

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Saudi Arabia Bans Tablighi Jamaat



- Demand in JNU to rebuild Babri Masjid
- Israeli military gets orders to be ready for attack on Iran
- Sri Lankan burned alive over alleged insult to Quran
- Case against publisher for sketch of Prophet

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## Summary

The Saudi Arabian government has announced a ban on Tablighi Jamaat, a worldwide organisation of Sunni Muslims. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Islamic Affairs has directed the imams of all masjids that they create awareness among Muslims about the dangerous activities of this organisation during their Friday sermons and direct them that no Muslim should maintain any kind of relationship with this organisation because it is a threat to the society and a gateway to terrorism.

For nearly a week, Muslim leaders in India and the newspapers run by them remained mum on the issue. Not a single Muslim newspaper even felt the need to publish any news on it. However, when other language media started publishing news related to it, Muslim leaders in the country and their newspapers woke up from their deepsleep and started condemning the decision of Saudi Arabia. The strangest thing is that while the Saudi Arabian government described this organisation as a terrorist group and a threat to the society, in the opinion of Indian Muslim leaders and newspapers, the organisation has nothing to do with terrorism. In their eyes it is a pure Islamic organisation involved in the uplift and welfare of Muslims. The Muslim leaders have demanded that the Saudi government reconsider its decision and make an announcement immediately lifting the ban imposed on Tablighi Jamaat.

For the first time, Darul Uloom Deoband has publicly acknowledged its close relationship with Tablighi Jamaat. The Mohtamim (chancellor) of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani said that it is their religious duty to extend support and provide protection to Tablighi Jamaat. Hence they would oppose the ban on the Jamaat. The Tablighi Jamaat was founded in Delhi in 1926. It is believed that the organisation has more than 40 crore members spread over 150 countries of the world.

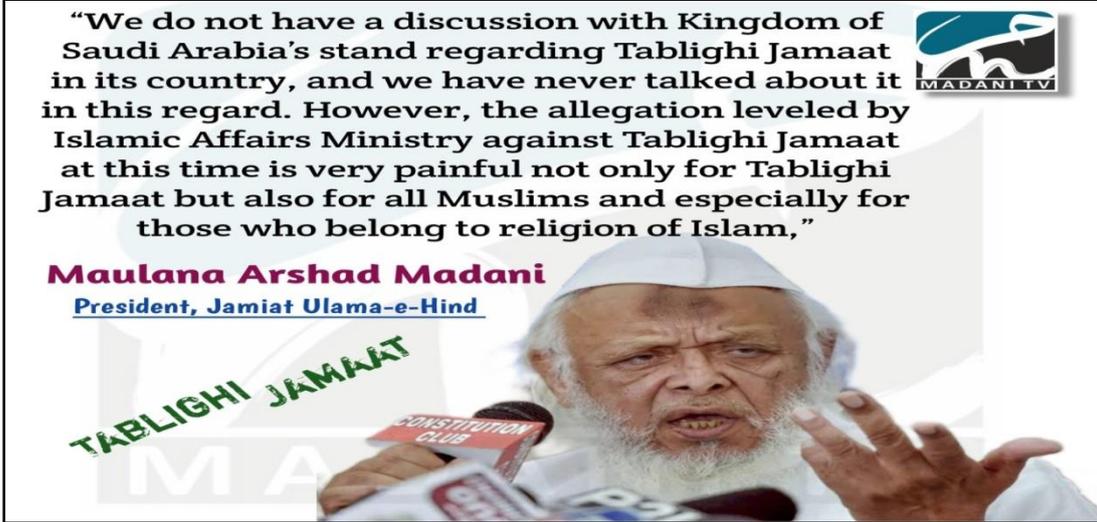
A few students of Jawaharlal Nehru University held a protest after violating the restrictions imposed by the administration, during which a demand was made to rebuild Babri Masjid on the same place. Interestingly, Muslim organisations observe Babri Masjid demolition day on December 6. In this connection, the administration has imposed a ban on holding any kind of activity due to the possibility of violence. In Mathura, due to the firm stand of the administration, the arrangements made by some Hindu organisations to install the murti of Bhagwan Krishna and conduct a Jalabhishek in the Shahi Idgah constructed by Aurangzeb were foiled.

In Pakistan, a Sri Lankan citizen became the victim of fundamentalists' provocation of public sentiments in the name of alleged insult to Quran and the Prophet. It was reported that 49-year-old Priyantha Kumara was working as a general manager in a cloth factory in Sialkot in Pakistan. A Pakistani organisation pasted a few posters, in which some verses of Quran were supposedly written, on the wall of the factory. The Sri Lankan citizen removed these posters from the factory premises. The fundamentalists then exaggerated the incident and flared it up. Soon, a huge mob of thousands of people attacked the factory, thrashed the Sri Lankan citizen and burnt him alive. ■

## Indian Muslims upset over Saudi ban on Tablighi Jamaat

“We do not have a discussion with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s stand regarding Tablighi Jamaat in its country, and we have never talked about it in this regard. However, the allegation leveled by Islamic Affairs Ministry against Tablighi Jamaat at this time is very painful not only for Tablighi Jamaat but also for all Muslims and especially for those who belong to religion of Islam,”

**Maulana Arshad Madani**  
President, Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind



**Inquilab** (December 15) reports that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, met the Saudi Ambassador to India, Dr Saud Mohammed Al Sati, and protested the ban imposed by the Saudi government on Tablighi Jamaat and said the ban would create more troubles for Muslims and madrasas in India. He said that the allegations raised by Saudi government against Tablighi Jamaat are totally false as it has nothing to do with politics and government while it has been conveying the message of peace and harmony right from the beginning. In a memorandum to Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Islamic Affairs, the Maulana has described the decision as unfortunate and against the interests of Islam. He stressed that since Tablighi Jamaat is related to Darul Uloom Deoband, the decision of the Saudi government has created lots of trouble and worry for us. It is our religious duty to protect the interests of Tablighi Jamaat. The attack on Tablighi Jamaat is in fact an attack on Deoband and this cannot be tolerated. There is a section of people in the world who wants to extinguish the light of Islam but this lamp cannot be extinguished.

The chief of the other group of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mehmood Madani, expressed the opinion that there was some conspiracy or political pressure behind this decision of Saudi Arabia. We will not allow this conspiracy to succeed. Tablighi Jamaat is working to make people a good human and a good Muslim. There is no other organisation in the world which is capable of doing the same work. Janata Dal (United) MLC Dr Khalid Anwar, while condemning the decision of Saudi Arabia, said that it is an anti-Islamic act. Tablighi Jamaat is working only to make a human being a (good) human and a Muslim a good Muslim.

**Aurangabad Times** (December 14) has published an eight-column news report as its main story and it was headlined ‘Ban on Tablighi Jamaat in Saudi Arabia a conspiracy against Islam.’ Another sub-headline was ‘Terrorism charges baseless and misleading. Demand to withdraw condemnable decision of Saudi Arabia.’ Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman is messing around with Islamic principles and its culture. According to the newspaper, the Saudi government has imposed a total ban on Tablighi Jamaat and termed it as an organisation spreading anti-Islam ideology,

and extremist ideas. In this connection, all the imams and khatims in the country have been urged to create awareness among people about the organisation and not to establish contact with anyone associated with Tablighi Jamaat.

Registering their concern over the decision of Saudi Arabia, the Ulema of Darul Uloom Deoband expressed their disappointment and anger and said that due to this condemnable action of Saudi Arabia other countries may also ban Tablighi Jamaat which won't be justifiable in any way. The Saudi government has to reconsider its decision. The Mohtamim (chancellor) of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, while condemning the decision, sought to reconsider it and said that the founder of Tablighi Jamaat, Maulana Mohammad Ilyas, got his education from Darul Uloom Deoband. Later he founded Tablighi Jamaat. This Jamaat is working towards its aim and its name and activities are spread across the world. Hence it is totally false to accuse the organisation of creating an atmosphere against Islam and terrorism. Darul Uloom condemn this and express hope that the Saudi government will not unleash any campaign against Tablighi Jamaat and withdraw the ban imposed on it.

Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Syed Sadatullah Husaini also described the order of Saudi government against Tablighi Jamaat as wrong and based on injustice. He said that Islamic organisations need the freedom to hold their activities in the country. It is a peaceful organisation and involved in propagating Islam and its welfare. A veteran Muslim intellectual, Maulana Ubaid Iqbal Asim, said that the action taken against Tablighi Jamaat by Saudi Arabia is condemnable. Tablighi Jamaat is involved in spreading the message of peace and brotherhood throughout the world and it brings those who are away from the religion and masjids close to Islam. So far, no government in the world has raised its finger against Tablighi Jamaat. Hence it is

assumed that this decision of Saudi government is part of a large conspiracy against Islam.

A renowned Islamic scholar in the country, Maulana Nadeem Al Wajidi, has also condemned this decision of Saudi government and said that no one expected such an irresponsible action from the Saudi government. The rulers there should know the consequences in the Muslim world when it takes action against such a genuine organisation like Tablighi Jamaat.

Now, different countries in the world would be targeting religious organisations like Tablighi Jamaat. Mufti Mohammad Sharif Khan Qasmi said that Saudi Arabia was a well-wisher of Muslims in the entire world and it has made significant contributions for the propagation and progress of Islam in the world but now we don't know why its attitude has changed.

He appealed to Muslim leaders in the country that they launch an agitation in support of Tablighi Jamaat.

Chief of All India Imam Council, Maulana Mohammad Ahmad Baig Nadvi condemned the dictatorial decision of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and said that till now no nation in the world got any complaint about Tablighi Jamaat because it works for the welfare of Muslims and Islam. He said that ever since Mohammad bin Salman became the Crown Prince, he has been messing around with Islam and Islamic culture. Many prominent Muslim scholars have been sent to jail. Many other Muslim scholars have been hanged to death. In order to spoil Islamic culture, cinema halls were opened in the country and women were given permission to drive vehicles. It looks like he has been playing in the hands of Jews.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 13) also published news on its front page urging the Saudi government to reconsider its decision to ban Tablighi Jamaat because till now Tablighi Jamaat has been giving the message of peace and goodwill and it has been working for the propagation of Islam. The newspaper said that such a decision was not expected from the Saudi

Arabian government. Hence the decision should be reconsidered.

**Inqilab** (December 14) has published as main news the reaction of Muslim leaders in India over the ban imposed on Tablighi Jamaat and expressed happiness that despite the direction of the government, the imams of Nabwi masjid and Ka'aba masjid did not mention about Tablighi Jamaat during their sermons. In this connection, the Saudi embassy in New Delhi neither denied the developments nor confirmed them. Indian businessmen staying in Saudi Arabia said that no imam in any masjid has delivered the sermon which the government directed them to do. They alleged that Saudi Arabia is making deliberate efforts to keep the new generation away from Islam and its culture.

Chief of All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, Naved Hamid, while glossing over the order of the Saudi government, said the decision was not against Tablighi Jamaat but against an organisation named Al Ahbab, whose activities have been banned in masjids. He said that if the Saudi government has any evidence against Tablighi Jamaat, then it should make it public. He said that Tablighi Jamaat has not even a remote connection with terrorism. Naib Amir of Jamaat e Islami, Prof Salim Engineer, while refusing to comment on the decision of the Saudi government, said that until this decision has been confirmed by the government itself, he would not make any comment on the issue. Chairman of IOS, Dr Mansoor Alam, however, condemned the ban imposed on Tablighi Jamaat and said that earlier also the Saudi

government had targeted different Tablighi organisations. It looks like that the ban has been imposed due to the differences between various sects of Islam. However, it is totally false that Tablighi Jamaat is a terrorist organisation.

Congress leader Meem Afzal described this decision as astonishing and regrettable. He said the Saudi government should present the evidence on which it has imposed this ban. They should have given a thought about the problems which would arise for Muslims in Hindustan when they use terms like 'gateway to terrorism' against Tablighi Jamaat. He expressed hope that the Saudi government would change its decision. Imam of Shahi Masjid Fatehpuri Syed Mukaram Ahmed condemned the decision of Saudi government and said that may be they do not know much about Tablighi Jamaat but every Muslim should raise his voice against the kind of campaign unleashed against Islam in Saudi Arabia. The religious atmosphere in that country is being destroyed. General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema, Mufti Abdul Razzak, condemned the decision of Saudi Arabia and described the ban imposed on Tablighi Jamaat as without any basis.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 14) reports that prominent Muslim scholar Ibrahim Khalil Abadihas alleged that with such decisions, the Saudi government is inviting the wrath of Allah. He said that today holy places like Mecca and Medina are in the hands of a pro-Israel government and hence Muslims need to create an atmosphere in the world in order to free them from their clutches. ■

## Demand in JNU to rebuild Babri Masjid

The administration had taken several steps to maintain peace on the annual day of the destruction of Babri Masjid. However, despite this, Leftist students of Delhi-located Jawaharlal Nehru University, while throwing to winds the restrictions imposed by the administration, held a protest and demanded rebuilding of Babri Masjid.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 8) reports that on an appeal by the students' union, communist students assembled at Ganga Dhaba and held a march from there till Chandrabhaga Hostel. The students demanded reconstruction of Babri Masjid on the same spot. They were shouting slogans like 'Will not tolerate Hashimpura,



Will not do Dadri, Make again, make again Babri.’ Addressing students on this occasion, vice-president of students’ union, Saket Moon, alleged that the communal elements are sparking communal riots by inciting religious passion. We will not rest till Babri Masjid is rebuilt. Chairperson of students’ union, Aishi Ghosh, said that after Babri Masjid, the next target of BJP is Kashi and they have already started the work for it. BJP and RSS are dividing the society on the basis of religion.

**Inqilab** (December 7) reports that on the demolition day of Babri Masjid, Communist and Muslim organisations held rallies in different places as a mark of protest. The protesters carried placards with different slogans and posters and raised slogans against the demolition of Babri Masjid. In Patna, the protesters blocked the road from Gandhi Maidan till Kargil Chowk. For the first time, ‘Babri Masjid demolition day’ was observed at the office of Rashtriya Janata Dal with a two-minute silence and it was also described as the blackest day in the history. SDPI organised protests in several places in Bihar. CPI-ML described it as an attack on Indian Constitution.

**Siasat** (December 7) reports that Muslim organisations observed Babri

Masjid demolition day in various places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 7) reports that the general secretary of All India Milli Council Dr Mansoor Alam, while describing the demolition of Babri Masjid as a black day in the history, has appealed to the Muslims that the efforts being made to turn the masjids in Kashi and Mathura also controversial like the Babri Masjid are shameful. It is the responsibility of the government and the administration to keep the law and order situation in control and arrest all mischievous elements conspiring to damage the peace and brotherhood in the country. In such a situation, all secular Hindus and Muslims should come forward and launch a strong campaign against creating any new controversies like the Babri Masjid case. The judiciary should take notice of them and direct the government or the administration to foil the intentions of mischief-mongers.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 5) reports that the Mumbai Police kept a close watch on the activities of Muslim organisations on the demolition day of Babri Masjid and did not allow them to take out any protest or rallies. However, the Raza Academy has given azaan in different

mosques to organise protests. Organisations like Wahadat Islami, Raza Academy and Popular Front made plans to organise protest marches but did not dare to do so due to the alertness of police.

Muslim organisations have targeted former Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi who delivered the judgment in favour of Ram Mandir. For this, they have banked on a book written by Justice Gogoi titled 'Justice for the judge' in which it has been claimed that after delivering the historic judgment in the Ayodhya case, he and other judges of the bench visited Hotel Taj where they consumed Chinese food and liquor. Later, in an interview to a TV channel, Justice Ranjan Gogoi has refuted the claim that the celebration was related to the judgment. Since the judges were continuously working for several months, a party was organised for relaxation. Various Urdu newspapers published different portions from his book. The Muslim Personal Law Board also demanded reconstruction of Babri Masjid.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 7) in its editorial, while condemning the demolition of Babri Masjid, appealed to the

Muslims to continue their struggle. The newspaper said that due to the weakness of Muslims, threats have been issued to install idols in Shahi Idgah Masjid in Mathura.

**Etemaad** in an editorial published on December 5 has warned the government that Muslims would hand over the message on the destruction of Babri Masjid to the future generations so that this tragedy remains fresh in their minds for ever. The newspaper said that the Congress is as responsible as Hindu organisations for the destruction of Babri Masjid because Congress promised protection of Babri Masjid while bragging about secularism and backstabbed Muslims. It would not be wrong to say that the Congress has kept alive the Babri Masjid issue for its political gains and BJP took it to its conclusion. The newspaper said that those who think that after the demolition of Babri Masjid the matter would end there would be just imagining things. Because, after Ram Mandir, the saffron group has now begun to target Kashi, Mathura and other masjids. We have to make efforts to ensure that our masjids remain fully occupied and offer namaz in more numbers. ■

## Nationwide campaign to propagate Islam

Various Muslim organisations have launched a nationwide campaign for the propagation of Islam in the country.

**Siasat** (December 7) states that the chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Syed Arshad Madani, has stressed that the literature related to Islam should be presented in Hindi language in greater number so that the preaching of Islam reach ordinary Hindustanis. Maulana Madani claimed he has translated Quran to Hindi after an eight-year effort. The translation was done in simple language so that ordinary people who are non-Muslims also get the message of Quran Sharif and the preaching of Islam gets wider dissemination and publicity. He said that the new generation is moving away from Urdu language and hence it is



necessary that more and more Islamic books are presented in Hindi in order to deliver them the message of Islam. He said that Quran was revealed in Arabic language but when Islam started spreading out it

was understood that in order to deliver the message of Islam to non-Muslims, it should be presented in their mother tongue. It was for the same purpose that the Ulema in Bharat had translated Quran to Persian language. Later, Shah Waliullah translated it into Urdu for the masses and provided it to Indians. Mohammad Hussain Madani and Maulana Thanvi presented the Quran in simple Urdu. Now since Hindi has got wider reach, it is necessary that in order to promote Islam, the support of Hindi and other regional languages is taken. This is

the reason why Quran is presented in simple Hindi after an eight-year effort.

**Salar** (December 1) states that Jamaat-e-Islami has also announced that their activists would visit every house and convey the message of Quran and the Prophet. This campaign has started in different states of the country. For this purpose, the literature related to Islam has been made available in a dozen other Indian languages apart from Hindi and it would be distributed free of cost by Jamaat workers. According to sources in Jamaat-e-Islami, this campaign is in full swing in seven states of the country.

Another organisation, Popular Front, through a video titled 'Islamic Warrior' has announced that a special campaign has been launched to attract non-Muslims to Islam in many places like Northeast, Assam and West Bengal. In this connection, a number of videos have also

been prepared which show activists of Popular Front visiting the houses of non-Muslims and handing over Islamic literature free of cost to them.

The Raza Academy in Mumbai has also started the work of propagating Islam on a large scale. The organisation has claimed that it has taken up this programme in full scale in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. Jamiat Ulema has urged the imams of masjids that they open the doors of masjids for non-Muslims and maintain a close relationship with them so that Islam could reach them.

**Inquilab** (November 25) states that the Darul Uloom Deoband has urged the managers of all Islamic madrasas that they invite maximum number of non-Muslims to their programmes so that they get more information regarding Islam and they come near to Islam. ■

## Preparations on to raise the issue of Idgah in Mathura

**Inquilab** (December 2) has alleged that the BJP has increased its efforts to incite religious passion before the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Some big leaders who are part of the Uttar Pradesh government are resorting to such antics and giving such statements that are posing a threat to the peaceful atmosphere in the state. By tweeting about the preparations in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has tried to lure extreme Hindu voters and Opposition parties made a hue and cry against him. The Deputy Chief Minister of the state has written in his tweet, "Mandir construction is on in Ayodhya, Kashi, now time has come for Mathura." Congress, Samajwadi Party and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party have reacted strongly to this statement of Maurya. They alleged that the BJP has become fearful about possible defeat in the elections and

they want polarisation of voters on religious basis ahead of the elections. Congress spokesperson Surendra Singh Rajput told **Inquilab** that the BJP and leaders like Keshav Prasad Maurya have sensed defeat in the next elections. They know that the five years of Uttar Pradesh government and the eight years of Modi government are going to end. They don't have anything to show as achievement. Hence they are preparing to rake up the issue of Idgah in Mathura to distract the attention of people. Samajwadi spokesperson Sumaiya Rana said such issues are highlighted so that the public's attention could be diverted from failures of the government. Chief of the intellectual cell of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Deepak Mishra said that instead of finding solutions to the problems being faced by the people BJP wants the people to remain busy with mandir and masjid issues.

As per another news published in the same edition, the Hindu organisations who have raked up the controversy at the Idgah in Mathura have cancelled their programme due to the strong stand taken by the administration. In her tweet, national president of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha Rajashree Choudhury said that since administration has refused to give permission to the programme, it was cancelled. The district president of this organisation Chhaya Gautam has released a video in which the activists were urged to do 'jalabhishek' in their own houses. Rajashree claimed that this video has been forcefully released by the police since Gautam was in their custody. In Mathura, the district administration adopted a strong stand apart from imposing Section 144 of CrPC. Four persons belonging to Narayani Sena were arrested, including Rishi Upadhyaya. Hindu Mahasabha and this organisation had announced a 'Sankalp Yatra' apart from 'jalabhishek' at Idgah Masjid in Mathura.

**Siasat** (December 8) has alleged that the Yogi government has come back to the mandir-masjid agenda. Uttar Pradesh minister Anand Swaroop Shukla appealed to the Muslims that they hand over to the Hindus the masjid near to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mandir. He said that the court has found a solution to the Ayodhya issue. But the structures in Varanasi and Mathura still hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus. Shukla said that Dr Rammanohar Lohiya had said that the Muslims in Hindustan need to accept that Ram and Krishna were their ancestors and Babar, Akbar and Aurangzeb were invaders. Hence the Muslims should not associate themselves with any building constructed in their name. Muslims should take their brotherhood forward by handing over the structure built over Sri Krishna Mandir to the Hindus.

**Siasat** (December 8) in its editorial condemned the statements of Keshav Prasad Maurya and Anand Swaroop Shukla and said that whenever elections approach,



communal tension is created and Muslims are targeted in every manner. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had been a hardline face right from the beginning but now even his Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya does not want to be left behind. At a time when the Ram Mandir issue has been solved from the political point of view, the issue of Mathura has been raked up. This issue has been raised to improve his political stature in the party.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 3) had headlined its main news as 'Heinous attempt to purify Shahi Idgah in Mathura with Gangajal' 'Defiant threats by Hindu organisations to install idols in masjid' 'Section 144 imposed in all places.' The newspaper stated that the administration has taken strong steps to crush the mischievous elements and stringent security arrangements have been made there. Four extremist Hindu organisations in Mathura namely Hindu Mahasabha, Krishna janmabhoomi Nirman Nyas, Narayani Sena and Srikrishna Mutkti Dal have sought permission to install the idol of Laddo Gopal in the masjid. These organisations claimed that the masjid is located on the same place where Bhagwan Srikrishna was born. The administration took stringent steps and foiled the attempts of these organisations.

**Etemaad** (December 9) states that the BJP has once again taken the help of mandir to win the elections in Uttar Pradesh and the issue in Mathura has been raked up with this purpose.

Siraj Naqvi in an article in **Etemaad** on December 5 alleged that the BJP is taking the help of Mathura issue to capture power.

## Muslims embracing Sanatan Dharma



**Roznama Sahara** (December 7) states that former chairperson of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board, Waseem Rizvi, has announced his decision to leave Islam and accept Hinduism. In this connection, he has released a video as well. Rizvi said that since he has been expelled from Islam he has taken refuge in Sanatan Dharma which is the first religion in the world and it has so many good things which are not there in any other religion. He expressed regret that the fundamentalists kept increasing the bounty on his and Yati Narsimhanand's head during every namaz. On this, Narsimhanand Saraswati said that the new name of Rizvi is Jitendra Narayan Singh Tyagi. Interestingly, Rizvi has been a controversial person right from the beginning. Recently, he declared to remove 26 controversial verses from Quran and also wrote a controversial book called 'Mohammad.' Rizvi claimed that the fundamentalist Muslims want to kill him. Earlier, the Shia community had expelled Rizvi from Islam.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 7) states that ahavan was also held as part of a programme organised at Devi Mandir in Dasna for the conversion of Rizvi. Wasim Rizvi took part in the puja and offered milk on the Shivling.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 12) states that Malayalam film director Ali Akbar announced that he and his wife would be abandoning Islam and adopting Hindu dharma. Ali Akbar has given a strange reason for leaving Islam. He said that he and his wife are leaving Islam and

adopting Hindu religion in protest against a community of people celebrating on social media the unfortunate death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and his wife in a helicopter crash. He said that both his daughters are free to decide whether they want to remain in Islam or not.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 3) states that a delegation of Bareilly Sharif Dargah met the district magistrate of Bareilly Manavendra Singh and demanded that since Waseem Rizvi had been openly insulting the honour of our Prophet, his book should be seized, he should be arrested and a case be registered against him for treason. General Secretary of Raza Academy, Mohammad Syed Noori, expressed the opinion that Waseem Rizvi is trying to create unrest in the country at the behest of some foreign powers.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 12) states that a petition has been filed in Allahabad High Court where the court has been urged that Waseem Rizvi be banned from making anti-Islam statements as it may lead to disturbing the peace in society. The petition was filed on behalf of the secretary of Khwaja Garib Nawaz Association, Mohammad Yousuf Ansari, in which it has been claimed that Waseem Rizvi has been insulting the honour and dignity of the Quran and Prophet to fulfil his own political interests and recently he made this announcement that his cremation should be conducted as per Hindu rituals. This has caused a lot of uneasiness among Muslims.

## Sri Lankan burned alive over alleged insult to Quran



**Etemaad** (December 4) reports that a huge mob burnt alive a general manager of a textiles factory in Sialkot in Pakistan over alleged insult to Quran. It is reported that the man, Priyantha Kumara, aged approximately 49 years, was working as general manager of a cloth factory for the past five years. Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan members had pasted some posters in the factory on which some verses from Quran were written. The man had directed some of his employees to remove the posters. However, when they refused to remove these posters, he himself removed these posters and tore them away. When others in the factory came to know about the incident the workers went outside and created a hue and cry in the town. Soon, a mob of thousands of angry men gathered. In an effort to save his life, Kumara took refuge in a room. However, his employees dragged him out from there and handed him over to the mob. The mob brutally thrashed him and later poured kerosene on him and set him on fire. After the video of this incident went viral on social media, the police came to the picture and tried to control the situation. When the police failed to do so, the help of army and paramilitary forces were sought. Later Prime Minister Imran Khan directed the administration to arrest those responsible for the incident.

**Roznama Sahara** (December 5) states that Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' has

reported that the police have filed a case against 900 employees of the factory. The Sialkot police raided several villages and towns and arrested 235 people and shut down this factory called Rajko Industries. Deputy Commissioner of Sialkot, Tahir Farooq, told reporters that not a single accused would be spared. Stringent action would be taken against the office-bearers of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan. The body of Kumara was sent to Colombo.

Imran Khan has announced that when there is a law in Pakistan to take action against those who insult the Quran, the action of the mob cannot be justified under any circumstance. According to the newspaper, it was his own factory employees who started beating Kumara first. Later when this news spread, people from nearby places gathered and reached the factory.

**Avadhnama** (December 5) reports that Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapakse has condemned the incident in Sialkot and expressed hope that Imran Khan would keep his promise and would not spare any accused. He expressed condolences to the family of the victim. Condemning the incident, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan sought stringent action against the culprits and demanded that the accused be hanged to death.

**Siasat** (December 8) reports that the Ulema of different sects of Islam

condemned this incident and said that Islam doesn't allow attack on anyone in the name of Prophet. On the basis of an appeal by different Islamic organisations, December

10 was observed as 'Condemnation Day.' The factories of Sialkot promised an amount of one lakh dollars to be given to the family members of Kumara. ■

## Four years in jail for deposed Prime Minister of Myanmar

### Mumbai Urdu News

(December 7) reports that a court in Myanmar has awarded four years in jail for deposed Prime Minister of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi. She has been accused of provoking people for violence and breaking Covid protocols. This is the first verdict against Suu Kyi after the military coup. Recently, former president of Myanmar Win Myint was also awarded four years in jail on same charges. Following the military coup in Myanmar, Suu Kyi and her colleagues were arrested. Till now they have been detained in their houses. The protests against military coup have not ended in many places in Myanmar. A spokesperson of the ruling military junta said that action would be taken against former ministers on other allegations as well. Britain, while condemning the punishment awarded to Suu Kyi, described it as against democratic norms and said that due to the arrest of the elected representatives of people there could be more unrest in the country. It has urged the military leaders to release all



political detainees and take strong measures to restore democracy. It was alleged in the court that the supporters of Suu Kyi posted such things in Facebook that provoked people against military authorities.

Interestingly, Suu Kyi and her allies had won the elections held in November last year. The party that was supporting the military had to face a huge defeat. The defeated party has raised this allegation that they had won the elections in a fraudulent manner. Later the military staged a coup and arrested Suu Kyi and her allied political leaders and detained them in their own houses. Meanwhile, the supporters of Suu Kyi said that since she and the former president were in custody how can they post things in Facebook? This decision of the special court was conveyed to the journalists by an official later. The official, however, sought anonymity. Following this decision, Suu Kyi would not be able to contest elections again. After getting jail term for Suu Kyi and other allies there is an increase in the protests. ■

## Russia would have to pay a heavy price if it attacks Ukraine

Siasat (December 14) states that the group of powerful nations, G-7, warned Russia that if it attacks Ukraine then it would have to pay a heavy price. According to media reports, the American intelligence wing has predicted that Russia may attack Ukraine at the beginning of the New Year and in order to launch the attack, they have deployed nearly 1.75 lakh soldiers on Ukraine

border. Refuting the allegations, a spokesperson of Russian defence ministry said that the Western countries have become a victim of Russia phobia and NATO feels Russia as a threat. The G-7 conference held in Liverpool in Britain condemned the military exercise held on Ukraine border and warned Russia to stop such provocative actions. They said they

would protect the freedom of Ukraine and regional unity at any cost.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia needs this guarantee that the NATO powers would not expand to the East and neither would they amass their weapons near Russia. The Russian defence ministry said that the Russian President had told the US President in clear terms that the Russian intention was not to attack any country. It has deployed its soldiers near its own border only. However, it has been portrayed as an offender. Interestingly, G-7 nations comprise Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, US and the European Union.

**Inquilab** (December 7) reports that the US has claimed that Russia is preparing to attack Ukraine and it has deployed nearly 1.75 lakh soldiers at four locations on its border and they were equipped with tanks and artillery guns. Ukraine's defence minister expressed the likelihood of Russia resorting to military action against Ukraine next month. It is to be noted that after the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, and the unrest created by the rebels supported by Russia in Ukraine's eastern region Donbas, tension between Russia and Ukraine increased.

**Inquilab** (December 21) reports that the British foreign minister said that if Moscow attacks Ukraine again, there would be serious consequences. Britain has appealed to G-7 countries to remain united against Russia.

Shedding light on the increasing tension between Ukraine and Russia, **Siasat** in its editorial on December 11 said that a video conference took place between



the presidents of Russia and the US for nearly two hours during which the US President had warned Russia that if it intervenes in Ukraine, then the US would increase its military aid to Eastern Europe and impose sanctions on Russia. However, the Russian president has denied these allegations though satellite pictures clearly show that Russian soldiers are deployed in huge numbers near Ukraine's border and that they are equipped with tanks and artillery guns. This has resulted in the possibility of a world war.

It is to be noted that Ukraine is not a member of NATO but despite that the Russian president wants an assurance in this regard which he is not likely to get. The new Chancellor of Germany has warned that if Russia attacks Ukraine, it would not be tolerated at any cost. It would be a cause of worry for the world if tensions continue to rise in the relations with the US due to Russia and China. It is time to ensure that such tensions do not increase further. The newspaper has written that the US and European nations have been extending military aid to Ukraine since 2014 so that if Russia takes any action against that country, it could give a befitting reply. ■

## Pakistan's economy in shambles

**Siasat** (December 4) reports that Pakistan's economy is on a downslide with every passing day. Recently, Pakistan's share market witnessed its biggest crash this year. The Pakistani share market index crashed by 2135 points. That means, there

is a 5% shortage in the capital available in the market. Secondly, due to rise in imports but shortfall in exports, the economy got destabilised. As per the data, this is the third biggest crash in the history of Pakistan's share market. Before this, a

major fall took place in March 24, 2020 when the market crashed by 2103 points. According to economic analysts, the crash in share market is an indication of the collapse of the economy and it would also be a setback to the interest of investors in Pakistan.

According to the head of research at Pakistan's Spectrum Securities, Abdul Asim, due to the crash in share market, huge losses occurred affecting country's economic stability. As per the data, Pakistan had to face a trade loss of more than 5 billion dollars within one month which is a huge blow to its economy. As per the statistics, in November, Pakistan purchased goods worth 8 billion dollars from abroad. However, in the same period,



goods worth only 2.9 billion dollars were exported. In the first five months of the current financial year, Pakistan has suffered a trade deficit of 20.75 billion dollars which is a 117% increase compared to the same period in previous year. According to economic experts, by the end of this year, Pakistan's economic deficit would rise to the tune of 45 billion dollars.

## Former Malaysian PM gets 12 years in jail for corruption

**Roznama Sahara** (December 9) reports that the high court in Malaysia has confirmed the 12-year jail term awarded to former prime minister Najib Razak by a court in a corruption case. He has been accused of looting government fund. In July last year, a court had awarded him 12 years in jail on charges of siphoning off government development fund. He had questioned the conviction in the high court. Apart from facing charges of misusing government funds, he is also facing several cases for misuse of government machinery and money laundering. Out of these cases, he has been awarded 12 years in jail apart from a fine of 50 lakh US dollars in just one single case. He is on bail nowadays. Cases have been filed against his wife as well for corruption. Since his lawyer was down with Covid, the court heard the arguments through video conferencing. After the judgment, his lawyer Shafi Abdullah said they would file a petition in the Supreme Court against the high court verdict. Razak said that the money was



given to him by the royal family of Saudi Arabia as an aid. However, judge Abdul Karim refused to accept his contention. The court has upheld all the seven charges against him.

It is to be noted that after Najib Razak came to power in 2009, an SRC International Company was established with the purpose of receiving investments for development projects. Later this company got stuck in debts worth billions of dollars.

The investigators alleged that nearly 7.5 billion dollars were siphoned off from this fund. The colleagues of Najib used money from the fund to make films in Hollywood, purchase hotels, to buy a ship worth 250 million dollars, jewellery and to buy a painting of Picasso. This apart, one billion dollars was transferred into the account of Najib in an illegal manner. His wife and many office-bearers of his party have been accused as beneficiaries in these dealings.

## Saudi Arabia bans Tablighi Jamaat



**Siasat** (December 11) reports that the Saudi government has imposed a ban on Tablighi Jamaat and described it as a danger to the society and a gateway to terrorism. Saudi Arabia's Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dr Abdul Lateef Al Sheikh directed the imams of all masjids that during their sermons after the Friday namaz they should create awareness among namazis against Tablighi Jamaat and Al Ahabab. In this connection, the Saudi government had also tweeted on December 6 stating that this organisation is a misguided one and has moved away from the path of Islam. Hence it is dangerous for the society. Though this organisation doesn't accept it, it is a reality that it is a gateway to terrorism. The government is keeping a close watch on its activities and also analysing the damages it could cause to the society. The government has confirmed that the Saudi government has imposed a proper ban on the organisation. Those in the know of things believe that the Saudi government is getting ready to launch a massive drive against those associated with this organisation.

The interesting thing is that majority of the Urdu newspapers in the country, especially those owned by Muslims, tried to conceal the news that the Saudi Arabian

government had imposed a ban on Tablighi Jamaat. When other newspapers in the country published this news, some Urdu newspapers carried it almost a week later.

**Salar**, published from Bangalore, carried this news on December 12 and highlighted that the Saudi government had put pressure on religious leaders and Islamic scholars to tell people about the serious dangers posed to the society by the Tablighi Jamaat and those associated with them. How big this Jamaat is can be assumed from the fact that it has 35-40 crore members across the world. The Saudi government said that the organisation claims that its activities are limited to religious affairs and keeps itself away from politics and terrorism. However, their claims are totally hollow.

**Aurangabad Times** in its edition on December 13 published a news reported by ANI and said that the Saudi government has directed those associated with Tablighi Jamaat that they vacate all the masjids in Saudi Arabia and also told people not to maintain any relations with anyone associated with this organisation.

Interestingly, during the Corona pandemic in India, the government had alleged that due to the congregation of people at the Tablighi Jamaat headquarters



in New Delhi, the pandemic has spread throughout the country. However, the government could not prove this allegation in the court.

### **What is Tablighi Jamaat?**

According to US intelligence agency CIA, Tablighi Jamaat is the world's largest Islamic organisation that prepares the army of jihadis. Its branches are currently spread in more than 150 countries of the world and it is being said that they have 30-40 crore members. This organisation claims that due to their efforts, more than 25 crore non-Muslims have embraced Islam. Among those who converted to Islam due to the organisation's efforts, majority of them belong to Europe, US, Africa and some Asian countries. The jihadi groups linked to them include Al Qaida, Boko Haram, Al Ansar, Taliban, Jamaat-ud-Dawah, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Shipah-e-Sahaba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Al Ahabab, Tehreek-e-Labbaik and dozens of other organisations.

The interesting thing is that in the past few days when the organisation was divided into two parallel groups, leading scholars from different nations in Arab world made serious efforts to establish unity in this organisation.

In British newspaper **Security Weekly**, (January 23, 2008), two prominent investigative journalists of Europe, Fred Burton and Scott Stewart,

published a special report in which it was claimed that the Spanish police had raided a masjid in Barcelona city and arrested 14 terrorists of Tablighi Jamaat and seized huge quantities of explosives, arms and ammunition from them. The then home minister of France said that the arrested people were associated with Islamic terrorist organisation Tablighi Jamaat. Those arrested included 12 Pakistanis, one Indian and one Bangladeshi origin terrorist. The role of this Jamaat was also found behind the 2006 explosion that took place in London airport. Later, the bomb explosions that took place in London and Glasgow in 2007 were also found to be linked to this organisation. The terrorists involved in the November 26, 2008 attack that took place in Mumbai and in the Parliament attack that took place in 2001 also had their links with Tablighi Jamaat. The hands of people linked to this terrorist organisation were found in the terrorist attack that took place in Peshawar and Balochistan. Terror organisations like Boko Haram and Al Shabab, which were involved in terrorist attacks in Nigeria and Algeria were also found to be linked to this organisation.

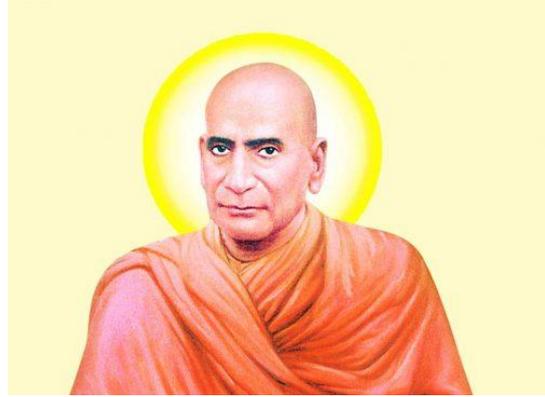
### **Where is the headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat?**

Very few people in this country are aware of the fact that the headquarters of this organisation, spread across the world,

is located in a colony in Nizamuddin at Banglawali masjid and its chief Maulana Saad stays at a grand building in Shahzada Bagh in New Delhi. During Corona pandemic, its headquarters was sealed by the police. Now, on the directions of Delhi high court, it has been handed over back to them.

The establishment of this organisation also took place in a sensational atmosphere. In 1920, the Arya Samaj had started a Shuddhi campaign to bring back the Hindus who converted to Islam and it started from Mewat region near Delhi. The Muslims who stay in this region are known as Mev, who were forced to become Muslims by Sultan of Delhi, Ghiyasuddin Balban. The interesting thing is that even after the passing of 1,000 years, these Rajput Muslims still maintain their relationship with Hindu culture. The Dewan of the princely state of Alwar, Major Pavlet in the Gazette of the princely state had written, "However, they are all Mev Muslims. But they are Muslims by name only. Majority of them have names like Krishna Singh, Bishan Singh, Ram Singh, Shiv Pratap Singh etc and their women have names like Raj Kunwar, Ram Kunwar, Shyam Kunwar etc. They celebrate Hindu festivals and they also visit temples. Majority of them do not know even to recite Kalama or Quran. Like Hindus, they do not marry from the same gotra and unlike Muslims do not marry the sons and daughters of mama, chacha and phoopha etc. Majority of them, despite being Muslims, do not eat beef."

The harbinger of Shuddhi movement was Swami Shraddhanand and due to his efforts, thousands of Malkana Rajputs from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan returned to Hindu religion. When the Shuddhi movement began in Mewat region, fundamentalist Muslims did not like it. In 1926, one fanatic Muslim, Abdul Rashid, entered the Ashram of Swami Shraddhanand at Naya Bazaar in Delhi and brutally murdered him. It is believed that the murderer was associated with Tablighi Jamaat. Author of



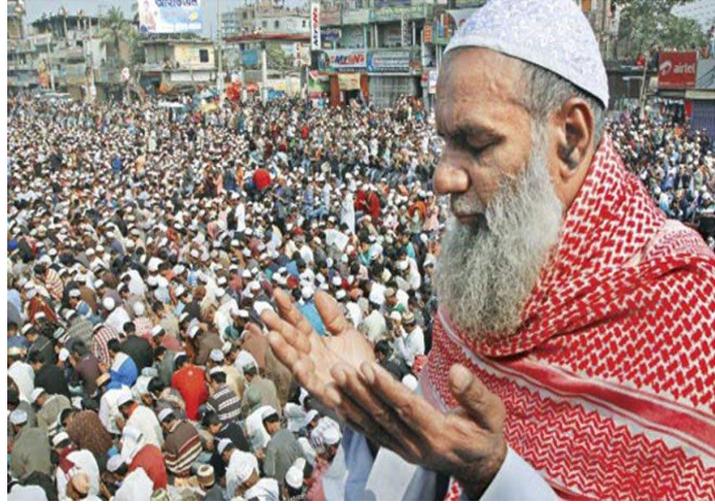
the book 'Muslim fundamentalism in South Asia,' Mumtaz Ahmad, expressed the opinion that Tablighi Jamaat had a major role in spreading Islamic terrorism. Sahil Mayaram in his book 'Resisting Regime' opined that the terror background of Tablighi Jamaat is linked to Syed Ahmed Barelvi's Wahabi movement and Shariatullah's Faraizi movement.

#### Founder of Tablighi Jamaat



Tablighi Jamaat was founded by Maulana Ilyas, a resident of Kandhla Nagar in Uttar Pradesh in 1926 and its headquarters is at Banglawali Masjid in Nizamuddin in Delhi. Maulana Ilyas belonged to the Deobandi sect of Sunni Muslims. Deobandis are linked to the Wahabi and Salafi ideologies of Islam. Ilyas received his Islamic education from Darul Uloom Deoband. Later he became the head of Islamic Shiksha Sansthan Mazahir Uloom located in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. He had given a new slogan to Muslims, 'Muslims, become a (good) Muslim.' Later he spent his entire efforts to stop the Shuddhi movement and for the promotion of Jihadi and Wahabi ideology.

The founder of jihadi Islamic ideology in the country was Maulana Mujahidul Islam Sirhindi. Rashid Ahmed Gangohi was a colleague of Maulana Ilyas who belonged to Darul Uloom Deoband. In 1946, when the struggle for the creation of Pakistan was at its pinnacle, a centre of Tablighi Jamaat was opened at Raiwind near Lahore. In 1949, another centre was opened in Dhaka as well. Later the branches of this organisation spread in the entire world. Its headquarters in England was opened in Dewsbury in 1978 from where the activities of Tablighi Jamaat are controlled in entire Europe. Currently, there are more than 12,000 masjids of Tablighi Jamaat in Europe and US. After the collapse of Soviet Union, this organisation made efforts to spread its branches in the Muslim-majority regions of former Soviet Union. However, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan had imposed a ban on this organisation. After the death of Mohammad Ilyas, the reins of this organisation were taken over by his son Maulana Mohammad Yusuf. After his death, his son Maulana Inamul Haq became the Amir of this organisation. After his death, the chief of Jamaat Maulana Zahirul Hasan became its Amir. After his death, a controversy has erupted over the chief of Jamaat and nowadays it is headed by Maulana Saad.



Islam in which lakhs of people take part. In 2016, such a conference took place in Dhaka in which it was claimed that 40 lakh people attended it. A similar conference took place in Aurangabad in Maharashtra in which it was claimed that 15 lakh people participated.

#### **Prominent persons associated with Tablighi Jamaat**

Those associated with this controversial Jamaat include many prominent personalities of the country who belong to Congress and other parties. They include former President Zakir Hussain, Allama Iqbal, nation's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Maulanas associated with Khilafat movement Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, Congress president Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, founder of Ittehadul Muslimeen Nawab Bahadur Yar Jang, founder of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Abul Hasan Maududi, founder of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Mohammad Hussain Madani, former prime minister of Jammu & Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah, Mirwaiz Yusuf Shah, chief of Indian Union Muslim League Maulana Ismail, renowned Muslim thinker and Padma Bhushan awardee Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, former president of Pakistan Zia-ul-Haq and many other prominent people.

## Israeli military gets orders to be ready for attack on Iran



**Etemaad** (December 13) reports that the Israeli defence minister has ordered the Israeli military to get ready to launch an attack on Iran. Currently, the Israeli defence minister is on a visit to the US. The United States, with the help of Israel, is building pressure against Iran. The minister has informed the US about the potential attack. He said that the world has understood that Iran is misleading the world on the issue of nuclear energy. Hence it is necessary that Iran should be stopped from making nuclear weapons at any cost. Mentioning about the threat of Israel, a spokesperson of Iran said that if the US and Israel make the mistake of attacking us, they will be replied in the same coin. We very well know how to reply to the attack.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 29) states that Iranian MP Fereydoun Abbasi said that Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated by Israel, had prepared the strategy for making nuclear weapons for Iran. We know how to defend our country. Along with it, we would also give a tough time to our enemies. Interestingly, the jihadi organisations linked to Iranian government are active in Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 9) reports that Israel has set up iron dome defence system on Gaza border. This would help Israel to stop the jihadis of Hamas from infiltrating into their territory. Along with this, barricades have been erected on the border. Even the radar system, or the command and control system, has been improved. The defence minister of Israel has said that due to the new system, the security of Israel has improved and for the construction of this new system, 2.25 lakh tonnes of concrete, 1.5 lakh tonnes of iron and steel have been used. This iron cover is spread over 65 kilometres. Interestingly, Israel had announced the setting up of this system in 2016.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 8) states that Israel had carried out three major strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in the past 18 months. These strikes were carried out by the nearly 1,000 employees of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad. Israel used drones, quadcopters and stealth planes in these attacks. According to Israeli sources, they are now in a position to destroy secret Iranian nuclear facilities through remote control. A London newspaper, News Chronicle, has confirmed that last year, Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated in this manner.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 6) reports that in order to rein in the activities of Iran, Saudi Arabia and France had entered into a secret deal recently. This agreement was reached in Jeddah recently due to the efforts of French President and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

## UAE signs deal to purchase Rafale aircraft from France

**Siasat** (December 5) reports that the United Arab Emirates has decided to purchase 80 Rafale fighter planes worth 14 billion Euros from France. This announcement was made during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to UAE recently. The UAE is also purchasing several other defence equipments from

France in large quantity. This includes 12 Caracal military transport helicopters worth 17 billion Euros. The French President also met the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and commander of armed forces Sheikh Mohammad Sayeed Al Nahyan. During this meeting, several defence agreements were signed between the two countries.

## Saif Al Islam Gaddafi gets permission to contest Presidential election

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 4) reports that a court in Libya has permitted presidential candidate Saif Al Islam Gaddafi, through the election commission, to contest the elections. Commenting on the decision, Gaddafi said that he had put himself in danger for the cause of righteousness. Gaddafi's lawyer Khalid Al Zaidi claimed that the court had also directed that the ban imposed on the activities of Gaddafi's family members by the Libyan government shall

also be removed. He said that it is victory of the truth. Following the verdict of the court, the rallies held in favour of Saif Al Islam Gaddafi in different parts of Libya also increased. People held marches in favour of Saif Al Islam by holding his photos. The election commission in Libya had recently banned the son of former dictator of Libya Muammar Gaddafi from contesting the elections which Saif Ali Gaddafi questioned in the court.

## Turkey getting ready to establish relationship with Israel

**Roznama Sahara** (November 30) reports that Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has given this indication that his country would soon establish relationship with Israel. He said that our efforts were to improve the relationship with these countries the same way UAE had improved its relationship with Egypt and Israel. He said that due to his recent visit to UAE, there is huge increase in the foreign investments in Turkey and various agreements were signed for investments worth billions of dollars. Erdogan was speaking to journalists in his return flight from Turkmenistan. He said that UAE has made a plan to make investments worth 10 billion dollars in Turkey. In order to further improve these relationships, he would visit UAE again next year. Turkey is making efforts to improve its relationship with Arab countries. Interestingly, an Israeli couple was

arrested in Turkey recently on charges of spying resulting in strong protests in Israel due to which he held talks with the Prime Minister of Israel for the first time and after the talks, the couple was released from jail and sent back to Israel.

**Etemaad** (December 1) reports that the Turkish President, while speaking at a conference on economic cooperation in Turkmenistan, stressed that every nation should come together and take strong actions to end terrorism. He said that since strong action had been taken against PKK, YPG and Islamic State in his country, the political stability has got a boost and the path of economic development has opened. He said that there is a huge possibility in improving the trade between Turkey and Turkmenistan. It is hoped that it would reach 100 billion dollars.

## Construction of world's second tallest building in Malaysia



**Siasat** (December 6) states that a 118-storey building is being constructed in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and it will have a height of 2,227 feet. It would be world's second tallest building. The world's tallest building is Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which is 2,717 feet tall. He said that the building in Malaysia would be spread over 31 lakh square feet. Half of it would be for offices. This tower would also have

a shopping mall, one masjid, one hotel and the biggest observation deck of South Asia. Its construction is being undertaken by an architect of Australia. The building would be of triangular shape. The construction of the building was announced in 2010. Its foundation was laid in 2015. Due to Covid outbreak, the construction was stopped for some time in 2020. The building is likely to be ready by next year. ■

## Case against publisher for sketch of Prophet

**Salar** (December 7) reports that the Srinagar police has registered a case against a publisher in Delhi allegedly on charges of drawing the sketch of Prophet Mohammad. This sketch was found in a history book published by the publisher. Jammu Kashmir Board of School Education has directed the schools in the entire state not to use this book in their schools. Secondly, the publishers, while apologising, said that

the mistake was unintentional and are withdrawing the book.

**Salar**, in another news, published a statement of the general secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani which condemned the publication of the sketch of the Prophet and demanded that the book should be banned and legal action be taken against its publishers. ■

## Criticism against education policy of Bihar

**Mumbai Urdu News** (November 29) reports that the general secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Saifullah Rahmani, while addressing an event in Darbhanga, alleged that in the new education policy launched by the Bihar government, the topics related to Muslims and Islamic rulers were deliberately removed. It has been done deliberately so that the new generation would not become aware of the contribution of Muslim rulers. However, the new education policy mentions even bhajan and Gita. It has made even Vande



Mataram mandatory which is against Islam. He said that in whichever school Vande Mataram is taught, Muslims would boycott it. He said that they would maintain their separate identity and protect Islam under any circumstances. He urged Muslims not to send their children to government schools because the government is deliberately trying to keep Muslim students away from Islam. Muslim children should be sent only to madrasas so that they get right information about Islam and the contribution of their ancestors. ■

## Case filed against Maharashtra police officer

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 11) reports that the Mumbai Police has registered an FIR against three persons including Additional Director General of Police and former chief of ATS Deven Bharti and ACP Deepak Phatangare on charges of not filing an FIR against a woman. The woman was accused of using forged documents to obtain Indian citizenship. The police have accused the woman, Reshma Khan, of being a Bangladesh national. She is the wife of Mumbai BJP vice-president Haider Azam. In this connection, the crime branch of Mumbai Police conducted an investigation and on the basis of the report



filed an FIR in Malwani police station. So far, nobody has been arrested in this connection. It is being said that when this woman submitted the application for the passport, she filed forged documents. Later during investigation, the investigating officer stated that no FIR was filed as directed by the then senior IPS officer Deven Bharti. It is to be noted that NCP leader Nawab Malik has alleged that due to the intervention of former chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis, a case could not be registered against one Bangladeshi woman. ■

## 40 Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested

**Mumbai Urdu News** (December 1) reports that the Bhiwandi police raided several places in the city and arrested 40 Bangladeshi infiltrators who are staying in the country using forged documents. Deputy Commissioner of Police Yogesh Chouhan told journalists that Bhiwandi police had launched a drive in the district to identify Bangladeshi infiltrators. Till now, Nepali police station, Kulgaon police station and

Shantinagar police station conducted raids in their respective areas and arrested 40 Bangladeshi infiltrators. Cases have been registered against them on various charges. It is being said that these Bangladeshis illegally entered India and were working in different farms after making forged documents. He said that stringent action would be taken against those who employed these people. ■

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