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## Muslim World League Secretary General's India Visit



- NIA's major crackdown on Islamic terrorists
- UNHRC adopts Pakistani resolution against desecration of Quran
- Nine killed in attack on refugee camp in Palestine
- Deadline to give suggestions on UCC extended

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## **Contents**

<b>Summary</b>	03
<b><u>National</u></b>	
Muslim World League Secretary General's India visit	04
NIA's major crackdown on Islamic terrorists	08
Verdict in Maliana massacre questioned in high court	09
Urdu Press on the forthcoming elections	10
Deadline to give suggestions on UCC extended	13
Aam Aadmi Party aims to garner Muslim votes in Punjab	16
<b><u>World</u></b>	
UNHRC adopts Pakistani resolution against desecration of Quran	17
China to explore oil in Afghanistan	20
Order to shut down beauty salons in Afghanistan	21
Pakistan gets 3-billion-dollar loan from IMF	22
Six killed in firing on Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh	23
<b><u>West Asia</u></b>	
Nine killed in attack on refugee camp in Palestine	24
Egypt and Turkiye open embassies in each other's countries	26
Benjamin Netanyahu firm on making changes in judicial system	26
Israel announces purchase of modern fighter jets from the US	27
Over 350 people hanged to death in six months in Iran	28

## Summary

There is no doubt that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre, India's relationship with Muslim nations, especially with the Arab world, has got strengthened. Narendra Modi may be the only Indian prime minister who has been honoured by more than a dozen Muslim nations with their highest national award. Meanwhile, the truth about the issue of alleged harassment of Muslims in India being raised by some countries at international platforms has been unravelled during an official five-day visit of Muslim World League Secretary General Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa to India. During his visit, Dr Al-Issa also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu. Addressing a function organised by India Islamic Cultural Centre and Khusro Foundation, Dr Al-Issa said that Bharat is a great example of co-existence where people of all religions live together in a tolerant atmosphere, and where they practice their own ways of worship in a peaceful manner. He said that Indian Muslims are proud to be Indians and they are supporters of a nationalist and secular Constitution. India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval also addressed the event on the occasion.

As far as Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa is concerned, he is a political leader from Saudi Arabia, Secretary General of Muslim World League, Chairman of International Islamic Halal Organisation and a former law and justice minister of Saudi Arabia. He was made the Secretary General of Muslim World League in 2018. Dr Al-Issa has a special recognition in Islamic world. If one talks about Muslim World League, it is an international organisation which is headquartered in Mecca. Apart from all Muslim nations, leaders of different sects of Muslims are also members of this organisation.

Whenever an issue of insult to Quran and the Prophet surfaces, Muslim countries across the world get united. Their unity often forces the world's most powerful countries to bow down. The huge ruckus that took place across the world following the burning of Quran by an eccentric person in Sweden on the occasion of Eid was a live example of this. Even the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution and condemned the incident. Due to pressure from the Muslim world, the Prime Minister of Sweden had to announce that Sweden would soon bring a law which would have the provision to give stringent punishment to those who insult Quran and other religious texts.

The project started by China for the first time in Afghanistan to explore oil reserves will have far-reaching consequences. It will not be in the interest of India to ignore the manner in which China has been increasing its influence in Afghanistan. Strangely, almost all Muslim nations tend to ignore the Chinese harassment of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province and instead give more importance in improving their relationship with China.

The way Muslim organisations have become active against Uniform Civil Code, it appears that they want to make it an election issue and use it against the Modi government in the forthcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Their effort is to elicit the support of other minority communities and Adivasis in this connection.

## Muslim World League Secretary General's India visit



**Inquilab** (July 12) reports that the Secretary General of Rabitat al-Alam al-Islami (Muslim World League) Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, who had arrived in India for a five-day visit, said at a function organised at India Islamic Cultural Centre in Delhi that Bharat is a nation which had always tread on the principle of 'unity in diversity.' He also lauded the secular Constitution of the country and described it as a great example of social harmony. The programme was organised on behalf of Khusro Foundation where thinkers, educationists and religious leaders participated in huge numbers. He said that at a time when some negative trends are seen in different parts of the world, Bharat stands as a best example of mutual harmony and brotherhood. In this programme, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was also present. Dr Al-Issa said that tolerance and co-existence should be imbibed in life.

Praising Indian Muslims, Dr Al-Issa said they are fuelled by nationalism and this is a part of unity in diversity. He said that teaching these ideas just through books

is not enough, instead these shall be imbibed in life. Talking about Bharat, he said here there is the best way to protect unity in diversity, Constitution and stability. Talking about his meeting with the leaders of other religions, he said that he remains active in bringing unity among different cultures of the world in his capacity as the Secretary General of Muslim World League. He said that even in the modern world, we need unity to build our own destiny and we need to play our own role for a great future. Muslims in the world need to be representatives of the true messenger of Islam. Describing Islam as a religion of hard work, brotherhood and open discussion, he said that Muslims need to imbibe these qualities.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said that Dr Al-Issa's efforts have helped a lot in establishing harmony between different religions and also stop extremism. This is that ideology that affects the mindset of our youths. He said that the speech of the Secretary General of Muslim Word League has brought out the depth as well as the better side of Islam. He



has played an important role in promoting the sentiments of sympathy, co-existence and mutual respect between different religions. Expressing pride on the relationship between India and Saudi Arabia, Doval said that the relationship is rooted in common cultural heritage, common viewpoint and economic ties. Indirectly targeting Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he said that Muslims have a special place in India and their population is almost the same as the population of 33 nations of OIC. Mentioning about the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, he described India as a victim of terrorism and criticised Pakistan without naming it.

**Inquilab** (July 13) reports that the Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. On this occasion, President Murmu said that India appreciates Muslim World League for encouraging talks between religions on the basis of tolerance and mutual respect. She said that India is the only such country which believes in unity despite multiculturalism, multilingualism and diversity among religions. More than 20 crore Muslims live in India. Our country has the second highest number of Muslims in the world. President Murmu said that India has been giving importance to relationship with Saudi Arabia right from the beginning and both the countries have a long history of trade and relationship between people. The President said that India and Saudi Arabia condemn terrorism in all respects and maintain a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism.

Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Al-Issa said that India, however, is a Hindu majority nation. Despite that, it is a secular nation and the same is mentioned in the Indian Constitution.



Indian Muslims are proud of their nationalism and the Constitution.

**Inquilab** (July 15) reports that the Secretary General of Muslim World League, while addressing Muslims in Jama Masjid in Delhi, said that Islam is a religion that gives the message of peace and brotherhood. In India also Muslims have been living in peace and harmony with people of other religions. This is a big message of Islam. He said that total commitment (of religious Muslim) is the greatness of Islam and Islam is a religion of moderates. Those people who adopt the path of violence on religious matters will fail. He said that Islam is a religion of high character, love, tolerance and forgiveness and there is no place for extremism and violence in this religion. Earlier, the shahi imam of Jama Masjid, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, welcomed Dr Al-Issa and thanked him on behalf of all Indian Muslims for providing all possible help to the Hajis from across the world during the Haj pilgrimage.

**Inquilab** (July 11) reports that Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema has published an advertisement to welcome the Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Al-Issa, in which it has been stated that some people in the media are giving this indication that Dr Al-Issa has been invited by the Indian government so that he extends support to the government on the issue of Uniform Civil Code. However, we want to remind the media that the basis of these problems of Islamic



Shariah is only Quran and Hadith on which no government has any power to reduce or increase anything. Dr Al-Issa is a scholar of Islam. Hence one cannot expect that he would support increasing or decreasing anything in Islamic Shariah.

In his address at India Islamic Cultural Centre, Dr Al-Issa mentioned about inter-religious harmony and about the secular Constitution of the country. On this, the national president of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Arshad Madani said that in this speech of Dr Al-Issa, those people got a slap on their face, who, while mentioning about his visit, has been claiming that the purpose of the visit was to get the support of Dr Al-Issa on the Uniform Civil Code. He said that Jamiat had to issue advertisements in newspapers because all kinds of misconceptions have been spread on the visit of Al-Issa.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 15) reports that IMCR chairman and former MP Mohammad Adeb in a statement said that there is huge anxiety among Muslims due to the visit of the Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Al-Issa to India amid increasing incidents of hatred and violence against Muslims in the country. He said that amid a controversy in the country over Uniform Civil Code, the visit of the Saudi dignitary to India looks like a part of the Modi government's intelligent move to take Muslims on their side.

He said that during the visit of Dr Al-Issa to India, the issue of some suspicious people honouring him has raised

lot of concern among us Muslims. The BJP government is using the Muslim World League to extend its reach among the Muslims in India. Everyone knows about those who have welcomed Dr Al-Issa at India Islamic Cultural Centre in Delhi and what kind of relationship they have with the government and the BJP.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 16) in its editorial said that addressing a programme at

the India Islamic Cultural Centre, Dr Al-Issa did not put Indian Muslims in the dock. Instead of describing Muslims as terrorists, he had described them as nationalists and those who abide by the Constitution. However, it was also expected of him to talk about the problems that besiege Indian Muslims these days. At least he should have definitely said in the presence of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval that this government should think about focusing on the problems of Muslims, but he did not say anything like that.

Some big Muslim personalities, which include Maulana Arshad Madani, have thanked Dr Al-Issa as he did not extend support to the Uniform Civil Code of Indian government. However, the question here is what he meant by mutual coexistence? It is such a period in the life of Indian Muslims that the Modi government has forcefully imposed several problems on them. In such a situation, the political and religious leaders of Muslims should think a lot before opening their mouth. Doesn't Muslim World League know that the Modi government has made a plan to implement Uniform Civil Code? If the Uniform Civil Code is implemented, wouldn't it affect the Shariah law of Muslims? It is impossible that Al-Issa is unaware of these things, because he is the Secretary General of Muslim World League, which itself was established to keep an eye on the problems of the Muslims across the world. If one tells the

truth, Al-Issa should not have even visited India seeing the ruckus that has been taking place over the Uniform Civil Code. However, what can one do if personal interests become more important to these people than the belief, religion and faith.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 12) in its editorial said that in the speech delivered by the Secretary General of Muslim World League at India Islamic Cultural Centre, there was nothing that could give rise to some differences. He lauded the nationalism of Indian Muslims and the pride they have in the Indian Constitution and described India as a great model for tolerance and coexistence. However, Al-Issa may not be familiar with the truth or even if familiar, may not want to say that there is a huge gang in this country which wants to scrap the Constitution and establish a Constitution of their religion in its place. At the behest of this gang, a demand has been made to describe the country a Hindu Rashtra and due to this reason the atmosphere in the country has become very toxic. Dr Al-Issa has to remember that Muslims are proud of being Indians, but the saffron elements, by running the Ghar Wapasi campaign, have been counselling more Muslims to leave for Pakistan, proving that the hatred for Muslims is filled in their heart. These elements do not let go of any opportunity of Islamophobia. It would have been nice had Dr Al-Issa said something about this atmosphere in the country in the presence of Ajit Doval.

Let's admit that the Babri Masjid, Bilkis Bano case or even the Gujarat riots have become old issues. However, in his eyes, has not the atmosphere in Uttarakhand got spoiled? Didn't he get to know that in Uttar Kashi region, Muslims have been threatened that they leave the place after locking their buildings and shops? Definitely this news might have passed through the eyes of Al-Issa. Hence Hindustani Muslims were waiting that



when he visits India, he would definitely advice the government of this country that a sense of security shall be created among the minorities for coexistence, and they shall be brought out of a sense of fear. However, Dr Al-Issa may not have given such an advice so far.

At this event, Ajit Doval had also said that all religions are safe in this country. May be his talk might be true. However, the question here is what step has his government taken to assure minorities about what he had said. Ajit Doval and Al-Issa should have seen the real situation. Just lengthy talks will not help anything. It is necessary to restrain those who spread hatred. A section of Muslims has viewed the visit of Al-Issa with a sense of suspicion.

### Who is Dr Al-Issa?

Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa is a political leader of Saudi Arabia, Secretary General of Muslim World League, chairman of International Islamic Halal Organisation and a former justice minister of Saudi Arabia. He is also the chairman of Centre for Responsible Leadership. This institute is a grouping of influential governments at international level and also of leaders of religions, media, industries and community who work together to find solutions to the issues that come up before the humanity and the world.

Dr Al-Issa was born in Riyadh on June 10, 1965. He obtained a graduate





Abdullah's reform initiatives. As a Minister for Justice, he had overseen significant improvements in many areas like family problems, human affairs and legislative reforms in the rights of women.

Dr Al-Issa also played an important role in organising a historical meeting of Iraqi religious leadership at the holy place of Mecca, the purpose of which was to improve the understanding between different followers of Islam and hold wide-ranging talks.

Dr Al-Issa is considered as a leading global voice of moderate Islam apart from being a leading figure in the fight against extremist ideology. Both religious leaders and government officials have appreciated Dr Al-Issa for his efforts to promote restraint, cooperation and coexistence equally among all people. Archbishop of New York and an influential member of America's Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Timothy M Dolan had referred to Dr Al-Issa as the most important spokesperson of Islamic world for reconciliation and friendship between religions in the world. The American Jewish Committee had said Dr Al-Issa as the most powerful voice in Muslim world that propagates moderate Islam.

degree in Comparative Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh) from Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University. Apart from the study of comparative justice, Dr Al-Issa also obtained a Masters degree and later a PhD in Common Law and Constitutional law. After the graduation studies, he started working as a faculty member at Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University. In 2007, he became the vice-chairman of Shikayat Board (a legal forum for mediation) and he worked there till 2009.

On February 14, 2009, Al-Issa was appointed as Minister of Justice in the Saudi cabinet in place of Abdullah bin Mohammad Al-Sheikh.

The appointment of Al-Issa as Justice Minister was part of King

## NIA's major crackdown on Islamic terrorists

**Etemaad** (July 14) reports that a court hearing National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases has awarded 10 years in jail to four terrorists belonging to Indian Mujahideen. The hearing in this case concluded on July 7 and they were convicted on July 10. Those who have been convicted are identified as Danish Ansari (Darbhanga, Bihar), Aftab Alam (Purnia, Bihar), Imran Khan (Nanded, Maharashtra) and Obaid ur Rahman (Hyderabad). These men have been accused of involvement in a conspiracy along with Indian Mujahideen terrorists active in Pakistan namely Riyaz Bhatkal

and Yaseen Bhatkal to explode bombs across the country. These terrorists even conducted a survey in Delhi and other cities for the same.

The NIA told the court that these terrorists recruited youths for Indian Mujahideen from different parts of the country and this organisation has been working at the behest of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. The NIA said that the serial bomb blasts that took place in Varanasi in March 2006, in Mumbai in July 2006, in Hyderabad in 2007, in Jaipur, Delhi and Ahmedabad in 2008 are linked to Indian Mujahideen. This apart, the hands of





Indian Mujahideen have been suspected in the serial bomb blasts that took place in the courts in Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow in 2007, the bomb blast that took place in Bengaluru Stadium in 2010, and the bomb blasts that took place in Hyderabad in 2013.

Apart from these four terrorists of Indian Mujahideen, some other terrorists were also found guilty of the crime included Yaseen Bhatkal, Asadullah Akhtar, Zia-ur-Rahman, Tahseen Akhtar and Hyder Ali. The case against them will continue. In August 2007, a number of blasts took place simultaneously at the renowned Gokul Chat Bhandar and Lumbini Park in Hyderabad in which dozens of people were killed. Later, Indian Mujahideen has been declared as a banned organisation under UAPA. According to NIA, Yaseen Bhatkal is among the important leaders of Indian Mujahideen and he has been inciting Muslim youths for violence. This organisation carried out a bomb blast in Varanasi in 2006 in which eight persons were killed.

**Siasat** (July 5) reports that the NIA, in search of people linked to Islamic

terrorist organisation ISIS, raided five places in Mumbai, Thane and Pune in Maharashtra and arrested four persons. Those who have been arrested include Tabish Nasir Siddqui from Nagpada locality in Mumbai, Jubair Noor Mohammad Sheikh from Pune, Sarjeel Shaikh from Thane and Zulfikar Ali Badaudawala. In a press release, the NIA said that a case was registered in

this connection on June 28. Incriminating material, electronic equipment and ISIS-linked literature were seized from the houses of those who have been arrested. From these material, it has been confirmed that the accused were recruiting Muslim youths in order to promote terrorist activities in India and they were making preparations to wage a war against Indian government by forming a sleeper cell in Maharashtra. The arrested persons have recruited dozens of Muslim youths into ISIS and they were given training in making bombs.

**Siasat** (July 5) reports that the South Central Railway received an anonymous letter in which a threat has been issued to carry out a rail accident similar to the one that took place in Balasore in Odisha on the Hyderabad-Delhi route. After receiving this letter, the Railway Board has issued a red alert on terrorist activities on all its zones. The police are trying to identify the person who sent this letter. It is to be noted that a major rail accident took place in Balasore region in Odisha on June 2 in which more than 200 people were killed. The CBI is thoroughly investigating this incident.

## Verdict in Maliana massacre questioned in high court

**Sahafat** (July 13) states that a bench of Allahabad High Court has admitted an appeal against the verdict of a lower court acquitting all the accused in the massacre of 72 Muslims in Maliana, the hearing for which will commence on August 14. The entire records of the case have been

summoned from the lower court by issuing notice. The hearing in this massacre has been continuing in the courts for 36 years. Following this, on March 31 this year, a sessions court in Meerut had acquitted all the 39 accused due to lack of concrete evidence.



Journalist Qurban Ali, who filed the appeal, said the high court has accepted our petition that questioned the verdict of sessions court judge Lakhwinder Singh Sood. A lawyer named Danish Ali will fight the case on behalf of us. He said that it is hoped that the victims will get justice from the high court. It is to be noted that on May 22, 1987, riots started in Hashimpura which spread to Maliana the next day. In Maliana, 72 people were killed in firing by the police and PAC. Whereas in

Hashimpura, 42 people were killed. In the Hashimpura case, it was alleged that the PAC staff had arrested 38 Muslims. Later they were taken on a truck to Indirapuram locality where they were lined up on the side of a canal and shot at. Later some injured persons saved their lives and reached Delhi and unravelled this incident.

In 2015, the sessions court had acquitted the accused in the Hashimpura case due to lack of evidence. The court said that there was no conclusive evidence to prove that the policemen had a role in the massacre. Later an appeal was filed in the Delhi High Court and the high court changed the verdict of the lower court and said there is strong evidence of murder against the accused officials and employees of PAC and this was a case of target killing. Following this, all 16 former police staffers involved in the massacre were awarded life-term in jail.

## Forthcoming elections in the eyes of Urdu newspapers

**Siasat** (July 1) in its editorial said that the ruling BJP in the country has started making preparations for the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024. In any case, Assembly elections are also set to be held in five states in the country within a few months. Hence it is also being called as the semi-final before the Lok Sabha elections. The strategy that the BJP has formed for the Assembly elections is in place. However, seeing the efforts for unity among the Opposition parties, the BJP has started preparations for the 2024 elections now itself. The BJP has decided to form three zones from the organisational point of view and they include the north zone, east zone and the south zone. For BJP, the most important one is the north zone. This is because it includes many states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Gujarat and Jammu Kashmir where the BJP's position is said to be strong. The party doesn't want to see itself as weak in any of these states under any condition. The BJP is hopeful that it would get huge success in these five states.

Observers believe that the BJP could face difficulties in the Assembly elections in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. If such a thing happens, then it would influence the Parliamentary elections as well. If unity happens among Opposition parties and if they come up with a clear policy, then the BJP's seats will come down in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra as well. In south India, the position of BJP is weak right from the beginning. In Karnataka, the number of seats that the BJP got in the last Lok Sabha elections is likely to go down this time. This is because the



people of Karnataka voted for Congress after dumping BJP in the Assembly elections. Its effect can also spill over to the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP is preparing a special strategy to influence people. The Godi media has also been activated as part of this agenda. Like in the past, incidents of mob lynching innocent people have started taking place in some states in the country. These are not taking place all of a sudden, instead there is a well-devised strategy behind this. The issue of Uniform Civil Code has been unleashed once again. A discussion over this is taking place in Godi media. Some Muslim faces, who are puppets in the hands of the BJP and the Sangh, are getting fairly compensated in return for the service to the party. A misleading propaganda has been unleashed among Muslims and there is possibility that in the coming few months, there could be a storm of communal hatred. The BJP will try to influence the minds of people by inciting communal hatred. By running a campaign of communalism and hatred, the Godi media has kept several issues like price rise and unemployment away from the minds of the people.

**Etemaad** (July 10) in its editorial said the BJP is desperate to win the Lok

Sabha elections consecutively for the third time and the party has started its election campaign in Telangana as well apart from other states with this aim. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his rallies had given a detailed account of the developmental projects of the Central government. A huge election rally was organised nearly 26 kilometre from Warangal where the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of a railway wagon manufacturing unit and also announced projects worth 61,000 crore for the state.

This apart, the Prime Minister also came down heavily on the ruling BRS in Telangana. The newspaper said that the discriminatory policy of the Central government, that claims to undertake equal development of the country, towards Telangana is not hidden from anyone. The Central government has forgotten the promises that it made to the people of Telangana during the formation of the state. It has become a habit of the Modi government to lure people by laying foundation stones for big projects before the elections though the Centre does not take any interest in providing funds to these projects. In the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the BJP's focus is on 10 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana out of the total 17.



Currently, the BJP has four MPs from Telangana and they include Union Minister G Kishen Reddy from Secunderabad, Bandi Sanjay Kumar from Karimnagar constituency, Arvind Dharmapuri from Nizamabad and Soyam Babu Rao from Adilabad.

The party's leadership takes special caution on selecting its candidates. For this, a survey is conducted among the people so that only popular leaders are fielded in the elections. There is a plan to organise huge election meetings in the state in which Prime Minister Modi, national president of BJP J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders will take part. On the lines of Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is organising meetings even in the streets of Telangana. Later, the BJP will organise meetings at the district-level. In order to strengthen the party at ground level, the BJP has been organising election meetings in the name of 'Praja Gosa BJP Bharosa' in Telangana. In these meetings, the BJP will outline the public welfare programmes initiated by the Central government and the BJP for Telangana. The BJP is trying to compensate its loss in Karnataka from Telangana.

Recently, BJP has removed its chiefs in many states and appointed new presidents in their place. A change has been brought in the leadership of Telangana as well. Bandi Sanjay Kumar has been removed and Union Minister G Kishen Reddy has been appointed as the chief of Telangana BJP. In Telangana, the BJP is dreaming of coming to power and with this purpose, it is preparing to play the communal card in the state. Tension has been created between Hindus and Muslims. The BJP has tried to give Love Jihad colour to the issue of suicide of a medical student in Warangal. In the same manner, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has tried to make a Hindu-Muslim issue over the murder of a youth in Hyderabad.

**Salar** (July 6) in its editorial said that after the massive victory in Karnataka, the Congress is now hopeful that it would come back to power at the Centre in the

2024 elections. At the national level, more than 15 non-Congress parties have come together and their slogans to remove Modi from power are getting echoed, but will it have any effect on the Centre? Currently, a massive quake has jolted Maharashtra politics where the BJP has become successful in weakening one of the strongest Opposition faces that has been standing against Modi, Sharad Pawar, and as a result of this, Ajit Pawar joined the Shinde-BJP government after claiming complete hold on the NCP. Many leaders of the party have left Sharad Pawar and joined the BJP bandwagon. However, it is another story that the BJP has been making serious charges of corruption against majority of these people. The cases of investigating agencies are pending against many of them. The biggest jolt due to the political upheaval in Maharashtra has been to Opposition unity at the national level. Sharad Pawar was one of the heavyweight leaders in the Opposition and he has been playing an important role in the efforts for Opposition unity. In such a situation, by pulling the mud under the feet of his party, the BJP has given the message that whatever claims an Opposition leader makes, his own party will not be under his grip. Maybe this is the reason why a discussion was started on halting the scheduled meeting of the opposition parties in Bengaluru, though the Congress clarified that the meeting would take place on the scheduled dates itself and the developments taking place in Maharashtra will not have any bearing on the efforts for Opposition unity.

**Siasat** (July 3) in its editorial has claimed that the ruling BRS in Telangana has entered into a secret deal with the BJP. The BRS has made such an agreement so that it would come to power for the third time in the state. Now the BJP will secretly help BRS and would target Congress. Now what has to be seen is how much the BRS would succeed in damaging the prospects of Congress in Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. However, the BJP leaders have been



targeting Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and his family members till now but as soon as the elections have come closer, they have started targeting the Congress. The BJP has made a plan to secure victory in the ten Lok Sabha seats in Telangana.

As per another news, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the possibility of BJP coming to power in Telangana is very less and the BJP is preparing to play the role of the main opposition party in the state Assembly. From his statement it is clear that the BJP has accepted its defeat even before the elections. After this statement of Nitin Gadkari, there was lot of discomfort in the BJP high command and in this



connection, the BJP leaders of Telangana contacted the central high command and expressed concern over this statement of Gadkari. On the other hand, Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP's national president J P Nadda have been claiming that BJP would come to power in Telangana.

## Deadline for suggestions on Uniform Civil Code extended



**Sahafat** (July 15) reports that the Law Commission has extended the time period for people to give suggestions on the Uniform Civil Code till July 28. The scheduled period was supposed to end by July 14. In a notification issued by the Law Commission, it has been said that any person or organisation interested in the Uniform Civil Code can post their comments on the Uniform Civil Code on the website of the commission by July 28. It is to be noted that till July 14, the commission got more than 50 lakh suggestions online. This apart, the

commission also received several suggestions in the form of hard copy.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 14) reports that an atmosphere has been created through the statements of Union ministers, Hindu communal elements, arguments taking place in Godi media and through the so-called survey that only Muslims will become the target of Uniform Civil Code. A prominent news channel, News18, has claimed on the basis of a sample survey that 67 percent population of Muslim women support the Uniform Civil Code. They are in favour of implementing a uniform law in the entire country on the issues of talaq, nikah, inheritance and adoption of child. Spokesperson of Muslim Personal Law Board Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas has described this survey as a fraud and said the survey was conducted at the behest of Modi government.

**Hamara Samaj** (July 10) reports that the News18 has claimed that nearly 67 percent of the 8,035 women in 25 states

and Union Territories in the country are in favour of Uniform Civil Code.

**Inquilab** (July 15) states that the Modi government wants to make Uniform Civil Code an important issue in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, but now the supporters of the government itself have started opposing it openly. In Mizoram, BJP's alliance party Mizo National Front's Member of Parliament K Vanlalvena said that the Uniform Civil Code is not acceptable to the Adivasis of Northeastern states. Secondly, Shiromani Akali Dal too objected to the Uniform Civil Code. In his objection sent to the Law Commission, president of Shiromani Akali Dal, Sukhbir Singh Badal said that implementing Uniform Civil Code is not in the interest of the nation and this is especially unacceptable to minorities. This can create a sense of fear among minorities. The BJP's Mahila Morcha in Goa has also opposed the Uniform Civil Code.

**Salar** (July 4) reports that an organisation in Nagaland has declared that if the state Assembly passes any bill for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code due to pressure from the Centre, then the government residential houses of all the 60 members of the Assembly will be set on fire. An organisation, Nagaland Transparency, Public Rights Advocacy and Direct Action Organisation said that the implementation of Uniform Civil Code will violate the special Constitutional rights being guaranteed to the state and it will be an open violation of the traditions of Naga people. Nagaland's Rising People's Party also said that it is an evidence of RSS's intention to bring one religion, one language and one culture in the country.

Hynniewtrep Youths' Council of Meghalaya said the BJP is bringing this law to end the distinct identity of Adivasis and their special customs and traditions. Hence we will oppose this. The members of Central Nagaland Tribal Council have also opposed the Uniform Civil Code and said that it is against the Constitution.

**Siasat** (July 4) reports that the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh

Akhilesh Yadav said that the aim of the government is to divert the attention of people from the basic issues facing the country like price rise, unemployment and corruption in the guise of Uniform Civil Code.

**Salar** (July 1) reports that the draft of a Uniform Civil Code is ready in Uttarakhand. The committee which has been constituted by the state government under retired judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is likely to hand over its report to the government soon. According to sources, the committee has demanded formulation of a stringent law to stop the system of polygamy. Ranjana Desai said that polygamy is a violation of human rights. Till now, this committee has held 63 meetings. The committee has recommended that the minimum age for marriage of girls shall be declared as 18 years and also that the system for adoption of children for the husband and wife shall be made easy in all religions.

The discrimination that the sons and daughters face on inheritance shall be ended in all religions. In case of the death of the son, the rights on his property should go to his widow. It has also recommended that the marriage shall be compulsorily registered. As per the draft, the couples now staying in a live-in relationship cannot do so without informing the family. Now, it has become mandatory for people of all religions in the state to undergo divorce through the process of law only. A man or a woman belonging to any religion cannot keep two wives or husbands at a time without a divorce. As per the draft of the Uniform Civil Code, both women and men in Uttarakhand will have same rights on the issue of divorce. There will be a ban on seeking divorce through personal law. In the draft Uniform Civil Code, emphasis has been made on stopping the tradition of halala and iddat (waiting period).

**Inquilab** (July 5) reports that after receiving the report from the committee constituted for Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Home Minister Amit Shah. During the meeting, the chairperson of the committee that prepared the draft of the Uniform Civil Code, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, was also present.

**Inquilab** (July 1) states that the draft presented to the Uttarakhand government on the Uniform Civil Code is against the Shariah and the Quran. If the government implements the same, the Muslims in the state have to face several Shariah related problems. It has come to be known that the Uttarakhand government is preparing a draft law on the Uniform Civil Code on the basis of the recommendations made by Justice Ranjana Desai committee, which is likely to be presented in the state Assembly soon.

**Inquilab** (July 9) reports that the government is thinking about not implementing the Uniform Civil Code on Christians and Adivasis. In this connection, Home Minister Amit Shah has given an indication to a delegation from Nagaland. The Chief Minister of Nagaland held a meeting with Amit Shah in this connection. If Christians and Adivasis are kept out of the purview of Uniform Civil Code, then Muslims will become its direct target. In the report of Ranjana Committee, the Shariah laws of Muslims like nikah, talaq, succession have been targeted.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 11) states that the BJP government is a failure on all fronts and hence it is using the Brahmastra of Uniform Civil Code to win the elections and divert the attention of people from unemployment and increasing price rise. Chairman of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Harjinder Singh Dhami, said that the Uniform Civil Code is against the sentiments of the Constitution and the separate identity of minorities will be in danger.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 8) reports that the Muslim Personal Law Board appealed to the Muslims that it is their religious and Shariah duty to fight for



the protection of the Islamic law and there is a need to organise a planned protest and campaign in the entire country.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 7) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has registered its objections before the Law Commission. Spokesperson of the board Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that our reply has been divided into five parts. The separate religious identities of Muslims are the Quran, Prophet and the Fiqh, which have been protected under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution. Islam directs those who follow it to adhere to the principles of Quran and Sunnat. All those who follow Islam obey these directions and no amendments are done with it. This is because these were not formed by any person or court but by Allah. Muslims cannot end their separate identity under any circumstance. This is our Constitutional right and will fight for it till our last breath.

As per another news, a delegation of All India Muslim Personal Law Board has started meeting Opposition leaders to create an atmosphere against Uniform Civil Code and in this connection, a meeting was held with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Earlier, the board had held a meeting with Shiv Sena leader and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The Muslim Personal Law Board has asked the Law Commission that we are not ready to compromise on our personal law, religious freedom and on the issue of minorities in the name of Uniform Civil Code. The Uniform Civil Code is against the basic sentiments of Constitution. Hence we will not accept it under any circumstance.

**Salar** (July 9) reports that the Muslim Personal Law Board, while passing a resolution, demanded the Union government that it keep itself away from making any kind of interference in the Shariah law of Muslims. This is because this law is based on Quran and the Hadith in which no changes can be made. The guarantee for protection of Muslim Personal Law is given in the Shariat Application Act of 1937.

**Etemaad** (July 11) reports that a delegation of Muslim Personal Law Board met chief minister of Telangana K Chandrashekhar Rao and apprised him of the situation emerging out of the Centre's decision to bring Uniform Civil Code on

Muslims. In this delegation, the leader of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen was also included. As per a press note issued by the Chief Minister's office, Telangana government has accused the Central government that it is maliciously violating the rights of minorities and the Hindutva ideology is being forced upon them.

**Etemaad** (July 8) in its editorial said that the BJP government has made its agenda clear on the issue of Uniform Civil Code. Now, along with the Muslims in the country, the followers of other religions also have to come out on the streets for the protection of their separate identity and religious freedom.

## Aam Aadmi Party aims to garner Muslim votes in Punjab

**Siasat** (July 11) reports that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab is adopting a new strategy to garner the votes of Muslims and Sikhs in the state as per which Muslims are allowed to get back the mosques that they have abandoned during the time of Partition. Before Independence, the population of Muslims in Punjab was 40 per cent, which has now come down to 2 per cent. This is because majority of the Muslims had gone to Pakistani Punjab. The Aam Aadmi Party is trying to run a special campaign in which vacant mosques lying abandoned in different villages of the state following the Partition shall be handed over back to the Muslims.

Jamaat Islami Punjab has claimed that in the past few years, 165 old masjids have been handed over to Muslims. In December 2022, in Bakhashtgarh village in Barnala district, at the behest of a Sikh farmer, Amandeep Singh, a masjid was constructed. For the construction of this masjid, he had handed over 2,500 sq yard land in the name of the masjid and the Sikh residents of the village had given a



contributory amount of Rs 2 lakh for the construction of the mosque. Amandeep said that this masjid was reconstructed and 15 Muslim families were settled in the village and during the inauguration of

the masjid the Muslims and Sikhs jointly organised a langar.

According to 80-year-old Khokhar Khan, when the Partition of the country took place, he used to stay in Balloh village in Bhatinda. The villagers did not allow him to go to Pakistan and they raised funds for us and constructed a masjid. Namaz has started in this masjid on a regular basis from the Eid this year. Punjabi musician Bhajan Singh said that Sikhs and Muslims are very close to each other. It is our duty to provide masjids for the Muslims who come to Punjab from Uttar Pradesh for jobs. He said that during the Partition of the country when the Muslims in Punjab left the masjids, nearly 50 percent of those masjids are now Gurdwaras. It is the duty of Sikhs that they handover the masjids in these Gurdwaras to them for religious harmony.



## Pakistani resolution against insult to Quran adopted in UNHRC



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 13) reports that the United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted a resolution introduced by Pakistan against desecration of Quran. According to news agencies, the resolution moved by Pakistan has condemned the spread of religious hatred including the insult to Quran. The resolution has stressed on taking legal action against those involved in the issue of desecration of Quran and urged countries across the world to create laws to stop religious hatred and strictly implement them. Nearly 28 nations including India supported the Pakistani resolution. While 12 countries opposed the resolution, seven did not take part in voting. The US and European Union opposed the resolution.

It is to be noted that an Iraqi origin man, who is currently a Swedish citizen, burnt a copy of Quran and desecrated it outside a mosque in Swedish capital Stockholm. The newspaper also claimed that this Iraqi origin citizen had sought permission from the police to burn the copies of Quran, which was rejected by the police. However, later a local court has described this stand of police as against the

freedom of expression and the person got an opportunity to burn the Quran. Many Muslim nations including Iran and Pakistan alleged that religious hatred was being promoted by burning the Quran. They sought stringent action against those who insult the holy book of Muslims. It is to be noted that before the resolution being introduced by Pakistan, a report was sought from the chief of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the incident. He demanded countries across the world to review their laws and remove such systems which encourage any activity that promotes religious hatred or which creates hurdles in stopping it. The Western nations are worried that the resolution of the Muslim nations would have a negative effect on the questions related to freedom of expression and protection of human rights.

**Etemaad** (July 13) reports that at an emergency meeting of United Nations Human Rights Council, a debate took place over the burning of Quran in Sweden. Taking part in the meeting, all Islamic nations including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran stressed on strongly stopping incidents like burning of Quran and

promoting religious hatred and sought stringent punishment to the accused. Following the discussion, all European nations including the US and Britain, after condemning the burning of Quran, did not take part in the voting. Some other nations had sought a reconsideration in the choice of words in motion. Pakistan's foreign affairs minister Bilawal Bhutto alleged that such an activity was an effort to rake up religious hatred and promote violence and it was necessary to realise the effect of such incidents on the minds of Muslims. This is because it is an attack on their reputation. He said that there is no such Muslim nation in the world which permits insult to the holy book of other religions. It has been prohibited in the culture, faith and law of the Muslims.

During the debate, the differences between IOC and Western nations also surfaced. Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said there was no reason to insult the Quran. Such incidents promote extremism and racism. Saudi Arabia wants to strengthen tolerance and forbearance. Supporting the resolution, India said that such activities shall be stopped.

**Siasat** (July 4) reports that Pope Francis, while expressing concern over the burning of Quran in Sweden, condemned the incident and said that such incidents cannot be permitted to happen in the name of freedom of expression. Expressing anger over the incident, Saudi Arabia summoned the Ambassador of Sweden. This apart, more than 100 countries including Islamic nations like Pakistan, Turkiye, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Bangladesh, Malaysia condemned this incident and demanded Sweden to take stringent action against the accused.

**Siasat** (July 11) reports that a protest was organized at the spot where the Quran was desecrated in which thousands of Muslims from different countries took part and demanded that the person who insulted Quran shall be arrested and stringent punishment be given to him. In England, protests took place in nearly a dozen places

against this incident. Many Islamic nations imposed a ban on sale or purchase of different products being manufactured in Sweden. On this occasion, a 'Holy day for Quran' was observed in Pakistan.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 1) reports that Morocco has called back its Ambassador from Sweden. OIC has also condemned the incident of burning of Quran and urged countries across the world that they take concrete steps against increasing hatred against Islam, Quran and Prophet. Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said this activity is strongly condemnable. Unless stringent action is taken against such enemies of Islam, no Muslim can take rest. Russian President Vladimir Putin, while condemning the incident, said that insult to Quran is a crime in Russia. Vladimir Putin visited a masjid where he took Quran in his hand and kissed it and said his country respects the religious sentiments of Quran and Muslims.

Yemen's Islamic terrorist organisation, Ansarullah, said they condemn Sweden on the incident of burning of Quran and for not taking any concrete steps against the accused. This is total enmity to Islam and an attack on the religious sentiments of Muslims. The organisation claimed that the Europe's Jewish lobby is behind this crime. This shameful act of burning the Quran was done on a day when Muslims were celebrating the Eid. If the Islamic community gives a strong message to the enemies of Allah, then the Jews and the Kafir Western nations will not get courage to breach the sanctity of Islam and continue insulting Islam. We will not tolerate this and will give a strong reply to it.

**Etemaad** (July 12) reports that Afghanistan, while expressing anger on the incident, imposed a ban on all activities of Sweden in Afghanistan and said that until they apologize for this shameful incident, the ban will remain. Afghanistan asked all Islamic nations to cut-off all relationships with Sweden.

As per another news, the Kuwait government has decided to publish one

lakh copies of Quran in Swedish language so that the people there would get information about the tolerance and greatness of Islam.

**Etemaad** (July 7) reports that following the controversy that has erupted across the world over insult to Quran, the justice minister of Sweden said the incident has greatly damaged the reputation of his country. Now the government is thinking that in order to stop the insult to Quran or any other religious book, a stringent law shall be made and if any person does such an activity, then stringent action should be taken against him.

**Etemaad** (July 3) in its editorial, while condemning the burning of Quran in Sweden, said that such an action would provoke the sentiments of Muslims across the world. It is said in the editorial that the name of the person who has desecrated Quran is Salman Momika and his age is 37 years. He came to Sweden from Iraq a few years ago. The newspaper also made this allegation that in Sweden, for the past several years, the enemies of Islam have been insulting Quran and Islam. Before this, extremist rightwing leader Rasmus Paludan has done such an activity. The entire Islamic world has strongly condemned such an action and said this type of disgusting and anti-Islam activities cannot be tolerated under any cost.

The newspaper said that Egypt has described it as an attack on Islam and announced that such activities will be given a befitting reply. The OIC has called an emergency meeting in Jeddah over this 'uncivil' action. The intriguing thing is that despite this, the European Union has indirectly supported the Quran-burning incident. Saudi Arabia's Mufti Azam Abdul Aziz Al-Sheikh, while condemning this uncivil act, has urged the entire world that they take strong steps to stop such anti-Islamic incidents.

**Quami Tanzeem** (July 10) in its editorial said that it would prove costly for Sweden to give permission to burn Quran every now and then. This is because Muslim nations have got united and

demanding stringent steps against such incidents. Even Pope Francis has condemned this incident. The Secretary General of OIC said the way the Quran and the prestige of our Prophet had been insulted is not a minor incident of Islamophobia, but there is a serious conspiracy behind it. In order to stop such incidents, every Islamic nation should get united.

**Salar** (July 8) in its editorial urged all nations in the world that they boycott Sweden at international level. This is because describing the action of insult to Quran and Prophet Mohammad as a freedom of expression cannot be tolerated under any circumstance. In order to stop such incidents, every Muslim nation should get united and protect the prestige of Islam, Quran and the Prophet.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 2) in its editorial asked why this illegal activity is taking place again and again in Sweden? The Stram Kurs party in Sweden's neighbouring country Denmark has been undertaking this illegal activity of burning Quran in different parts of Sweden from 2020. In April 2022, at the behest of a leader of this party, Quran was burned in many places in an organized manner. After this, riots took place in many places in Sweden. The shameful thing is that these anti-Islam activities have been given legal sanctity in the name of freedom of expression. The leader of this party has openly announced to wipeout Quran, Islam and the Prophet. They say that they will wipe out Islam from Europe. In the same manner, an anti-Islam leader in Norway, Lars Thorsen had formed a party named 'Stop Islamisation of Norway' and this party during its rallies in Norway had carried out a campaign of tearing off Quran and spitting on it.

The newspaper said that these anti-Islam activities are not limited to Scandinavian nations but are rampant in many countries in America and Europe. In 2011, a priest has admitted in a video that he had insulted Quran and the Prophet in many places. In protest against it, violence

broke out in Afghanistan, in which 12 US soldiers were killed. These illegal activities are not likely to stop immediately because the so-called democratic and people with secular faces have given them the name of freedom of expression. These people are racist and anti-Islam as well. Indeed, in any case by burning Quran time and again, they want to give this message to Muslims that they do not have any standing. Muslims are the weakest in the entire world and their holy book and Prophet have no standing. The newspaper said they had first appealed to the Muslim countries that they cutoff their diplomatic relationship with Sweden, Denmark and Norway and knock at the doors of International Court of Justice against those accused of burning the copies of Quran. However, no Muslim nation in the world has implemented our advice. Hence the courage of enemies of Islam and the Prophet increased.

**Salar** (July 14) in its editorial, while inciting Muslims, said that every time anti-Islam elements and ill-minded people are insulting the holy Quran and the sentiments of Muslims. However, the surprising thing is that this time the Swedish government had even granted permission to burn Quran. After such a big and shameful



incident, the international media, the so-called contractors of justice, equality and humanity have totally become mute spectators. The most saddening thing is that the Muslims themselves are silent. Those Muslims who could sacrifice their life for the honour and dignity of Islam, Quran and the Prophet are today silent even after the burning of Quran. Whereas they are the world's second biggest community and the Muslim world have adopted silence on this issue. Is it not the duty of every Muslim to give a befitting reply to this absurdity of the Swedish government? Can it be said that it is alright for the Muslim nations to keep the diplomatic relationship with Sweden? Muslims in the entire world and their rulers have to think seriously about the insult to Quran, Islam and the Prophet and have to reaffirm their own faith. It is necessary to end the relationship with those countries who have failed to hang to death those who have burned Quran.

## China to explore oil in Afghanistan

**Etemaad** (July 10) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has started the work to explore oil in north Afghanistan with the help of a Chinese company. Afghanistan's Minister for Mines Shahabuddin Delawar said that perhaps 100 tonnes of oil per day could be explored from an oil well in Sar-e Pul province. There is a possibility of increasing it further. From this, the Taliban government could get huge income. The oil is being explored through a joint effort by a government oil and gas company of

Afghanistan and a Chinese company. Recently, Afghanistan's minister for mines has inaugurated this project. An official of Chinese company was also present with him on the occasion. Later he told the government televisions of Afghanistan and China that the work to explore oil from the mine located in Sar-e-Pul province will start immediately and there is a possibility of increasing the production of oil to 200 tonnes per day. Till the end of this year, 15 more oil mines will be dug in this region from where there is a possibility of





exploring more than 1,000 tonnes of crude oil per day. Shahabuddin Delawar said that we are keen to explore oil in Afghanistan with the cooperation of foreigners. These companies will also invest in the projects for search and production of oil. From this, the local people will also get employment. He said that this project is nearly 25 years old, but so far nobody has made any effort to begin the exploration of crude oil. This region is among the most backward provinces of Afghanistan.

In the beginning of this year, the Taliban government had signed a 25-year agreement with a Chinese company based in Xinjiang, Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Company (CAPEIC), to explore oil in the northern region of the country. As per this agreement, the participation of Afghan government will be 20 per cent initially which will later go up to 70 per cent. As

per this agreement, the Chinese company will make an investment of 150 million dollar in the first year to explore oil from the region and the amount will go up to 540 million dollar over a period of three years. He said that a huge deposit of crude oil was found in the five regions in north Afghanistan, which has been spread over 4,500 kilometres.

As per Afghan government sources, there is a huge deposit of minerals, oil and gas in Afghanistan which has been estimated to be worth up to three trillion dollars. Due to the civil war in Afghanistan for the past four decades, the country could not explore its natural resources. The government companies in China are far ahead in exploring the minerals in Afghanistan. They have explored vast reserves of copper and lithium. This apart, one Chinese company has expressed interest in making investments worth 350 million dollars in electricity production, setting up cement manufacturing plant and in health sector. The representative of this Chinese company in Afghanistan has held talks with the Acting Prime Minister of Afghanistan Maulavi Abdul Kabir in this connection and provided him information about the detailed project for exploration of vast reserves of minerals and petroleum.

## Order to shut down beauty salons in Afghanistan

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 5) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has ordered shutting down of all beauty salons in the country within a month. Government spokesperson Mohammad Sadiq Akif, while confirming it, said the step has been taken because beauty salons are not in tune with Islamic Shariah. It is a trend in Western nations which will not be tolerated by any Islamic nation.

It is to be noted that last year, the Afghanistan government had imposed a ban on high school education of girls and had also closed the doors of universities for women. This apart, gyms and parks have

also been closed for women. The Taliban government said we want to run the administration as per Shariah and we will not tolerate any kind of foreign intervention in this connection.

**Inquilab** (July 7) reports that Islamic scholars from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Indonesia urged the Taliban government that they immediately remove different kinds of restrictions imposed on the women because Islam is not in favour of imposing restrictions on women going to school or taking up employment. These scholars said there is no system in Shariah to impose these kind



of restrictions on women. Recently, a delegation of OIC went to Afghanistan and they tried to convey to the Taliban rulers that in Islam education has its importance and depriving women of education is against the basic sentiments of Islam and Shariah. Western nations and the United

Nations have been condemning the restrictions imposed on women right from the beginning. However, despite this, the Afghan government has not heeded to their request.

**Etemaad** (July 11) reports that spokesperson of Afghan government, Zabiullah Mujahid, said that no foreign scholar has any right to interfere in our internal affairs or give any advice to us. We are running our administration as per the principles of Islam and Shariah. He said that the negative picture being presented in Western countries about Afghanistan's financial crisis is a part of their propaganda.

## IMF grants 3 billion USD loan to Pakistan



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 1) reports that an agreement has been reached between Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a stand-by arrangement for 3 billion US dollars. The official spokesperson of IMF has confirmed this agreement. From this, the threat of Pakistan being declared a bankrupt country got deferred for the time being. Due to this agreement, Pakistan's economy will improve and it will get an opportunity to come out of the financial crisis.

**Siasat** (July 3) reports that after receiving this loan, Pakistan has become the fourth biggest country in the world to take loan from IMF. As per the accounts of

this institution, Pakistan was at the fifth position among the countries that took the highest loan from the IMF till March 31, 2023. Now, after getting 3 billion dollars from IMF, Pakistan has reached the fourth position. Among the countries that took the highest loan from IMF, Argentina is in the first position, which has taken a loan of 46 billion dollars. On the second position is Egypt, which has taken a loan of 18 billion dollars. On the third position is Ukraine, which has taken a loan of 12.2 billion dollars. Before Pakistan, on the fourth position was Ecuador, which had taken a loan of 8.2 billion dollars. Now Ecuador has come to the fifth position. Earlier, Pakistan was in the fifth position, which had taken 7.4 billion USD loan. Now, after taking 3 billion dollars more of loan, Pakistan has got a total loan of 10.4 billion from this institution. As per the statistics of IMF dated March 31, 2023, the IMF had extended a loan of 155 billion dollars till date to extend help to the weak

economies of different nations. Even among Asian nations, Pakistan has the highest loan. The other nations which had taken loan from IMF include Sri Lanka, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Mongolia. But these countries are far behind Pakistan in taking the loan.

**Siasat** (July 12) reports that Pakistan's finance minister Ishaq Dar has admitted that Saudi Arabia has given a loan

of 2 billion dollars to Pakistan to help its fledgling economy. This money has been transferred to Pakistan's state bank. While expressing thanks to the rulers of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief Asim Munir, he said that Saudi Arabia has been helping Pakistan as a good brother during its times of crisis and it is a major step in this direction.

## Six killed in firing on camps of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh



**Roznama Sahara** (July 9) reports that at least six persons were killed in police firing in the clashes that erupted following the visit of the lawyers of International Criminal Court to collect evidence at the camps of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. As per a government report, a bloody clash took place between two opposite groups, Rohingya Salvation Army and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, in the refugee camps. Following this, the armed police had to open fire in which six persons were killed. Police spokesperson Farooq Ahmed said those who have been killed belonged to Rohingya Salvation Army. After this incident, the security of refugee camps has been increased. He said that the bloody clashes erupted with the

cadre of Salvation Army killing a leader of refugees.

It is to be noted that earlier also several clashes took place between the activists of these two organisations in which dozens of people were killed. Lawyer of International Criminal Court Karim A. Khan told journalists in Dhaka that the International Criminal Court has nothing to do with these killings. It is to be noted that the International Criminal Court had started a probe into the ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas in Myanmar in 2019. Currently more than 10,000 Rohingya refugees are staying in Bangladesh, who had taken refuge in Bangladesh after the military in Myanmar started a campaign against them.



## Nine killed in attack on refugee camps in Palestine



**Avadhnama** (July 5) reports that Israel launched ground and air attacks on the refugee camps in Jenin city in West Bank in a major military operation in which dozens of people were injured and nine were killed. The Palestinian government confirmed this development. The tension between Israel and Palestine increased further following the action. It is being said that this was the biggest Israeli military operation after the one on Palestinian refugees in 2002. According to Al Jazeera, this action was taken with the help of 150 vehicles of Israeli special forces and 1,000 soldiers.

During the clash, firing took place openly between Israeli Army and Palestinian resistance organisations in which at least nine Palestinians were killed and 50 were seriously injured. The information centre of Palestine said the operation started on Sunday evening, which was retaliated to by Hamas and other Palestinian organisations. A spokesperson of Hamas said that despite such aggression, Israel will not be able to fulfil its aim. The Hamas spokesperson said that the Israel's fascist and extremist government is responsible for this attack. Jenin has proved many times in history that it cannot be

destroyed and has the ability to take on the enemy. The Palestinian people will continue their fight till they get freedom.

The chief of Hamas's polit bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, said that we will fight the Israeli army. The Israeli government has claimed that it had been targeting the terrorist bases in the region and the common people were not bothered about it. Palestine Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said that Israel wanted to destroy the camps and make the people staying there homeless. Jordan and Egypt have condemned Israel's military operation and said that it was a violation of international law. A spokesperson of Jordan's foreign affairs ministry appealed to the world to intervene immediately and stop the Israeli attacks and ensure security to the people of Palestine. The foreign affairs ministry of Egypt said that if Israel continues with its operation against Palestinians, it will have to face dangerous consequences. The spokesperson appealed to the United Nations that it should intervene immediately and stop the aggressive actions of Israel. In this connection, the President of Palestine convened an Emergency meeting in Ramallah where they took stock of the entire situation and



said that they were trying to provide medical aid to the injured with the help of Red Crescent Society. However, the Ambulances were unable to reach the injured due to the war between Palestinian fighters and Israeli Army.

The Deputy Governor of Jenin said the Israeli Army has been targeting not only people but also residential houses. The Israeli Army cut electricity, water and telephone in the entire city. More than 500 houses were destroyed in bombing. Jenin Brigade Organisation said it is opposing the Israeli Army. In a statement, Islamic Jihad said in Gaza that they are using all methods to retaliate to this aggression by Israel. In the past also Israeli soldiers carried out a similar attack on Jenin city on June 19 in which at least nine people were killed and 90 were injured.

**Siasat** (July 4) reports that for the past three days, Israeli military has been continuously carrying out air strikes on Jenin city and its refugee camps. In between, drones were being used to attack residential localities. A spokesperson of Israeli military told Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post that seven persons belonging to terrorist organisations were killed in the refugee camps and dozens were arrested. In this region, the Israeli Army raided dozens of houses during the massive military operation and nearly 200 people were arrested. Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas said that whatever is happening in Jenin is a war crime against unarmed Palestinians.

**Roznama Sahara** (July 6) reports that the Israeli Army has admitted that an Israeli soldier was also killed during the action being launched on the refugee camps in West Bank. This action continued for 24 hours, which could be termed as one of the biggest military actions in the past few years. The Israeli Army had returned after destroying the bases of Palestinian terrorists. The Palestinian media claimed that when the Israeli Army was vacating the region, it had clashed with the terrorists of Hamas and other terrorist organisations.

As per the information centre of Palestine, so far more than a dozen Palestinians were killed in this action. Whereas 120 were injured and an Israeli was also killed. The bulldozers and drones of the Army also took part in this campaign.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 6) states that the Israeli Army had encountered Jenin Brigade which has been camping in the refugee camp located in the middle of the city. More than 14,000 Palestinians stay in this camp. The United Nations has called an emergency meeting to discuss the Israeli military action that has been going on in the Palestinian locality of Jenin and in the refugee camps for the past two days. This meeting of the Security Council will be held behind closed doors, which will discuss the current situation in the Middle-East. The High Commissioner for United Nations Human Rights Council Volker Türk has condemned the violence being committed by Israel. He said that this was the biggest ever action by Israel Army in the past 20 years in the Israel occupied West Bank. The United Nations has directed Israel that it stops the violence in West Bank, because it would create further violence.

**Quami Tanzeem** (July 4) in its editorial said that the Israel's aggressive actions in Palestinian region have been increasing day-by-day. However, no serious effort is being made to stop it. Some people are supporting Israel. Some are condemning it in a suppressed voice. The Palestinian Prime Minister said that whatever is happening, we will take on till the end and we will not succumb to it. Secondly, Israel's foreign affairs minister said that our target is not the people of Palestine, instead the Iran-supported terrorist group. Israeli Army had to take this action in order to protect its people. He said that our war is with Iran-supported terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad which the Iran has been supporting with supply of weapons apart from financial help. Our intention is not to create damages to any citizen of the country.

## Egypt and Turkiye open embassies in each other's countries



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 6) reports that Egypt and Turkiye have established diplomatic relationship after a decade and both the countries have appointed Ambassadors in the other country. The foreign affairs ministry of both the countries claimed that our effort is to improve the relationship between both the

Islamic countries and give a new direction to the mutual relationship. Egypt has appointed Amr El-Hamami as its new Ambassador in Ankara. While Turkey has appointed Salih Mutlu Sen as its Ambassador in Cairo.

It is to be noted that the diplomatic relationship between Egypt and Turkiye ended nearly a decade ago when the then defence minister of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi deposed Turkish supporter and leader of Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) President Mohamed Morsi. That time Recep Tayyip Erdogan had said that he would not talk to anybody like Al-Sisi. In year 2014, Al-Sisi became the President of the most populated country in Arab world, namely Egypt.

## Benjamin Netanyahu adamant on amending justice system



**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 12) reports that the Israeli cabinet has approved a law that limits the powers of the Supreme Court. It is to be noted that a huge section of Israeli people is protesting against this law. The purpose of this amendment is to

end the control of judiciary over the executive. Netanyahu claims that his aim is to create a balance on the powers of Supreme Court on the Parliament. The plan for amendment in the powers of the judiciary was put forward by

Netanyahu's ruling alliance against which people in Israel have been making strong protests.

Due to the adamant stand of Netanyahu to limit the powers of judiciary, a large number of people have once again come out on the streets in Israel and protests are on for the 27<sup>th</sup> week against his plans. The opponents of Netanyahu have been protesting for one day in the evening every week since January. This has been the biggest protests in the history of Israel. Following failure of talks with the Opposition, the government has once again started an effort to get this law approved by the Parliament. In the 120 seats in Israeli Parliament, 64 have been occupied by supporters of Netanyahu. In the voting held three times to give this controversial bill ratified into a law, the government

got success in the first voting. After this, the protest marches have become more intensified.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (July 7) reports that the police chief of Tel Aviv, Ami Eshed has announced his resignation from his post. He had accused the extremely right wing government of Prime Minister Netanyahu that it has been making political intervention in his powers. The ruling front government wants to use more than required force against the protesters. However, the police chief is not in favour of it and he said the government has been exerting pressure on him. He said that he was not in favour of filling the hospitals in Tel Aviv with the bodies of the dead and the injured. This is because it would worsen the violent atmosphere rather than improving it.

## Israel announces purchase of most modern fighter planes from US



**Roznama Sahara** (July 4) reports that Israel has announced that it would purchase 25 F-35 fighter planes from the US. This fighter plane is counted among the world's most modern aircraft. In Middle-East, Israel is the only nation which has this aircraft. In order to buy the aircraft, Israel signed a three billion USD deal with the

US. After this agreement, Israel will have 75 F-35 aircraft in its kitty.

According to news agency AFP, Israel has 50 such aircraft right from the beginning.

Despatching the new aircraft to Israel will begin this year.

The price of the aircraft will be included in the military aid being extended to Israel by the US. A government statement also said the company that manufactures these fighter aircraft, Lockheed Martin, and the company that manufactures the engine have agreed to collaborate with the



companies in Israel for the manufacture of these aircraft. These US companies and the Israel's defence wing ensured that necessary parts and accessories are supplied regularly.

Israel is buying these aircraft at a time when its relations with countries like Iran has become quite tense. Israel has been using these aircraft right from the

beginning to shoot down the drones of Iran. This apart, Israel had also threatened Iran that it would target its nuclear bases using the missiles from these aircraft. Israel claims that Iran has been developing its nuclear power in order to target it and it has already manufactured many nuclear weapons. However, Iran has been continuously rejecting this claim.

## In Iran, 350 people hanged to death in six months



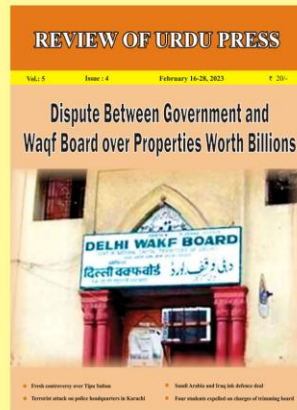
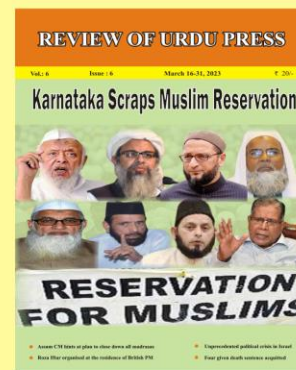
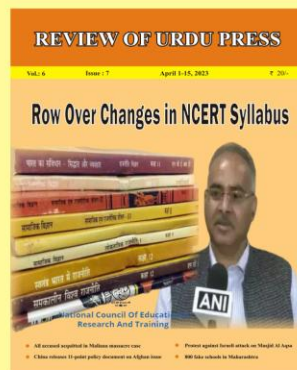
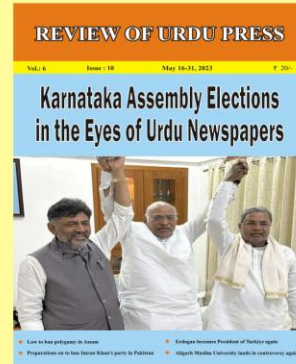
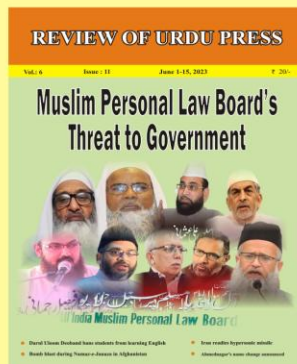
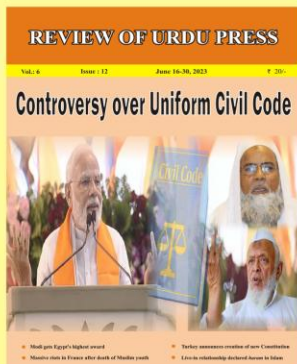
**Inqilab** (July 5) reports that at least 350 people were hanged to death in Iran in the past six months, a number when compared to previous year, is very high. Iran Human Rights Council, set up in Norway, has alleged that after the murder of Mehsa Amini in police custody in September last year, a series of protests against the government started in the country, and the government has been indiscriminately hanging innocent people in an effort to crush these protests. From January to June 30, a total of 354 people have been hanged to death. This number is 36 per cent high compared to last year's statistics. Last year, only 261 people were hanged to death during the same period.

The council said that the government harassment is targeted at non-Farsi speaking communities. Till now, 20 percent of those who have been hanged to

death belong to Sunni Baloch community. It is to be noted that Iran is ruled by the Shia sect. Those who have been sent to gallows include six women, while nearly a dozen men were publicly hanged to death in the country.

As per another news, five persons who were accused of attacking a Shia dargah in Saudi Arabia have been awarded death sentence and they were publicly beheaded in an intersection in the capital city. Those who have been awarded death sentence include Talha Hisham

Mohammad, Ahmed bin Mohammad Assiri, Nesar bin Abdullah Al-Mussa, Hamad bin Abdullah and Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman. In Saudi Arabia, generally the executioner cuts off the head of the accused using a sword at the busiest intersection of the city soon after the Juma namaz. These people were accused of carrying out an attack on the Shia imambara and five persons were killed on the spot and 10 others were injured in the attack. Following the investigation, the police got to know that the accused belonged to Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS and they were working against the interests of the nation. The decision to give them death sentence was taken by the court six months ago. However, it was not implemented till now as the justice department was yet to confirm it.



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