

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Serious Allegations against Former Vice President Hamid Ansari



- Five Muslim communities in Assam get indigenous status
- 30 nations form front against Hezbollah
- Taliban committed for implementation of Shariah
- Indians at second spot in securing US citizenship

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## Summary

Former Vice President and Congress leader Hamid Ansari has once again landed in a major controversy. One Pakistani journalist, Nusrat Mirza, has publicly made the allegation that Ansari had invited him to India and during his visit, he managed to secure many secret and sensitive information. The journalist then passed on all such information to Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). After this sensational revelation by the Pakistani journalist, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia has launched a verbal attack against Ansari and the Congress. However, Ansari denied that he ever met the Pakistani journalist, but despite that the journalist stuck to the allegations he raised against Ansari. Ansari is linked to a Congress family. He was also in the Indian Foreign Service and he functioned as Indian Ambassador to different countries in the world. In the past also he had landed in many controversies, but this time the allegations against him are quite serious. The government needs to conduct a high-level inquiry into these allegations.

The Assam government has declared five Muslim castes as indigenous Assamese. There has been tension between native Muslims of Assam and Bangladeshi infiltrators for quite some time. The Assamese Muslims allege that these foreign infiltrators have deprived them of their forest sources and employment. The state government constituted an expert committee on the demand of Assamese Muslims, which stated that the Muslim population of Assam is 1.26 crore, out of which the native residents are only 40 lakh. The rest are all Bangladeshi infiltrators. It is a well-known fact that the intention of Mohammad Ali Jinnah was to grab Assam. He wanted to give it the status of Mughalistan.

That is the reason why the supporters of Muslim League had settled Bangladeshi Muslims in Assam as part of a planned conspiracy since 1935. In this connection, the role played by Sir Akbar Hydari and several other Congress leaders are suspicious. It is an indisputable fact that the Muslim population in Assam's border districts are in the range of 40 to 45%. Several agitations were held to expel these infiltrators from India, but till now no solution has been found to solve the issue.

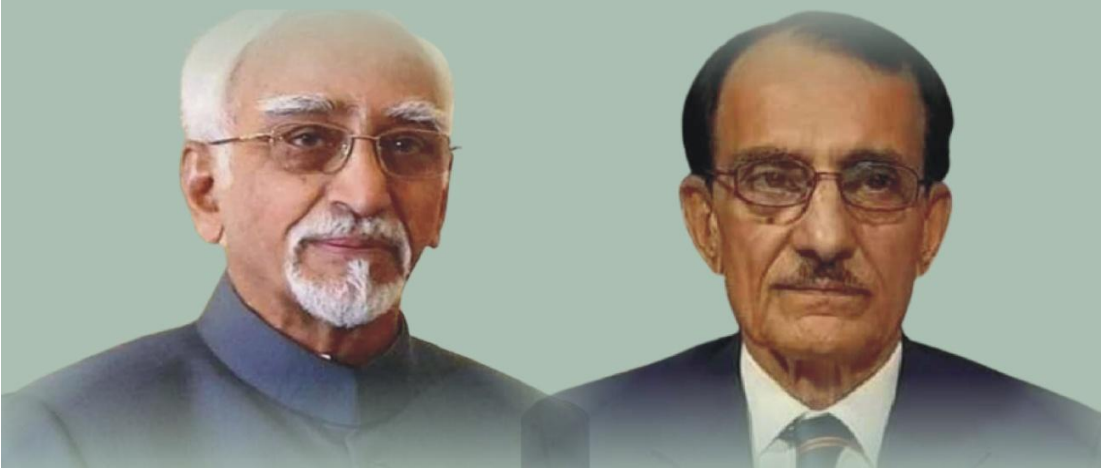
At the BJP's national executive in Hyderabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked the activists of the party to make efforts to bring Pasmanda Muslims close to the BJP. It is to be noted that out of the 20-21 crore Muslims in the country, 16-17 crore belong to Pasmanda community. Hence the BJP has launched an effort to secure their votes.

The US and 30 other nations have decided to formulate a plan to stop the increasing activities of Islamic terrorist organisation of Shia Muslims, Hezbollah. The Hezbollah enjoys the full support of Iranian government. Its declared aim is to finish off Israel. This apart, it also wants to upend the increasing influence of the US and European nations.

Taliban have now come out in the open and have declared that they are determined to implement Nizam-e-Mustafa (governance based on Islamic Shariah) in Afghanistan. The supreme leader of Taliban, Hibatullah Akhunzadah said that no foreign power has the right to stop them from implementing the Shariah. It is to be noted that ever since Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, they have been trying to do governance in accordance with Shariah law.



## Serious allegations against former Vice President Hamid Ansari



Former Vice President and Congress leader Hamid Ansari has landed in a fresh controversy. The BJP has alleged that Ansari had shared important and sensitive information with Pakistani journalist Nusrat Mirza, which the latter had handed over to Pakistan's intelligence agency.

**Salar** (July 14) reports that after a Pakistani journalist, Nusrat Mirza, had made a serious allegation against former Vice President Hamid Ansari, spokesperson of BJP Gaurav Bhatia has targeted Ansari. Giving a clarification, Ansari had said that the allegation of Pakistani journalist was baseless and he never met him. Hence the question of handing him over any information doesn't arise at all. The newspaper has claimed that well-known journalist of Pakistan Nusrat Mirza made this sensitive claim that he had visited India several times on the invitation of Ansari and whatever information he received, he had shared with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. As per a report of an Indian journalist Ankit Jha, Nusrat Mirza visited India several times between 2005 and 2011. Meanwhile, in an interview, Mirza, while referring to his visit to India in 2010, said that he went to India to participate in a seminar organised against terrorism and the then Vice

President of India Hamid Ansari had invited him for the seminar. Mirza also said that the last time he visited India in 2011 and there he also met the publisher of Milli Gazette, Zafarul Islam Khan. He claimed that Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry had made special arrangements for his visit to India. Generally, a Pakistani citizen is allowed to visit only three cities of India, but he was given permission to visit five cities and he has also given the indication of collecting some sensitive information from there.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 14) reports that while mentioning about the claims of Pakistani journalist Nusrat Mirza, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, 'Nusrat Mirza had said that during his visit to India, he had met Hamid Ansari. In this meeting, he had shared very sensitive and secret information and it happened not once but five times. Mirza later handed over the information that he collected from Hamid Ansari to Pakistan's intelligence agency and this information was used against India. Targeting Congress, the spokesperson of the BJP said that India is playing a major role in the campaign against terrorism across the world. In such a situation, the Congress government has invited a journalist to visit India five times



and were provided important intelligence information. Bhatia said that the people of the country wants to ask what policy the Congress has got to end terrorism? Why the Congress has provided sensitive and secret information to Pakistan, which the latter had used against India? The spokesperson of the BJP alleged that the policy of the Congress right from the beginning was to weaken India. Meanwhile, former Vice President Hamid Ansari has termed the claim of Pakistani journalist Nusrat Mirza as a bundle of false and baseless charges.

**Avadhnama** (July 14) reports that Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh, in a statement, described the allegations raised by BJP spokesperson against Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Vice President Hamid Ansari as a bundle of lies and also strongly condemned it.

**Salar** (July 14) reports that after the allegations raised by BJP, Hamid Ansari has issued a clarification and alleged that the BJP is deliberately raising false allegations against him. As far as the issue of inviting Mirza to India is concerned, the organisation concerned invites foreign dignitaries for the seminar after consulting the external affairs ministry. Hence I have never invited Mirza, nor I have ever met him. He said that when he was Indian Ambassador to Iran, whatever he had done were on the directions of the Central government. This is because those issues were very sensitive and hence keeping in mind the national interest and security, I

will not be able to throw any light on it. Earlier also, former chief of India's intelligence agency, RAW, N K Sood, had made a serious charge against Ansari and he said in a tweet on June 28, 2019, "When I was posted in Tehran (Iran), Ansari was Indian Ambassador to Iran. He provided information about Indian undercover agents active in Iran with the Iranian government,

due to which all the staff of RAW faced threat to their life and due to his action, the Indian intelligence setup in Iran got completely dismantled.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 14) reports that Hamid Ansari said in a statement that the BJP is raising false allegations against him. I never telephoned Pakistani journalist Nuzrat Mirza when I was the Vice President of the country. The allegation that is raised against me that I have betrayed the country is totally baseless. I have neither met Mirza nor I have ever invited him.

**Inquilab** (July 14) reports that Hamid Ansari also said the allegation that he had given sensitive and secret information to Nusrat Mirza was totally false.

**Comment:** Hamid Ansari has an old history of controversies and he had landed in controversies many times before this. There is an allegation that he is a fundamentalist Muslim. He was born in Kolkata in 1937 and he received his education from Aligarh Muslim University. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1961 and was Indian Ambassador to more than a dozen countries. He was given Padma award in 1984. Congress fielded him in the Vice Presidential election in 2007 and he won. In 2012, he was given an extension of five more years. At the send-off function when he demitted office, he created a flutter by claiming Muslims are not secure in the country.

Some former senior officials of Indian intelligence agency, RAW, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleged that when Ansari was Indian Ambassador to Iran, he provided information about a secret operation of RAW to the Iranian government. On the basis of it, the Iran government arrested several officials of RAW who were active there. Sandeep Kapoor was an important official among them. When India's external affairs ministry sought information about Sandeep Kapoor from Hamid Ansari, he sent a fake report to the Indian government that Kapoor had gone missing. However, he knew it very well that Kapoor was in the custody of Iranian government. The officials alleged that RAW had got information that some Kashmiri terrorists were being given secret training in handling weapons in a city in Iran by the Iranian officials. Ansari had leaked this important information to Iranian government.

On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations had declared June 21 as International Yoga Day, but when the Indian government

celebrated the first Yoga Day in 2015, the Vice President was missing from that event. The same year, the media had highlighted how Ansari did not salute the National Flag during the Republic Day parade. When a man, Akhlaq, was murdered in Greater Noida, Ansari had, in a statement, alleged that Muslims are not safe in India.

A few years ago, when singing of National Anthem was made mandatory on the orders of the Supreme Court, commenting on the issue, Ansari had said that he would not accept it. When a controversy erupted in Aligarh Muslim University in 2018 over putting the photo of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, he openly extended his support to it. In 2018, he had also supported the demand of Muslim Personal Law Board to establish Shariah courts in every district in the country. Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Ansari had complained that Muslims in the country are not getting justice from Modi government and they are deliberately kept away from development programmes.

## Five Muslim castes get indigenous status in Assam

**Siasat** (July 7) reports that the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, has come up with a new plan to identify Bangladeshi infiltrators who had entered the state in an illegal manner. He has started the process of identifying the native Indian Muslims in Assam and as the first step, identified five Muslim communities. They are Gorias, Morias, Julahas, Syeds and Deshos. The Assam government will give them the status of indigenous tribes and make special arrangements for their welfare. The newspaper has expressed apprehension that after this, step will be taken to expel Bangla-speaking people from the state who are settled there.

The Assam cabinet, in a meeting, had given the status of Khilonjias (indigenous) to five Muslim communities.

This is the first time in the history of the country that some Muslim communities are identified separately from other Muslims. Minister in Assam government, Jayant Malla Baruah said that this decision has been taken on the basis of the recommendations of the expert committee formed by the state government so that the benefits of the government's welfare programmes reach these communities. He said they are Khilonjia Muslims not just because they were born in India, but also because they were necessarily Assamese Muslims. There are two sects of Muslims in Assam, one is Khilonjia Muslim and the other is Miya Muslim. Miya Muslims are called so because they have infiltrated from Bangladesh and settled in Assam, or their links are in Bangladesh. The people of

Assam say that these people who have come from Bangladesh have seized their forests, rivers and land in an illegal manner and they are depriving them of their political, business and employment opportunities.

According to the government, nearly 25-30 per cent of total population of Assam are infiltrators. Nearly one-fourth of the seats in the state Assembly are such that Bangla-speaking people can elect anyone of their choice. On the other hand, the Bangla-speaking people claim that they are not infiltrators from Bangladesh but are Bangla-speaking people born in India.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 9) reports that the Opposition parties in Assam have opposed the government decision and said the government deliberately wanted to create divisions among Muslim community. They claimed that all Muslims staying in Assam are Assamese. The government claims that the original residents of Assam have been demanding for long time to expel these infiltrators from the state. AIUDF leader Aminul Islam has alleged that this decision is a new strategy to divide the Muslim community. The Indian Constitution has declared Muslims as a minority, but now the BJP is trying to divide the Muslim community and make them fight against each other. Meanwhile, chairman of minorities welfare board, Mominul Awal, has welcomed this decision of the government and said this will help end the exploitation of native Assamese Muslims and they will get justice.

**Background:** Last year, the state government had formed a committee under the chairmanship of a journalist of Assam, Wasbir Hussain, and handed it over the responsibility to find out who all are native Assamese Muslims? And which all groups of Muslims have come from outside? In its report, the committee has identified five



groups of Assamese Muslims as native Assamese. In Assam, the total population of Muslims is 1.26 crore, out of which 40 lakh are native Assamese.

One community of the native Assamese Muslims are called Deshis. These are those people who embraced Islam during the attacks of Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1205. It is being said they are connected to Ali Mech royal family of the Koch-Rajbongshi community, who adopted Islam during the rule of Bakhtiyar Khilji.

The second group is of Syed people. These are those Assamese who became Muslims due to the influence of Sufis in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. According to the history of Assam, in 1497, a Sufi Muslim preacher named Madan Pir had converted many people to Islam. It is being said that Syed Badiuddin Shah Mada alias Madan Pir, had come from Iraq. Later, in 1640, another Sufi, Syed Moinuddin Baghdadi, had also converted a large number of Assamese into Islam. His followers are called as Syeds.

As far as Gorias Muslims are concerned, during the attacks of Mughals between 1615 and 1682, the Ahom Kings of Assam had taken several Mughals as prisoners of war. These people later married local women. Their descendants are called Gorias.

As far as Morias are concerned, Muslim invaders had attacked Assam many

times in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of their soldiers settled in Assam and their descendants are called Morias.

As far as Julahos are concerned, they originally belong to Bihar, Odisha and Bengal. They are originally Adivasis. They came and settled in Assam during the period of Ahom Kings. Even during the British rule, many Adivasis were brought from other parts of the country for tea garden work. Many of them later became Muslims.

The Kachari Muslims have also opposed this decision of the state government and they said that they have been staying in Barak Valley for centuries. The Kachari Kings used to rule this region from 13<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century and during their regime a number of Adivasis had embraced Islam. The president of Society for Indigenous Muslims of Barak Valley, Atiqur Rahman, said they are original Assamese and they have been staying in the region as Muslims for at least 600 years

but the current government in Assam has not given them recognition as native Muslims. It is total injustice to them.

In his report, Wasbir Hussian had recommended that in order to increase the pace of the development of native Assamese Muslims, it is necessary to provide them with the reservation in jobs given to Adivasis. All Assam Goria-Moria-Desi Parishad has welcomed this decision of the government and said that due to Bengali Muslims, the native Muslims in Assam are losing their separate identity. AIUDF legislator Aminul Islam said that the BJP government in the state is separating Bengali Muslims from the rest of the society as part of a plan. History professor in Arizona University, Yasmin Saikia said that the BJP is dividing Muslim community due to political reasons so that they can secure the votes of one section by appeasing them. If the state government wants the welfare of Muslims, then why it is dividing the Muslim community? ■

## BJP's outreach programme for Pasmada Muslims

**Inquilab** (July 4) reports that at the national executive meeting of BJP in Hyderabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed BJP workers to work with Pasmada Muslims and bring them to the party. He said that lot of things could be learnt from the recent Assembly election results in Uttar Pradesh. BJP's Uttar Pradesh chief Swatantra Dev Singh said that BJP has won important seats like Azamgarh in the by-elections which are considered as the forts of Muslim-Yadav alliance. On this, the Prime Minister said that the leaders in Uttar Pradesh need to work among the Pasmada Muslims. This is the reason why Pasmada Muslims are given representation in UP government and Danish Ansari has been made a minister in Yogi cabinet. Now it is necessary to bring the community as close as possible to the BJP.

**Inquilab** (July 10) in its editorial, while mentioning about the call made by

the Prime Minister, said we need to care more about Pasmada Muslims and have to bring them closer to us. Now we need to work among the backward classes and we need to pay attention to those sections of minorities who are marginalised. They need to be informed about the development projects that have been undertaken in the past eight years and utilise the benefits from different development projects being undertaken by the government.

The newspaper said that the journalists who were present in Hyderabad might have been surprised about the comments of the Prime Minister. One thing that would have definitely arisen in their mind was whether the BJP's policy has changed? Till now, talks were about identifying Muslims through their dress and sending the current of vote till Shaheen Bagh. Now why a need is being felt about appeasing Pasmada Muslims? This is definitely a major change, but this has not





happened all of a sudden. Our understanding is that this policy has been prepared even before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections but it has not been unveiled. The Prime Minister and other leaders of the party have been regularly talking about the beneficiaries. Then the meaning of beneficiaries was not just non-Muslims, instead they included those Muslims who were poor and were getting the benefits of government programmes. The eyes of BJP were on their votes as well. Hence efforts were being made to get the votes of these beneficiary Muslims as well.

The newspaper said that we do not have any statistics to confirm how many percent of poor Muslims have given their votes to the BJP, but there is no doubt that despite the anti-incumbency in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP got a massive victory, in which the beneficiaries had played a major role who just wanted to see how much free ration they were getting. In 2014, efforts were made to make development an issue. Though it had been a success, the party did not get enough votes on the basis of it. Hence, efforts were made in 2019 to bring Dalits and backward classes to the BJP. This effort was a success but in the changed circumstances it is necessary that the votes of beneficiaries of other communities shall also be collected. In order to mitigate the widespread anger

among Muslims due to the controversy over Nupur Sharma and Navin Jindal, the BJP has now adopted a new strategy.

**Inquilab** (July 12) reports that in order to divert the attention of people from increasing inflation, unemployment and financial crisis, the BJP has come up with the issue of reservation for Pasmada Muslims.

In an article in **Roznama Sahara** (July 9), Shahid Zuberi said that the BJP's policy on Muslims is not hidden from anyone. Then what happened all of a sudden that Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed in Hyderabad that there are 70% backward classes among Muslims and a special campaign be launched to bring them closer to BJP and launch 'sneh yatras' to improve the contacts with them. This is the same Modi who never opens his mouth when it comes to Muslims and targets Muslims over their dress and appearance. Now why there is sudden change of heart in Modi? Those who keep track of the Indian politics understand that before capturing the seat of power in Delhi in 2014, the Sangh Parivar used to raise the slogan, 'those who talk about Hindu interests, they will rule Bharat.' Now this slogan has become a reality. Now how many non-BJP parties are there, whether its Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP or even Aam Aadmi Party, they all talk about Hindu interests. They feel afraid of taking

up the interests of Muslims. Now not a single party among them are willing to raise the voice for Muslims. The reason is that everybody loves votes and they want the votes of 80% Hindus.

As far as Muslims are concerned, their population as per recent Census is 20-21 crore out of which Pasmada Muslims are nearly 16-17 crore who are politically marginalised. Till now, non-BJP parties used to share the vote bank of such a big population. Now, BJP wants a share out of it. In the elections that were held in Uttar Pradesh recently, the BJP got nearly 8% votes of poor Muslims. Now BJP wants to extend its warmth among the entire Pasmada Muslims of the country, so that it could collect their votes.

**Background:** The Muslim community in the country is largely divided into three major groups, they are called Ashraf, Ajlaf and Arjal. Ashraf is the plural name of Sharif (upper class) and they include the higher class of Muslim community like Syed, Sheikh, Pathan and Mughal. Till now the domination of this class prevailed over the Muslim community.

As far as Ajlaf is concerned, it is a plural of Jalaf and its Arabic meaning is 'uncultured'. They generally include the backward class and the artisans. As far as Arjal is concerned, they include the lowest class of the Muslim community, mostly untouchables who converted to Islam.

Many claim that there is no caste in Islam but the hard reality is that Islam is like other communities in India which are divided on caste basis.

The demands of Pasmada Muslims were first raised by former MP Ali Anwar who was the president of All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaj. Ali Anwar's

widely acclaimed book 'Maswad ki Jang' was released by Vishwanath Pratap Singh. According to Anwar, the condition of Dalits among the Muslims will improve only if they get the status of Scheduled Castes. For this, Article 341 of Indian Constitution needs to be amended, because as per this Article, only Scheduled Castes among Hindus are entitled to reservation.

However, the strange thing is that those who become Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist enjoy reservation benefits but if they become Christian or Muslim, this facility will end for them. A number of commissions constituted by the Central government in their reports have admitted the caste differences among Muslim community. In 1980, the Mandal Commission presented its report to the government in which it had recommended 27% reservation to backward classes. This was implemented during the regime of V P Singh. Later, 79 Muslim castes were included in the list of backward classes. According to Anwar, all the facilities which are entitled to the Muslim community are cornered by the 5% Ashraf. The upper caste Muslims dominate politics, government employment, trade, industry and media. In 2014, the Congress-NCP government in Maharashtra included 50 castes of Muslims as backward castes and provided them with 5% reservation. This decision was questioned in the court and the court scrapped all reservations except in the field of education. According to Anwar, upper castes like Syed, Sheikh, Siddiqui, Mughal and Pathan do not marry from lower castes like Ansari, Dhunia, Nadaf, Halalkhor, Shikalgar, Salmani etc. In order to change this situation, it is necessary to give reservation to Pasmada Muslims like the backward classes of Hindu community.

## Row over population control

**Roznama Sahara** (July 12) states that the United Nations has said in a report that by November 2023, the population of India will cross the population of China and

India will become the biggest country in the world as far as population is considered. As per the data released by the statistics department of United Nations, the

world population will reach 8 billion by November 15, 2022. Eastern and South East Asian countries are ahead in terms of population and they are 26% of the total population of the world. The report states that currently the world's total population is 7.56 billion.

**Inquilab** (July 12) reports that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on the occasion of the World Population Day, said that it is necessary to give special attention to stop the increasing population of a particular community. If we ignore this, then the population of different communities will get imbalanced. It should not happen that the population of a particular community increases very fast and the population of the native residents of the country decreases and the majority becomes minority.

**Etemaad** (July 13) reports that the president of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said that the BJP is provoking the majority community in the country against Muslims in the guise of increasing population. Targeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his comment on the increasing population of Muslims, Owaisi said that Yogi is telling total lies. The truth is that in the past two decades, the rate of population increase among Muslims have been the lowest. The latest report of the National Family Health Survey has also confirmed this. The awareness that have come among the people of the country without the creation of any law has resulted in a huge fall in population. In December 2020, the Central government had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court, in which it had been stated that there was no need to bring a legal ban on having more than two children in the country. He said that if the BJP brings a law to stop the increasing population, then they will oppose it. He



said that there are six states in the country where the population rate has not decreased. They include Manipur, Meghalaya and Jharkhand. Are Muslims a majority in these states? He said that the BJP is deliberately bringing a bad name to Muslims so that an atmosphere could be created against them in the country. He objected to Yogi Adityanath using the term natives for the majority community. He asked whether Muslims were not original residents in the country? Are they foreigners? He said that Muslims are being targeted in order to divert the attention of the people from the problems being faced by the country.

**Etemaad** (July 13) in its editorial has condemned the statement of Union Minister Giriraj Singh in which he had suggested the creation of a strong law to stop the increasing population in the country. Condemning the statement of Yogi, the newspaper said that the BJP leader is creating an atmosphere against Muslims in the country to create polarisation and divide the votes of the people. The newspaper said that the Yogi government has created a population policy in order to stop the increasing population in the country and has presented a draft of the same. In this it has been suggested that whoever has more than two kids will not get government employment. This apart,

the Law Commission has also recommended the same, replying to which many social activists said that whichever person has more than two kids, he should not be permitted to contest the Assembly and Parliamentary elections. The newspaper also said that from the example of China, it has become clear that population cannot be curtailed by making a law.

**Avadhnama** (July 13) reports that BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that it is not proper to link population increase with any particular caste or religion. Instead, it is a question before the entire nation, a solution for which we need to sit together and search for. He said that population explosion is not an issue of religion but of the entire nation. Increasing this problem by raising the wall of religion is neither in the interest of the nation nor in the interest of the society. Spokesperson of Samajwadi Party, Anurag Bhadauria, said that population increase is an issue for any nation, but targeting any particular religion or community for the same is dangerous for the country.

**Hindustan Express** in its editorial on July 13 suggested that it is very important to create awareness among

people at the social level in order to curb population explosion. It is necessary to increase the budget for health services and give more focus on spreading information on family planning. The newspaper said that the issue cannot be solved by bringing a law.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 14) said that the communal elements are deliberately targeting Muslims for the increasing population in the country so that an atmosphere could be created against them. However, the increase in population is a financial and social issue. It has nothing to do with faith and religion.

**Roznama Sahara** in its editorial on July 13 has condemned that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is deliberately targeting Muslims for population increase in the country. However, the reality is that there is a huge decrease in the birth rate of Muslims in the past few decades. The surprising thing is that Yogi Adityanath has won the state Assembly elections by unleashing a campaign against Muslims, and he has not come out of his old habit. His stand is dangerous for the unity of the state and the country. The BJP leaders need to rein in him.

## New controversy erupts over changes in textbooks

**Inquilab** (July 13) in a news on its front page has condemned that the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has once again taken a controversial step and removed contents related to Muslims and Mughals from the textbooks. Even some contents related to the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru were removed from the textbooks. Many educational experts have alleged that NCERT had taken this step due to pressure from the ruling party leaders. Whereas NCERT said that amendments to the syllabus is a continuous process and these references were removed based on the report of the

experts. This is because in the changed circumstances these are not required.

According to English newspaper Telegraph, many paragraphs related to Prophet Mohammad have been removed from one book. One of the paragraphs was that like Christianity, Islam is also a religion which stresses on the equality and unity of everyone. Similarly, from a Class VII textbook, introductory references to Mughal emperors Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb were removed. From the Social Science book for Class VI, one paragraph was removed, which had stated that there was belief that few Muslims



were not interested in educating their girls and hence they do not send them to schools. However, from the survey it was found that poverty is a factor among Muslims due to which girls do not go to schools or they leave the schools mid-way.

In the history text book of Class VI, in a chapter related to Emperor Ashoka, a reference from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was removed, in which it was stated that the inscriptions of Ashoka were in the language of common people and even today we could learn a lot from them. Many social agitations like Chipko movement, Bharatiya Kisan Union's protest, Narmada Bachao Andolan and protest for Right to Information Act were removed from the textbooks. The references related to the Emergency imposed in 1975 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were presented after twisting the facts and it has been claimed that during the Emergency period, the human rights were widely abused. Lakhs of political opponents were arrested, the media was censored and the poor were uprooted on a largescale.

**Siasat** in its editorial on June 14 has alleged that the ruling BJP government at the Centre is trying to change history. An atmosphere is being created against certain communities in the society by changing the syllabus of textbooks. Instead of providing employment to people and strengthening the economy, the government is once again giving a new direction to the history of the country. The government is trying to forcefully impose a particular

ideology on the entire country. Hence it is the duty of every patriot to oppose it. Today it is necessary to protect the historical and cultural heritage of Bharat. The entire nation knows the fact that the BJP and the organisations that sympathise with its ideology are not ready to accept the role played by the Mughal rulers. However, the truth is that Muslims, especially the Mughal rulers, had made India a golden bird. Today, Mughal-era buildings are present in every nook and corner of India. Whether it's the Taj Mahal in Agra or the Lal Qila in Delhi, the grandeur of Bharat has increased due to them, but due to the narrow mindedness and due to the sentiments against a particular community, the Mughals are being removed from history. This will lead to the government getting a bad name. Hence the government has to desist from doing such things.

**Siasat** (July 10) in its editorial has complained that in Karnataka, the speech of RSS founder Dr Hedgewar has been included in the school syllabus. Student and Dalit organisations have protested this and nearly 10 experts who have prepared the syllabus have submitted their resignation. On the other hand, the Karnataka government said that since new books have been published and distributed among students, it is not possible to make changes. The BJP and many organisations of Sangh Parivar have started a counter campaign in support of the new textbooks and they stated that if any changes are made in the textbooks, they will oppose it. The Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities in

Karnataka have also opposed the changes in the textbooks. There is only one more year to go for the Assembly elections in Karnataka and hence the BJP government is meddling with textbooks in order to reap political benefits and giving them a saffron colour.

**Avadhnama** in its editorial on June 28, has opposed the changes being brought in the textbooks and said that those people who stress on sons of soil and holy land today, they do not include Christians and Muslims in it. What is necessary is to present history in a non-partisan manner so that the coming generations get a correct perspective about the nation's culture and history. The newspaper claimed that the British had deliberately meddled with the history of the country in order to create animosity between Hindus and Muslims. The surprising thing is that after coming to power in 2014, the BJP has been making huge changes in the syllabus of school texts. Efforts are also being made to disseminate a particular ideology through these textbooks and provide information only about it. Al Baruni quotes from his book Al Hind have been removed from the texts. In the same way, the contribution of Muslim princely states of Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad have also been removed from the school text books. On the other hand, things related to the princely states of Rajputs, Marathas, Sikhs and Jats have been retained. However, the Director of NCERT has claimed that there are no political reasons for these changes made in the text books. Meanwhile, the truth is that the majority of the members of the committee that has been formed for suggesting changes in the syllabus are linked to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

**Etemaad** (June 16) in its editorial has alleged that drastic changes have been made in the school syllabus due to the pressure of saffron government and its only aim is to promote Hindu

communalism. The speech and ideology of RSS founder Dr Hedgewar has been given prominence in the textbooks. Recently, in many BJP-ruled states like Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Haryana, it has been declared that Bhagwat Gita will be made part of the syllabus. In a statement, Education Minister of Uttarakhand, Dhan Singh Rawat said that a new education policy will be implemented from this year as per which Vedas, Gita, Ramayan and the history of Uttarakhand will be included in the school syllabus. What is of concern is that these changes in syllabus are being done due to political pressure.

In 2014, after Modi came to power, various organisations linked to RSS have strengthened their grip in various departments of the government and institutions. In his report, BJP MP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe has recommended changes in the textbooks. It is being said in this report that many historical giants have been portrayed in a wrong manner in the school textbooks. Hence it is necessary to make the changes. This parliamentary committee has recommended the inclusion of Hindu religious texts in school syllabus.

It has been recommended to remove several contexts from the CBSE books on topics like the rise of Islamic states, history of Mughal darbars and those related to Left and progressive movements.

The surprising thing is that the poems of Faiz Ahmad Faiz have been removed from several textbooks. Ever since BJP came to power, their biggest and most important aim has been to change the syllabus and education policy in tune with their ideology and instead of promoting scientific temper, more importance shall be given to religious view point. Today's government wants to change the policies of Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, which is not in the interest of the nation.

## Taliban committed for implementation of Shariah

**Etemaad** (July 3) states that the supreme leader of Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, has appeared before the public for the first time. He said that they will implement a total Islamic system in Afghanistan. We have the full right to implement Nizam-e-Mustafa (governance under Prophet Mohammad). Foreign countries need not tell us how to run Afghanistan. They should keep themselves away from this issue. The non-Muslim communities in the world have always been opposing Islam and Islamic rule. We don't have to care about them and instead need to walk on the path of Allah and Quran. He urged the Afghanis to forget the differences among them and get united. Due to the divisions in community, the country gets divided and the governments are weakened. The Ulema, instead of highlighting the wrongdoings of rulers in the media, need to directly talk to them and point out to them the mistakes that occurred during the implementation of Nizam-e-Mustafa. He said that due to the grace of Allah, Afghanistan is independent today. We are not slaves of human beings. We will abide by the directions of the Allah and the Prophet under any circumstance. The economy of Afghanistan is not dependent on foreign aid. He urged investors and businessmen to come forward and make Afghanistan financially strong. They need not be afraid of anyone. If we try to depend on foreign aid, then the US and Europe will make us slaves from the financial point of view. We are not rulers of people, instead we are their slaves. Whatever Allah had directed us through Quran and Shariah, we will strongly follow it.

Hibatullah Akhundzada addressed the community in Pashto language. He said that Taliban have the right to implement



Nizam-e-Mustafa. This decision of ours is a good news not just for the Afghan people but for the Muslims in the entire world. Mullah Hibatullah said that we were never in favour of targeting the people of Afghanistan, but we have no choice but to oppose those Afghan citizens who have become puppets in the hands of foreigners. When the Americans left Afghanistan, we had announced a general amnesty and we had also told them that though they oppressed us, we have pardoned them in the name of Allah. Mullah Hibatullah told government officials that they make efforts to end corruption at any cost and also try to deliver the governance to the people in an objective manner. If such problems remain part of our administration, then it will be against our efforts to make Islamic governance in the country. He said that the world's biggest powers are against Islam. They do not want Nizam-e-Mustafa to be implemented in Afghanistan. If we implement Shariah, then these powers will oppose us but we are not worried about them. We are fully prepared to take on all domestic and foreign issues. We will not tolerate anyone who is against Shariah and the Prophet. He said that some people who are settled abroad are trying to create problems for us.

Defence Minister of Afghanistan, Mullah Yaqoob, told Islamic Ulema that they give direction to the government on how to implement Islamic Shariah. He said that till now neither any Islamic country nor any non-Islamic country has given us recognition.



with Afghanistan is improving day by day. Recently, a team of senior officials of external affairs ministry visited Afghanistan and India is thinking about reopening its Embassy in Kabul. Due to the help extended by Modi government to Afghanistan,

**Siasat** (June 27) in its editorial expressed happiness that India's relations

which has been shattered in the earthquake, there is an improvement in goodwill.

## Jihadi attack in Denmark



**Etemaad** (July 5) reports that in Denmark capital Copenhagen, a gunman opened indiscriminate fire at its biggest shopping mall, in which three people were killed and many were injured. Copenhagen's police chief Soren Thomson said that the attacker had been arrested. One rifle and a few bullets were seized from him. He said that the hands of Islamic extremist groups are suspected to be behind this incident. He said that the police are questioning the other accomplices of the attacker and are

also trying to find out which terrorist organisation the attacker is linked to.

Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has condemned this incident and said that we are finding out the details of the conspiracy behind this attack. The incident took place at a time when innocent children and their families were busy with shopping. She said that till now our country was not affected by Islamic fundamentalism, but now that situation no longer exists. The police have started a nationwide search operation to trace the accomplices of the attacker. The interesting thing is that only last week that an Islamic terrorist opened indiscriminate fire at Norway's capital Oslo, in which two persons were killed and 21 were injured. This is the first time that the terrorists have ignited the flames of violence in these two countries.

## NATO forms new command to face the threat from Russia

**Hamara Samaj** (July 1) reports that US President Joe Biden, while addressing the heads of NATO nations, declared that the strength of NATO soldiers in Europe is being increased in order to face the growing threat from Russia. The US President said that after seeing the

expansionist intentions of Russia, it is necessary that stress be laid on the unity of NATO nations and they should be strengthened from the military point of view. As part of these efforts, the strength of US Navy is also being increased in Europe. In Spain, a flotilla of four ships has





prominence to NATO. Bulgaria has been trying to weaken North Macedonia and are still dreaming about forming Greater Albania. Recently, Serbia has extended its hand to Russia. Due to the internal differences between Eastern European nations, Russia's situation is better. Russia is trying to end the influence of US and NATO in these countries. Hence it is necessary that the US and

been converted into a flotilla of six ships. In Poland, a headquarters is being set up for the military. In Romania, a new Brigade is being established. Five thousand new soldiers will be deployed there. This apart, the US is deploying two additional squadrons of F-35 warplanes in Britain. The defence system of Germany and Italy are also being improved. He said that NATO is ready to face any kind of threats. We will make efforts to stop Russia at any cost. He said that two new nations—Finland and Sweden—are also being inducted into NATO.

NATO strengthen their hold in Eastern European nations.

**Quami Tanzeem** (July 2) while mentioning about the strengthening of military of NATO, said that due to the newly formed alliance between Moscow and Beijing, the threat to Eastern Europe has increased. This is the reason why the countries which are part of NATO alliance are extending help to Poland and Romania from the military point of view so that the expansionist intentions of Russia could be thwarted. The Balkan states are still in turmoil. Efforts are being made to strengthen democratic institutions in these countries. Romania and Poland are making efforts to stop the expansionism of Russia in Ukraine. On the other hand, Turkey is trying to increase its influence in Middle East and Balkan Peninsula. Bulgaria is still in a dilemma. Similarly, in Slovakia and Czech Republic also, the rulers are in a state of dilemma. If the President there supports Russia, the Prime Minister gives

**Siasat** (July 1) in its editorial expressed happiness that it is almost certain that Finland and Sweden are joining the NATO alliance. Till now, Turkey has been opposing the induction of these countries into NATO. But due to the pressure of the US, Turkey has softened its stand. However, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stressed that the Kurds that are opposed to Turkey and camping in Sweden shall be handed over to Turkey. Sweden and Finland have declared that they will not promote any activities against Turkey in their countries, but Turkey is not happy enough with it and have demanded again that the 12 anti-Turkey leaders in Finland and the 21 leaders in Sweden, shall be handed over to Turkey. Turkey has demanded that the US strongly curb the activities of banned Kurdistan Workers Party. These rebels had tried to overthrow Erdogan government in 2016, which was foiled. Due to pressure from Turkey, European Union and the US had declared Kurdistan Workers Party as a terrorist organisation. Now Finland and Sweden have also declared that they would not extend any help to the Turkish rebels. Till now, Sweden and Finland have been considered as neutral nations but after the Russian attack on Ukraine, these two nations have extended their hands to the NATO and the US.

## Efforts by Shahbaz Sharif to improve relations with the US



**Inquilab** (July 9) reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has been making efforts to improve the relationship between Pakistan and the US. Pakistan's foreign affairs minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari recently held lengthy talks with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and stressed that the tensions that arose during the regime of former Prime Minister Imran Khan should be relieved. He also demanded strengthening of trade relations between the two countries. The US also sent its trade advisor Dilawar Syed to Pakistan and he has been holding talks with the businessmen there.

Every year, Pakistan sends goods worth 6 billion dollars to USA. Now Pakistan government wants to increase it further. Along with it, Pakistan is also scared that due to the political change that took place in Afghanistan, the issue of terrorism in Pakistan may assume dangerous proportions.

In order to face this challenge, Pakistan expects the cooperation of US.

It is to be noted that in April, due to the no-confidence motion moved in the National Assembly in Pakistan on behalf of the Opposition, the Imran Khan government had to resign. Imran Khan had alleged that the US hands were behind overthrowing his government. However, though this allegation has been refuted on behalf of the US, due to this charges, tension arose in the relationship between the two countries. Pakistan's former foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmad Khan said that in order to make Pakistan strong financially and from military point of view, it is necessary that it improves its relationship with the US. According to media reports, recently, tension had arisen in the relationship between Pakistan and the US whereas India's relationship with USA improved a lot.

## Dozens killed in indiscriminate firing in the US

**Inquilab** (July 6) reports that six persons were killed on the spot and 24 were injured as some unidentified people opened fire during Independence Day Parade in the US state of Illinois. The Highland Park Police claimed that the police have taken into custody the accused who opened fire. The suspected

person is around 22 years of age and his name is said to be Robert E Crimo. The police are investigating to find out to which organisation the accused is linked to. According to government reports, the extremists opened fire in a few other places in US also on the occasion of Independence Day parade during which



at least 12 people were killed and more than 60 were injured. Among them, the condition of nine persons were stated to be very serious. The police are investigating to find out who are behind these incidents.

According to media, there is a constant increase in violent incidents in USA and hence the government is finding out how to control the purchase of arms and ammunition. It is to be noted that two months ago, 10 black shopkeepers were shot dead by some attackers in New York and in an elementary school in Texas a youth had murdered 12 innocent children. The US President had expressed concern over these incidents and said that any strong condemnation of such incidents won't be enough on Independence Day. He said he will end the gun culture. For me, it is necessary to provide security to the citizens of USA, he said.

**Inquilab** (July 4) states that the New York state in the US had passed a law that bans carrying of weapons in many public places like Times Square. It

is to be noted that two weeks ago, the US Supreme Court had cancelled the ban imposed by the government on carrying of weapons describing it as against the basic structure of the US Constitution. Following this decision, the Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul had called a special session of the state assembly in which she stressed on formulating a new law to stop killing using weapons. The Governor has claimed that New York is one such state among the 50 states in US where deaths due to firing is very low. She said that it is necessary to restrict the sale of weapons so that people do not play with the lives of innocent people.

As per another news, an accused shot dead three police personnel in Kentucky state in the US. According to the BBC, the 49-year-old attacker has been taken into custody. It is being said that this person had a quarrel with his family and they had filed a police complaint against him. When the police reached the spot to nab him, he opened fire killing three police personnel on the spot.

## 30 countries join hands against Hezbollah



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 3) reports that more than 30 nations have decided to form a united front against Lebanon's Islamic terrorist organisation Hezbollah. According to the US State Department, the meeting took place in Washington and representatives from more than 30 countries took part, in which discussions were held on the threat faced by the world due to Iran-supported Hezbollah. They decided to get united and take action to stop them. It is being said that it was the ninth conference held by an organisation named LECG. A spokesperson refused to name the location where the meeting of the organisation took place. The meeting discussed in detail Hezbollah's terrorist strategy, buying of weapons and its financial structure. The meeting also discussed the ways to be adopted in order to stop the terrorist activities of Hezbollah. The spokesperson said that representatives from Middle-East, South America, Central America, Africa, Indo-Pacific region, North America and Europe took part in the conference. Majority of these nations had declared Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation right in the beginning itself.

On the other hand, Hezbollah stated that its main aim is to stop the expansion of Israel. It had many wars with Israel.

Hezbollah has also captured many regions of Lebanon.

### What is Hezbollah?

Hezbollah is a terrorist organisation of Shia Muslims and its headquarters is in Lebanon. Its main aim is to curb the influence of Israel in Middle East and that of Christian nations in Europe. This organisation has several wings. As far as its background is concerned, Lebanon secured freedom from the slavery of France in 1943 and created a system where Christians and Muslims share the power. In 1971, Palestine Liberation Organisation had shifted its headquarters from Jordan to Lebanon. In 1983, the Hezbollah attacked the US Embassy in Beirut and killed 63 people. Later, Hezbollah killed 305 soldiers of USA and France in suicide attacks. A US court identified the hands of Hezbollah behind these attacks. In 1984, the Hezbollah killed dozens of people at the US Embassy situated in Beirut in a car bomb explosion. The Hezbollah had released its first manifesto in 1985. In 1992, the Hezbollah attacked the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and killed many people. Later Hasan Nasrallah became the general secretary of the organisation. Hezbollah took part in the elections as well and won eight seats in Parliament. In 1989,

due to the intervention of Saudi Arabia, the civil war ended and it was handed over to Lebanon under the supervision of Syria. This agreement had also made the provision that all armed organisations would have to disarm themselves. However, Hezbollah refused to abide by it. In 1994, this organisation had launched attacks on Israeli embassies in London and Argentina. In 1997, the US had declared this organisation as a foreign terrorist organisation. In 2005, Hezbollah had assassinated the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafic Hariri. In 2006, Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers. After this, it fought a war with Israel, in which hundreds of people were killed. In 2011, when civil war broke out in Syria, Hezbollah sent hundreds of its fighters to Syria in order to extend help to President Bashar Al Assad. In 2012, Hezbollah killed six Israeli tourists in Bulgaria. In 2013, the European Union had declared Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation. In 2019, due to the pressure of Hezbollah, the then Prime

Minister of Lebanon Saad Hariri had to resign from his post. In 2020, when an Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani was killed in Iraq, Hezbollah had launched drone attacks on American establishments in order to take revenge.

Currently, the chief of Hezbollah is Hasan Nasrallah, as the Israeli intelligence organisation had assassinated the earlier head of Hezbollah, Abbas Al-Moussawi. As far as the leadership of Hezbollah is concerned, it is run by a seven-member Shura Council, under which there are five sub councils including Political Council, Jihad Council, Parliamentary Council, Executive Council and Justice Council. According to the US State Department, Hezbollah has thousands of armed fighters and its supporters are spread across the world. Experts estimate that Hezbollah is slowly spreading its network across the world and recently it has established its offices in many other countries.

## Differences emerge between Saudi Arabia and Iran



The Haj pilgrimage has concluded in Saudi Arabia and nearly 10 lakh Muslims from across the world have taken part. Now Hajis have started returning to their native countries. During Haj, the differences between Saudi Arabia and Iran came to the forefront once again. This has given a serious setback to Islamic unity.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 7) states that the Iranian Hajis had organised a separate meeting at Mount Arafat, where a

declaration was made to start a war for the independence of Palestine. Iran's religious chief Syed Ali Khamenei, releasing his special Paigham-e-Haj, appealed to Muslims to get united. Despite this, the Iranian Hajis at their meeting in Arafat shouted slogans against imperialist forces and the Israeli government and announced support to Palestinians. On this occasion, a five-point programme has also been announced in which it has been stated that

it was the duty of every Muslim to liberate Jerusalem from the occupation of Jews and in this statement it has also been said that no Muslim nation should keep any kind of relationship with Israel because it will create divisions among Muslims.

The interesting thing is that in the meeting, a Dua-e-Arafah was also read as per Shia religious belief. The meeting assumes importance also because due to pressure from the US, Saudi Arabia is making efforts to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel. The statement strongly criticised the Sunni government of Saudi Arabia. Recently, the activities of Israel have increased in Saudi Arabia and its allied nations. Five Muslim Arab nations have given recognition to Israel, including Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, UAE and Bahrain. This apart, Islamic nation Sudan has also recently announced its decision to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel. Iran has openly opposed this. According to knowledgeable sources, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran suffered yet another setback due to this meeting organised at Mount Arafat by the Iranians. This is the first time that Iran has openly criticised the ruling royal family of Saudi Arabia.

Secondly, **Mumbai Urdu News** (July 8) states that the Attorney General of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Saud Bin Abdullah Al Mujib, said those who have come for Haj they are guests of Allah and to provide them with security is every Muslim's duty. However, those who come for Haj should not take part in any communal or political activities. He said that stringent action will be taken against those who tried to play politics during Haj. In order to keep a tab on the activities of Hajis, 20 special offices are being set up.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 1) reports that nearly three-and-a-half lakh Hajis have visited the mazaar of Mohammad Saheb in Medina.



**Hamara Samaj** (July 5) reports that in contravention to its earlier announcement, the Saudi Arabian government has decided that every Haji who comes for the Haj will be given Aab-e-Zamzam as a gift while returning to their native place. It is to be noted that earlier the Saudi government had imposed a ban on carrying Aab-e-Zamzam outside the country.

**Siasat** (July 1) reports that before the Haj pilgrimage began, Saudi Arabia had announced that legal action would be taken against those Hajis who try to do Haj pilgrimage without adhering to the quota system. According to the newspaper, the Saudi government has imposed a fine of 10,000 Riyals each on more than 500 people who had landed in the country for Haj without requisite permission. The Saudi police had arrested 19 persons on charges of cheating the Hajis. Two of them are Saudi citizens while the others are foreign citizens.

**Hamara Samaj** (July 6) reports that Saudi Arabia had given special directions to the military to ensure protection to the Haj pilgrims. The newspaper has expressed happiness that the security personnel have given complete security to the Haj pilgrims and no untoward incident took place.

**Siasat** (July 7) reports that during Haj yatra, seven special exhibitions have been organised on behalf of the government including on Islamic religion, culture and on the development programmes in Saudi Arabia.

## Over 1,500 prisoners released on the occasion of Eid

**Roznama Sahara** (July 11) reports that the Emir of United Arab Emirates, Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, had ordered the release of 727 prisoners from the jail on the occasion of Eid. Those who are in jail due to non-payment of fine, their fine was deposited from the government treasury. In the same manner, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammad

bin Rasheed Al-Makhtoum also announced release of 505 prisoners from the jails of Dubai on the occasion of Eid. The ruler of one more princely state of UAE, Ras Al Khaimah, Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, issued an order releasing 251 prisoners. On the occasion of Eid, one-week holiday has also been announced in entire UAE. ■

## Ban on Voice of America in Turkey

**Roznama Sahara** (July 3) reports that a ban has been imposed in listening to the broadcast of Voice of America in Turkey. Earlier, a ban was imposed on the broadcast of German Radio as well. Turkey's media regulatory organisation has claimed that the above two bodies did not take the permission for broadcast in Turkey. The world media has condemned the ban and said that it was an attack on press freedom. The residents of Turkey have the full right to select the broadcast of their choice.

The director of Voice of America Yolanda Lopez said that it was effort for censorship. The Turkey government has



blocked our website as well. However, we have been providing non-partisan news for the people of Turkey in their own language. He described it as an attack on press freedom. ■

## Sanctions on Iran illegal

**Avadhnama** (July 2) states that Iran President Syed Ebrahim Raisi said that the sanctions imposed on Iran by Western nations and the US are illegal. As long as these sanctions are not lifted, Iran's talks with Western nations will not succeed. He said that Iran is developing nuclear power in a peaceful manner only. International organisations have also confirmed this after inspection of Iran's nuclear programmes and they also stated that Iran did not violate any assurances that it had given to the US and European nations.

Raisi said that these allegations are raised due to political intentions. Iran believes that the sanctions imposed on it

are illegal and false and all steps that it had taken for its protection are its rights. Iran will continue with its efforts to foil the illegal sanctions imposed on it.

**Etemaad** (July 7) reports that Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has urged the US to amend its anti-Iran policy. Until there is change in the views of the US, the Doha Summit will remain in doldrums. The assurances that Iran had given to Western nations, those have been fulfilled. Now it is up to the Western nations to fulfil their responsibility. Until this happens, the tension will not ease. The easing of tension will be in the interest of all sides. ■

## Indians second in getting US citizenship



**Roznama Sahara** (July 4) reports that among the foreigners who secured US citizenship this year, Indians are on the second spot. According to government sources, the largest number of people who secured the US citizenship were Mexican citizens and 24,508 of them got citizenship. On the second spot is Indians and 12,928 people got US citizenship. The US

citizenship and immigration services director Ur M Jaddou said that 8,55,000 people were given the US citizenship in 2021. However, till June this year, 6,61,000 people were given the US citizenship. She said that among those who got US citizenship this year, 34% of them belong to Mexico, India, Philippines, Cuba and Dominican Republic.

## Economic boycott of Muslims

**Roznama Sahara** (July 4) reports that hundreds of people took part in a meeting of Hindu organisations held at Baba Bhismanath Mandir in Manesar to protest against the brutal murder of innocent Hindus in Udaipur and Amravati. In this meeting, a decision has

been taken to look out for outsiders who are settled in the area and pass on the information about them to the administration, so that action could be taken against them. In this meeting, it has also been decided to not to buy any items from any Muslim shopkeepers.

## Demand to release Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

**Siasat** (July 8) reports that addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the apex body of Islamic scholars and preachers in Jammu and Kashmir, Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), demanded that separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar



Farooq shall immediately be released. This apart, the administration has also been urged to regularise Juma Namaz at Kashmir's biggest masjid, Central Jama Masjid in Srinagar and no restrictions shall be imposed on



them. Those who made the request include representatives from 25 Muslim organisations including Darul Uloom Rahmaniya (Bandipur), Jammu Kashmir's mufti Azam, Muslim Personal Law Board, Anjuman Sharayi Shekhan, Jamiat Ahle

Hadis, Jamaat-e-Islami, Karwam-e-Islami, Ittehadul Muslimeen, Anjuman Himayatul Islam, Anjuman Tablighi Islam, Jamiat-e-Hamdaniya, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Ahle Hadis Foundation, Waqf Islamia and Mohammad Trust.

## Warrant issued against Sanjay Raut

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 5) reports that a court in Mumbai has issued a bailable warrant against Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut. This warrant was issued in connection with a defamation petition filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife. In a defamation suit filed by Medha Somaiya, Raut was supposed to present himself in a court in Mazgaon, but he did not appear. Hence this warrant was issued. It is to be noted that in May, Medha Sumaiya had filed a defamation complaint against Raut in connection with a Rs 100 crore scam in which she had alleged that Raut had made false allegations against her and after this news got published in media, her image suffered badly. This news was published in the

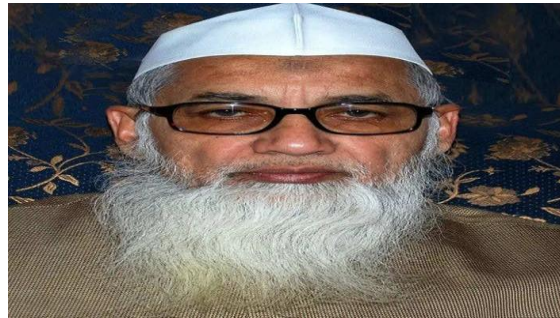


mouthpiece of Shiv Sena, Saamana. She demanded in the court that the Shiv Sena mouthpiece publish an apology on the allegations.

## Direction against sacrifice of cows

**Quami Tanzeem** (July 9) reports that Darul Uloom Deoband has appealed to the Muslims not to sacrifice cows on the occasion of Eid, because the government has imposed a ban on it. Muslims in the country have to abide by the law and no efforts should be made to offend the religious feelings of any section of the society.


It is to be noted that every year, an appeal is made by Darul Uloom Deoband to the Muslims of the country to honour the ban imposed on the killing of cattle and not to sacrifice cattle on the occasion of Eid. The chief of Darul Uloom Deoband Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani has directed the



Muslims across the country that they do not do sacrifice in public places and do not throw the remains of sacrificed animals in public places. Neither any video shall be circulated over the sacrifice and offer namaz inside the mosques only.

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