed, it would begin a new era in the economic development of China and Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is ready to extend all help for the development of Chinese initiatives in Pakistan. China has made huge investments in Pakistan. This is because cheap labour is available in Pakistan. The investments and new initiatives would help not only in the economic development of Pakistan but also provide new employment opportunities for the country's youth. He said that China and Pakistan maintain a special relationship. China has stood with Pakistan during all its difficult times and hence there is a special place for the Chinese in the minds of Pakistani people. He said that his country is not a bonded labourer of any Western country in order to stand with US against China. For us, our interests are supreme.

Differences between UAE and Saudi Arabia



Hindustan Express (July 10) reports that differences between world's two major petroleum producing countries namely United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia over oil production quota have resulted in a deadlock at a meeting of Petroleum Exporting Countries. This has also led to huge increase in oil prices across the world. It has also forced Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Russia, to postpone its meeting for an indefinite period. The differences arose at the OPEC meeting when the UAE refused a demand from both Saudi Arabia and Russia to restrict oil output boost for the next six months. However, UAE is keen to improve its oil output. UAE wanted approval to increase its own oil production. But both Saudi Arabia and Russia are against it. Due to this, a huge dispute arose between UAE and Saudi Arabia.

According to US media, Abu Dhabi has invested a lot of money in the past few years to increase its oil production. Now it wants to make money on its investment by increasing oil production. But Saudi Arabia is not ready to increase oil production. Hence a deadlock occurred between the two countries. The recently established

cordial relationship following a meeting between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and UAE Crown Prince Mohammad Zayed received a setback due to the deadlock that occurred at OPEC. In 2015, UAE had set up an Arab coalition to wage war against Iran-supported Houthi rebels in Yemen and in 2017, due to pressure from Saudi Arabia, imposed political, trade and travel restrictions on Qatar. However, two years ago, tension arose between the two countries and UAE withdrew majority of its troops from Yemen. Saudi Arabia, however, did not like this. Relationships soured between the two countries again when the UAE lifted the sanctions it imposed on Qatar due to pressure from Saudi Arabia. Recently, due to the increasing friendship between UAE and Israel, Saudi Arabia again seems to be unhappy. Last February, the Saudi government had asked multinational companies to open their headquarters in Saudi Arabia before 2024. The companies which fail to do so will not get government contracts. UAE has opposed this decision and said that Saudi's decision is against their commercial interests.

Israeli Embassy in UAE

Inqilab (July 1) reports that the Israel's foreign affairs minister has inaugurated the country's first embassy in United Arab Emirates. The Israel foreign minister arrived in Abu Dhabi where he was received by the foreign affairs minister of UAE. The Israel foreign affairs minister said that his country wants to keep a friendly relationship with all its neighbouring countries. We are not going anywhere and West Asia is our home. Hence we need to come closer and hold talks to find solutions to our problems.

Last year, it was announced that a diplomatic relationship would be established between the two countries. This is the first visit by an Israeli minister after that decision. The US Secretary of State has welcomed the opening of the first Israeli embassy in UAE and said that this would help bring peace and stability in West Asia. Last year, due to the efforts of



former President Donald Trump, Israel decided to open embassies in UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and Kosovo. In this connection, the first embassy was opened in UAE. Islamic jihadi organisation Hamas has condemned the opening of Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi and said that it was betrayal of the people of Palestine. The UAE has forgotten about the martyrdom of 250 Palestinians recently. Their step is against Arab unity, said Hamas.

Saudi Arabia imposes travel ban on four countries



Inqilab (July 5) states that due to the spread of the new variant of Coronavirus, Saudi Arabia has imposed a ban people from Ethiopia, UAE, Vietnam and Afghanistan from entering the country. This ban will also be applicable to those who have stayed for 14 days in these countries. Earlier, Saudi Arabia had imposed a ban on people arriving from 20 countries including Pakistan. The countries on which the travel ban has been imposed

include Egypt, UAE, Lebanon, Turkey, Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, America, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Japan and South Africa. This apart, UAE has imposed a ban on people from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Pakistan's minister for civil aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that Pakistani travellers who got stranded in these countries would be brought back in special planes.

Ban on visiting holy places without permission



Etemaad (July 6) reports that the Saudi government has announced that stringent action would be taken against those visiting holy places like Masjid-e-Nabawi and Arafat as part of their visit to Ka'aba during Haj without prior permission. During Haj, a visit to Ka'aba and other places related to Haj could be done only by those who have special permission for the same. This ban will be in force from July 5 to July 23. Those who violate the ban would have to pay a fine of 10,000 Saudi Riyals. This apart, other actions will also be taken against them. The interior ministry of Saudi Arabia had already imposed a total ban on visit of foreigners for Haj. This

year, only Saudi Arabian citizens have the permission to do Haj. The Haj pilgrimage is allowed only for those who have taken the vaccine shots for Coronavirus. Those who wanted to do Haj have already submitted the online application. According to government sources, due to the threat of Corona pandemic, only 60,000 people have been issued permission. Others will not be allowed to visit any holy places related to Haj. The Saudi government has made proper arrangements this year. The interior ministry expressed hope that all Saudi citizens would abide by the restrictions. ■

Tussle between Iran and Russia over supremacy in Syria

Siasat (July 1) reports that an intense rivalry is going on between Russia and Iran over tightening their hold in Syria. In the beginning of this year, Persian language was introduced in the syllabus in Syria. Earlier, this position was occupied by Russian language. There is a fierce competition between Russia and Iran over spreading their influence in Syria. The aim of both the countries is to ensure that their

respective relationship with Syria emerges stronger. Hence both the countries are involved in extending financial and military support to Syria. In fact, both Iran and Russia have been trying to increase their influence in Syria for the past few years. Iran has also been providing huge military help to Syria and the Iranian militia are extending help to the Syrian government to take on the Kurd rebels. ■

Barabanki mosque demolition declared illegal



Inquilab (July 4) reports that the high court has described the demolition of the Garib Nawaz Masjid located at tehsil Ram Snehi Ghat in Barabanki district as an illegal action and reprimanded the police inspector and asked him to appear before the court on July 22. Hearing a petition in this connection, a division bench of the Allahabad high court said that the way the masjid has been demolished is not only illegal but also a violation of the directions given by the high court. The court issued the directions on a plea filed by Wasif Hussain and other petitioners. The petitioners were represented in the court by Kapil Sibal while another lawyer, Sarim Naved, was also present in the court. Kapil Sibal told the court that the action taken by the district administration and police was contempt of court, illegal and also unnecessary. Submitting some documents in the court related to the directions issued earlier, he said that the SDM and SHO had ignored the directions of the court and demolished the masjid. All documents related to the case are available in

government records which also include the electricity bills and the registration with Waqf board that confirms the legal validity of the masjid.

Those who filed the petition against the administration include UP Sunni Central Waqf Board, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and two residents of Barabanki district namely Hasmat Ali and Naeem. Senior advocate Kabil Sibal appeared for Sunni Board. For Personal Law Board, Yusuf Muchhala appeared in the court. The masjid was demolished under the supervision of SDM Divyanshu Patel on May 17. However, the high court had given a direction in April that no house, building, public or private property shall be demolished in the state till May 31. The administration has claimed that the masjid was illegal. This is because it was built on government property in an illegal manner. According to Sunni Waqf Board, the masjid is nearly 100 years old. The court has also directed the SDM and the chief secretary to appear in the court. ■

Mohd Sabrin appointed convenor of Muslim Rashtriya Manch



Inquilab (July 10) reports that the charge of Muslim Rashtriya Manch in Delhi has once again been handed over to Hafiz Mohammad Sabrin. Commenting on his new assignment, Hafiz said that he was happy that the patron of Muslim Rashtriya Manch Indresh Kumar has not only appreciated his work but also got impressed with it and handed over the charge of Muslim Rashtriya Manch to him once again. He said that in the past few days he visited many people both in Delhi and outside with a book written by Khwaja Iftikhar and presented it to many people. The book has helped Muslims to remove several fears in their mind about Sangh and BJP. Indresh Kumar has given this clear message that no patriotic Muslim would face any kind of danger in this country. The

message that the RSS chief has delivered to Muslims as part of a recent five-day programme needs to be transmitted to the public through media. Those who attack Muslims cannot be termed Hindu. Some people got heated up over the statement of Bhagwat ji that the DNA of Hindus and Muslims is the same. However, it is clear that the DNA of all people in the country is same. Those who became Muslims in the country belonged to the country. Hence whenever any Hindustani changes his religion, how could his DNA change? This question needs a proper understanding. The people have to learn to accept the reality and should not ignore the fact that we are all brothers. Even if our relationship is with different religions, our blood is same. ■

Demand to dismiss Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

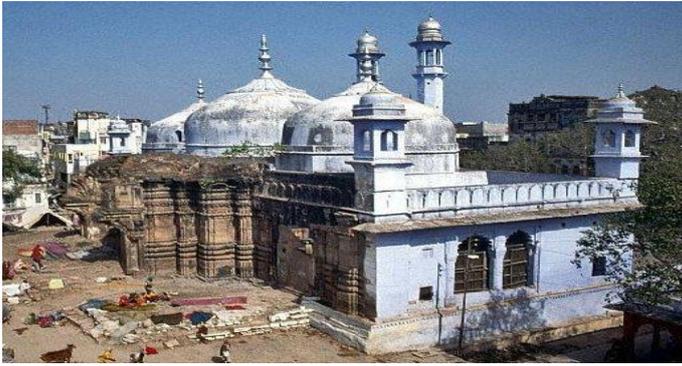
Siasat (July 9) reports that a member of Uttar Pradesh Haj committee, Hafiz Nousad Ahmed Azmi has demanded that due to the mismanagement of Haj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should immediately dismiss Union minister for

minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. He said that Naqvi became the Haj minister in 2016. Since then, he has been violating the Haj Act 2002. For the past one year, the Central Haj Committee has not been constituted. In many states, the

Haj committees have not been formed. According to Azmi, in 2012, the Supreme Court has directed that the Haj subsidy extended to Air India should be ended by 2022 and said that Rs 685 crore should be spent on the education of Muslim students. In 2017, Naqvi had announced end of Haj subsidy but not a single paisa has been spent on the education of

students. He said that he had written a detailed letter to the Prime Minister and had requested that the Haj committee should be brought under the jurisdiction of External Affairs Ministry like earlier. However, he has not given any reply to it. He said that if Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is not dismissed from his post, he would launch a nationwide agitation.

Review petition filed over Gyanvapi masjid issue



Inquilab (July 2) states that the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board has filed a review petition questioning the decision of the civil judge in the Gyanvapi masjid case. The board has raised an objection stating that the court has delivered judgment on a subject which is beyond its jurisdiction and it is an open violation of a law passed by the Parliament in 1991 which freezes the status of places of worship as they were on August 15, 1947. The district court of Varanasi, on the basis of a petition, had directed that the archaeological survey conduct an excavation of the site of Gyanvapi mosque

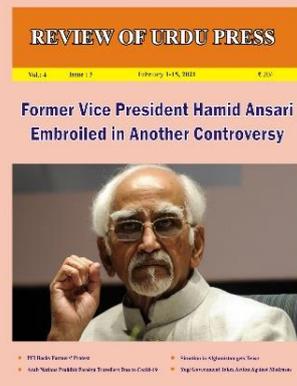
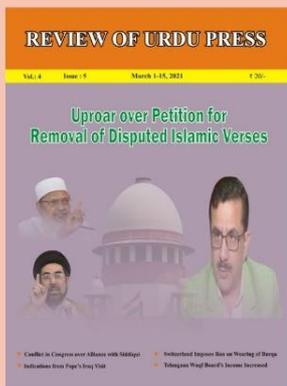
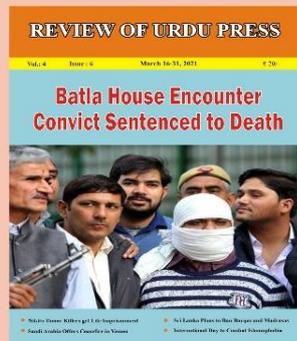
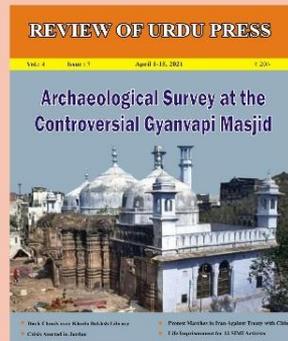
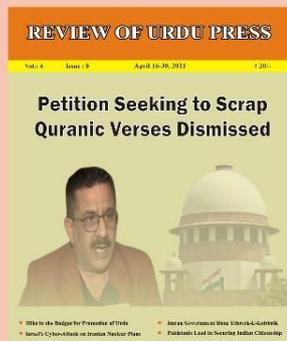
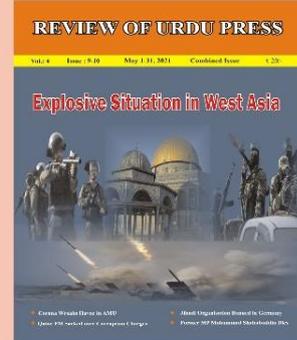
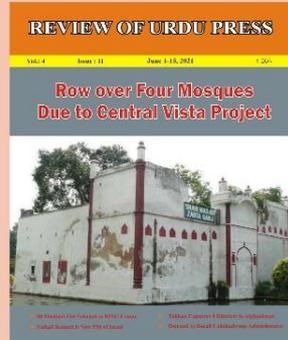
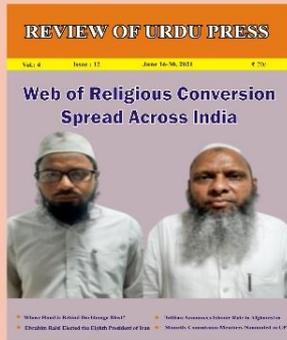
complex and find out its real composition. The board claims that when India attained freedom on August 15, 1947, the Gyanvapi masjid was owned by Muslims and the complex continues to be a place of worship for them. Hence the court has no power to form a committee and conduct excavations there. The board

claims that the masjid was built by Aurangzeb in 1669. If excavations are done there, then its structure would be in danger. The civil judge of Varanasi Ashutosh Tiwari had directed on April 8 that the archaeology department should do an excavation of the site with its own expenses under the supervision of a five-member committee and find out whether the masjid was built after demolishing the ancient Kashi Vishwanath mandir. The court also directed that the committee shall comprise of two Muslims, two Hindus and an archaeological expert. The Sunni Waqf Board has now questioned this decision.

Jamaat-e-Islami opens Shariah Council website

Inquilab (July 8) reports that the Shariah Council website of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has been inaugurated at its head office by the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Sadatullah Husaini. He said that the new website would help Muslims access information on Shariah from the comfort of their home. Earlier, two websites used to give information regarding Shariah matters

with one linked to Darul Uloom Deoband and the other Islam (QA). He said that Jamaat-e-Islami established the Shariah Council two years ago. The head of Shariah Council, Maulana Syed Jalaluddin Umri said that both fatwa and literature related to Islam would be made available to Muslims all over the world through the website.



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