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Controversy over Darul Uloom Fatwa on Ghazwa-E-Hind



Darul Ifta

Darul Uloom Deoband

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Question No: 9604

Title: My question is, does the hadith mention the invasion of India (Ghazwa-e-Hind), which will take place in the subcontinent? And whoever will be martyred in it is a great martyr. And the one who will be Ghazi (warrior) will go to the heaven (will be Jananti)? Please reply.

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Answer No: 9604

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

Fatwa: 65=62/b

In the famous book Sunan al-Nasa'i of Sahaah Sita, Imam al-Nasa'i has made a permanent chapter: Ghazwa al-Hind, under which he has narrated a hadith from Hazrat Abu Hurairah (RA): The Messenger of Allah peace be upon him promised that we would invade India. If I live to see that I will sacrifice myself and my wealth. If I am killed, I will be one of the best of the martyrs, and if I come back, I will be Abu Hurayrah al-Muharrar (the one freed from the fire) (Vol: 2, p: 63), published by Mukhtar and Company, Deoband. This same invasion of India was prophesied by the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

And Allah knows best

Dar al-Ifta,

Darul Uloom Deoband

- Order to shut down Maulana Azad Education Foundation
- Murderers get public execution sentence in Afghanistan

- US veto in United Nations on resolution against Israel
- Turkiye cancels citizenship of Muslim Brotherhood leader

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

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Summary

World-renowned Islamic educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband is in the midst of a controversy nowadays due to a fatwa issued by it regarding 'Ghazwa-e-Hind.' It has been claimed in this fatwa that the *jihadis* who get killed in the war for Ghazwa-e-Hind will be counted among the martyrs and they will go to the *jannat* (heaven) instead of *dozakh* (hell).

The literal meaning of Ghazwa-e-Hind is 'religious war for Hind.' In Islam, the world is divided into two parts, 'Darul Islam' and 'Darul Harb.' The place where Muslims are in a majority and the power is in their hands, such a place is called Darul Islam. Similarly, the place where there is no Muslim rule and the majority of the population are non-Muslims, such a place is called Darul Harb.

In Shariah, Muslims are given the clear direction that they initiate and sustain the war against Kafirs so that their places can be turned into Darul Islam. The Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad had predicted of religious war (jihad) in the Hadis in order to turn Hindustan into Darul Islam. In the guise of this Hadis, some fundamentalist Muslims are misleading ordinary Muslims by saying that Prophet Mohammad had asked for a jihad to convert Hindustan from being a 'Kafiristan' to Darul Islam.

Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid in Delhi, Syed Ahmad Bukhari, has declared his son Syed Shaban Bukhari as his successor. It is to be noted that Shaban Bukhari married a Hindu girl. On this occasion, Ahmad Bukhari said that Mughal King Shahjahan had handed over the responsibility of being the first imam of the newly built Jama Masjid to one of his ancestors, Syed Abdul Ghafoor Shah Bukhari. Till now, there have been 14 Shahi Imams in this lineage.

As per Islamic Shariah, the position of the imam of a masjid cannot be a hereditary one. Not only this, no other imam of any masjid in Islamic world, except that of Jama Masjid in Delhi, is called a Shahi Imam. Even the imams of the three holy places of Islamic world, Masjid Al-Haram in Mecca, Masjid-e-Nabawi in Medina and the Al-Aqsa Masjid in Jerusalem do not have the description of a Shahi Imam.

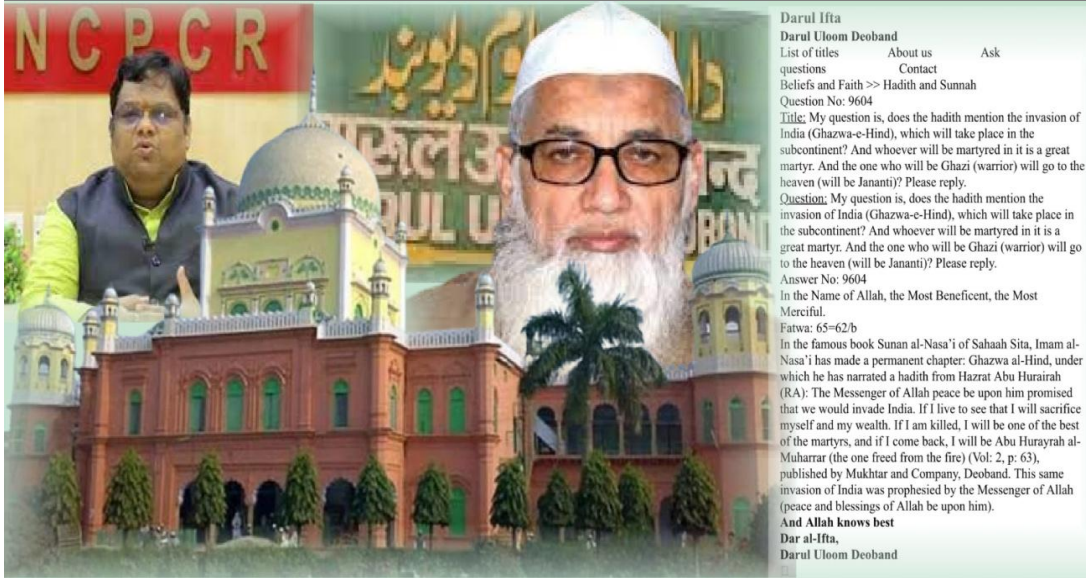
In Pakistan, nearly a month has passed after the declaration of the election results, but till now a government could not be formed there. The Pakistani Army is not willing to allow the power of the nation going into the hands of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, because the Army played an important role in overthrowing his government.

It was due to the designs of Pakistani Army that the court sentenced Imran Khan to 34 years in jail on different charges even before the elections. It was even to the extent that a ban was also imposed on his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

The Army wanted the keys of the power to remain in the hands of Mian Nawaz Sharif or Bilawal Bhutto, but the people of Pakistan foiled the intentions of the Army. The people of Pakistan elected Imran supporters who contested the election as independent candidates in huge numbers. Following this, a *Trishanku*-like situation emerged in the Pakistan's National Assembly. Similarly, Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz became the chief minister of Punjab. Whereas, the power in Sindh has gone into the hands of Pakistan People's Party. In other places, no government could be formed so far.

For the past few years, the stalemate in the relationship between Egypt and Turkiye has been resolved following the visit of Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Egypt. On behalf of Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Erdogan has started tightening the screw on the leaders of Islamic fundamentalist organisation Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) who have been living in exile in Turkiye. The Turkish citizenship of top leader of Ikhwanul Muslimeen, Mahmoud Hussain, has been cancelled and his passport has also been seized. This apart, his other colleagues are also being forced to pack their bags and leave Turkiye.

Row over Darul Uloom fatwa on Ghazwa-e-Hind



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Question No: 9604
Title: My question is, does the hadith mention the invasion of India (Ghazwa-e-Hind), which will take place in the subcontinent? And whoever will be martyred in it is a great martyr. And the one who will be Ghazi (warrior) will go to the heaven (will be Jananti)? Please reply.
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And Allah knows best
Dar al-Ifta,
Darul Uloom Deoband

Siasat (February 23) reports that the Chairman of National Child Rights Protection Commission Priyank Kanoongo said that a fatwa issued by Darul Uloom Deoband mentions Ghazwa-e-Hind and it is an objectionable fatwa. He said that the fatwa, while defending the Ghazwa-e-Hind, claims that those jihadis who are killed while attacking Hindustan will be counted among the martyrs. In this connection, Kanoongo has even written a letter to the Senior Superintendent of Police of Saharanpur. It was mentioned in this letter that an FIR shall be registered against Darul Uloom Deoband within three days, following which the district administration filed a case against Darul Uloom Deoband. Kanoongo also alleged that the Darul Uloom Deoband has violated Section 25 of Child Justice Act, 2015. He said that due to this fatwa of Deoband, a feeling of hatred against own country would be created in the minds of children.

Mumbai Urdu News (March 1) states that the working committee of Darul Uloom Deoband has passed a resolution in its three-day conference. The resolution has expressed satisfaction over the reply sent by the manager of Darul Uloom Deoband to the district administration. It has been

said in the meeting of the executive council that if the government takes any action against Darul Uloom Deoband, it will be challenged in the court. The executive council rejected the request of the district administration that it immediately stop issuing online fatwa. The working committee has directed Darul Uloom Deoband to go ahead with the tradition of issuing online fatwa.

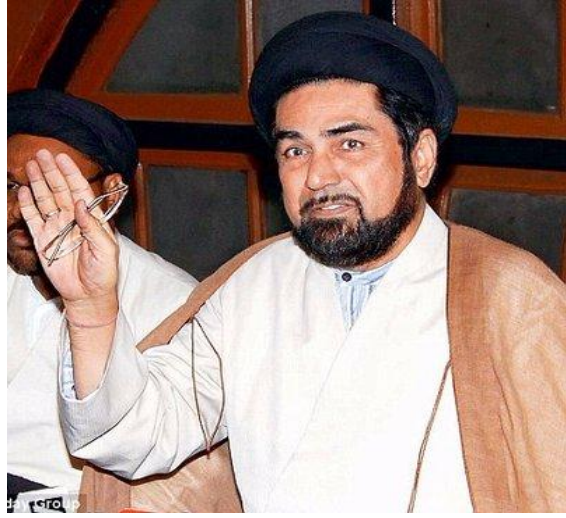
Akhbar-e-Mashriq (February 23) states that world-renowned Islamic educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband has become a focus of discussion due to a fatwa. According to the newspaper, a fatwa was issued on the website of Darul Uloom Deoband regarding Ghazwa-e-Hind, in which it has been said that the jihadis who die in the war for Ghazwa-e-Hind will become great martyrs. In this connection, the Darul Uloom Deoband has quoted a 'Sunan-an-Nasai' from Kutub al Sittah (collection of six important hadiths) where there is a chapter on Ghazwa-e-Hind. In that there is a mention of the Hadith of Hazrat Abu Hurairah, in which it has been stated that the messenger of Allah had promised to attack Bharat. He said that if he remains alive, then he will sacrifice his life and property

for it. It has also been said in the fatwa that this book was published by Mukhtar and Company in Deoband.

National Child Rights Protection Commission said that anti-India education is being given to children in Darul Uloom Madrasa. Islamic fundamentalism is getting promoted through it. The result of this is hatred towards the country. The commission said that people of the country are being misled through this fatwa. The commission had directed that after probing the website of Darul Uloom, it should be blocked. The commission has warned that if the district administration does not follow its directions, then it will be responsible for the same. District Magistrate of Sharanpur Dr Dinesh Chandra Singh said that the CEO and SDM have been directed to conduct an inquiry in this case.

It is to be noted that Darul Uloom had been at the centre of debates many times in the past due to its controversial fatwa, but this time it has given recognition to Ghazwa-e-Hind through its fatwa. In its fatwa, the Darul Uloom Madrasa said that if Islam's army launches an attack on Hindustan, then the Islamic warriors who die in this attack will be called martyrs and they will go directly to heaven. Commission chairman Priyank Kanoongo said that Darul Uloom is not just a madrasa, instead it is an institution which prepares the syllabus for lakhs of madrasas in Hindustan and Pakistan and crores of children learn Islamic education based on this syllabus. He said this fatwa is displayed on the website of Darul Uloom Deoband in Urdu. The chairman of the commission said that Darul Uloom Deoband follows the Wahabi tradition. A leader of this sect, Shah Waliullah, had invited Sultan Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan to attack Bharat. Shah Waliullah had urged Abdali that it was necessary for him to come to Bharat in order to end the rule of Kafirs and establish an Islamic rule in Bharat.

As per the website of Darul Uloom Deoband, a person had raised a question



with Darul Uloom Deoband whether the Hadis mentions about the Islamic jihadi attack on Hindustan, which is called Ghazwa-e-Hind? Whether those who take part in it are called martyrs and whether they will go to Jannat after death? In reply to this question, Darul Uloom Deoband has written that as far as the issue of Ghazwa-e-Hind is concerned, it is mentioned in a Hadis related to Hazrat Abu Huraira, in which Hazrat Mohammad had promised that we will attack Hindustan. If I am alive to see that, then I will sacrifice my life and property for the same. If I die, then I will be counted among the great martyrs and if I return after victory, I will be called a Ghazi and Abu Huraira will be saved from burning in the hell fire.

Roznama Sahara (February 26) states that while mentioning about the open discussion on Ghazwa-e-Hind, Muslim leader Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi said there are different viewpoints about Ghazwa-e-Hind. Some people say that Ghazwa-e-Hind has already taken place. Whereas, some others say that Ghazwa-e-Hind will take place when Hazrat Isa appear again. Similarly, some people opine that the Ghazwa-e-Hind had happened when Muhammad bin Qasim attacked Bharat. From the Hadis, it seems that when Hazrat Isa appear again, those who take part in the war along with him will not go to *Jahannam* after their death. This Hadis is not about the current period; it is about the



time when Hazrat Imam Mehdi will appear. In any case, how can one say that the Ghazwa-e-Hind is about the present times. The Maulana said that Hindustan is currently a major power. Which country has got the courage to open their eyes and look at Hindustan? Especially the Arab countries who are silent on the killing of the Arabs in Palestine, can they even think of having a war with Hindustan?

Roznama Sahara (February 23) states that the chief of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, while addressing the media, said there is no mention about the prophesy made by the Prophet of Allah regarding the Ghazwa-e-Hind. In our view, the Ghazwa-e-Hind had taken place in the past itself. He said we believe that Mohammad bin Qasim came to Bharat in 712 and he was in war with Sindh till 713, which was part of Ghazwa-e-Hind. He also said that those people who say that Ghazwa-e-Hind will take place in future, they say this in bad faith, which is wrong.

He admitted that Ghazwa-e-Hind is mentioned in the books of Hadis, which some mischievous elements are taking advantage of and presenting in a wrong manner and Muslims are being targeted on the pretext of it. He clarified that Ghazwa-e-Hind has not been glorified on the website of Darul Uloom Deoband. Neither any fatwa has been posted on it with regard to it. Nomani said that in reply to a question posed by a man, an original version of Hadis was posted on the website of Darul Uloom in 2009. The question of this creating any wrong influence in the minds of the students doesn't arise at all.

Despite this, the step taken through National Child Rights Protection Commission against Darul Uloom Deoband is condemnable and deplorable. Nomani said that issuing fatwa is a part of our Shariah and religion and nobody has any right to stop it. He made it clear that fatwa is not issued on its own. If any individual wants to know the opinion of Shariah from

Islamic scholars, he cannot be stopped under any situation. Darul Uloom Deoband has the Constitutional right to issue fatwa.

It is to be noted that Hafiz Faizan Abbasi had sent a question regarding Ghazwa-e-Hind to Darul Uloom Deoband in January 2009. In reply to this question, the chief of Darul Uloom Deoband, Mufti Habibur Rahman Khairabadi had copied a Hadis linked to Ghazwa-e-Hind. Now, after 15 years, a campaign has been unleashed against Darul Uloom Deoband on the pretext of it. Spokesperson of Samajwadi Party Aameeq Jamei said this is a conspiracy to give a bad name to Darul Uloom Deoband. National Child Rights Protection Commission has gone out of its ambit and has become part of a campaign to give a bad name to Darul Uloom Deoband and it is totally condemnable. He said that it is not the duty of the police to investigate what is *halal* and *haram*.

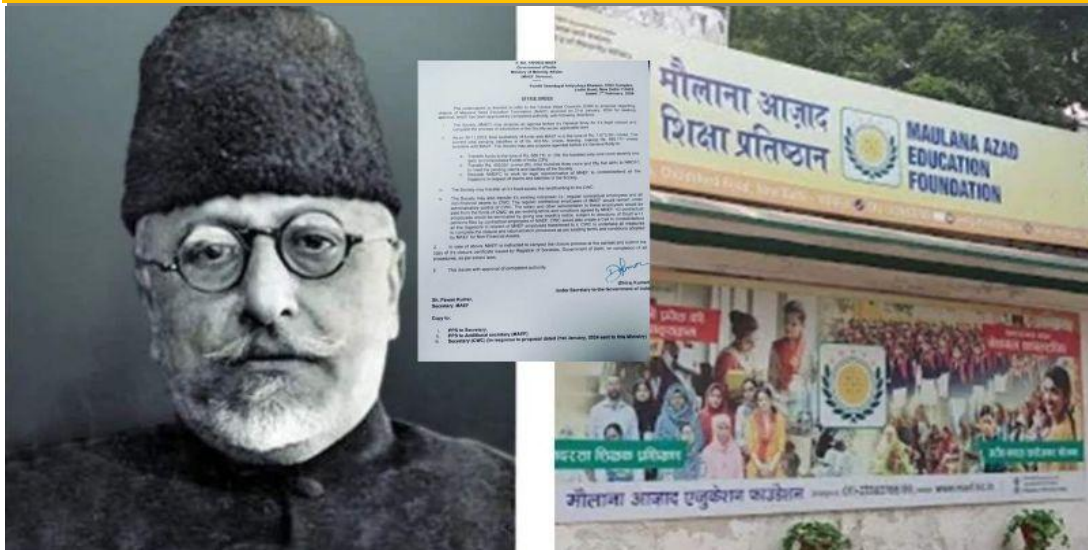
Hindustan Express (March 1) states that chairman of the Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani has clarified that the Ghazwa-e-Hind is linked to the attack on Bharat by Muhammad bin Qasim and it had happened long time ago. The aim of those people who claim that Muslims are about to attack Bharat after citing one Hadis is to create hatred against Muslims and divide Indian society.

Roznama Sahara (February 26) states that the Lok Sabha election process has started in the country. Though Prime Minister Modi has been claiming to win more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha

elections, he is nervous inside. He does not have any such achievement on the basis of which he could seek votes from the people and hence the think-tanks of Sangh Parivar have made one more move. They have now turned the barrel of their guns towards the world-renowned Islamic institution Darul Uloom Deoband. The question here is, if the National Child Rights Protection Council does not have anything to do with

this controversy, then at whose behest a campaign has been unleashed against Darul Uloom Deoband on the pretext of a 15-year-old fatwa? Earlier, an effort was made to target Darul Uloom Deoband on the pretext of the book of Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi, 'Bahishti Zewar.' When it was probed, it was found that the book has nothing to do with the syllabus of Darul Uloom Deoband.

Order to shut down Maulana Azad Education Foundation



Hamara Samaj (February 28) states that the Union Ministry for Minority Affairs has decided to shut down Maulana Azad Education Foundation which has been implementing educational programmes and scholarships for minorities. Under Secretary in minorities affairs ministry Dhiraj Kumar has issued an official direction to shut down this foundation on February 7. It is being said that the recommendation to shut down the foundation was given by Central Waqf Council, which prepares the programmes related to promotion of education for minorities. This apart, it has also been decided to dismiss the 43 employees working with this foundation.

The ministry also said that till November 30, 2023, the foundation had funds of Rs 1,073.26 crores, which

included a pending obligation of Rs 403.55 crore. Whereas the foundation had a fund of Rs 669.71 crore. It has been directed to deposit this fund with the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). It is to be noted that the chairperson of the foundation is the Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani. This foundation was registered on July 6, 1989 under Society Registration Act, 1860. Various programmes to promote education among minorities are being run through this foundation. This include Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Programme, Garib Nawaz Kaushal Vikas Prasikshan Yojana etc. On behalf of the foundation, apart from developing the resources for job opportunities for the minorities, arrangements are being made for scholarships for girls of minority communities. This apart, financial aid is

being extended to students of minority communities to take part in competitive examinations organised by various governmental institutions, through this foundation.

Former member of Maulana Azad Education Foundation Prof Akhtarul Waze, while commenting about this decision, said the decision of the government is totally condemnable. This also gives an indication of what the Modi government thinks about minorities. He said that this decision of the government is not right and this is a huge setback for the education of Muslims. He expressed hope that the government will reconsider its decision. He raised a question as to when Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about the development of the country, does the decision to deprive educational facilities to a huge population of the country an appropriate one? Now, what will happen to the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'?

Hamara Samaj (February 28) in its editorial said that an election atmosphere will prevail in the country for the next few months and the gullible people will be sold the dreams about greener pastures. At one level, the claim of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas is being made. On the other hand, the Union government has decided to shut down the Maulana Azad Education Foundation which has been constituted to uplift the minorities in the education sector. From this it is clear that the government's intention is to ensure that Muslims do not progress in the field of education and they remain backward. As far as Maulana Azad Education Foundation is concerned, the fund for it is being provided by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Due to the closing down of this foundation, all these programmes will land in trouble, under which scholarships are being provided to Muslim students and grants are being given to the educational institutions of minorities. From this it is clear that this decision of the government is against the Muslims. Despite this, the government and their *dalals* do not shy away from saying that the Modi government does not discriminate on the

basis of the religion. Whereas the truth is in front of everyone.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 29) in its editorial said that the Central government has so much allergy to the country's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad that the government institution started in his name Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been shut down. Earlier in 2022, Maulana Azad National Fellowship was also closed down. Describing this decision as appropriate, Minister for Minority Affairs Smriti Irani said that since a number of programmes are being run for minorities in the education sector, there is no need to keep the Maulana Azad National Fellowship. This apart, the pre-metric scholarship for minorities have also been stopped. This has definitely dealt a major blow to Muslim students.

However, the government has claimed that the money being allocated for this yojana has not been fully utilised. If this claim of the government is correct, its meaning is that the Muslims do not have any interest in getting the scholarship or they are deliberately keeping themselves away from this programme. If Muslims do not have any interest in it, its direct meaning is that Muslims themselves are guilty over this and if these projects are not reaching them, then the government officials are responsible for it. The truth is that the policies of this government are anti-Muslim.

The newspaper said that education is an important means of development for any community. It is only by acquiring education that Muslims will be able to get good jobs and run own businesses. Due to the policy of the government, Muslims are already the most backward in the field of business. If deprived of education, not only poverty increases, a desperate section of youths will fall into the grip of drug abuse and robbery, due to which an entire generation will be destroyed. It is to the extent that the Modi government has not even spared the universities of Muslims. The Modi government has made huge



sector are being closed down by the Modi government due to its anti-Muslim policies. After the report of the Sachar Committee, the UPA government had formed the Minorities Ministry and several institutions associated with it for the uplift of minorities, especially Muslims. The Manmohan Singh government wanted Muslims to be brought out from the

reduction in the grants being given to Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Milia Islamia. Now the effort of the government is to end the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Milia Islamia. It looks like the doors of education are being closed for minorities, especially Muslims. Now it has become necessary that the Muslim leadership needs to wake up and take some concrete efforts for the development of the community in the education sector.

Inqilab (February 29) has expressed surprise that though the Central government had decided to shut down Maulana Azad Education Foundation on February 7 itself, the media kept the news under wraps for 20 days. This feeling has been there for a long time that the institutions set up by the UPA government for the uplift of Muslims in education

mire of backwardness but the agenda of the present government is just the opposite. Efforts are being made to close down those institutions one by one, which are related to the welfare and uplift of minorities. The decision to shut down Maulana Azad Education Foundation is a step in that efforts. This decision was taken by the government which tries to rob the public while giving the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.' It is to be noted that Maulana Azad Education Foundation was established in 1988 on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. When the minorities affairs ministry was set up, this institution was handed over to it. It cannot be denied that due to the closure of this foundation, the future of thousands of Muslim students has become bleak.

Successor of Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid in Delhi announced

Inqilab (February 26) states that the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid in Delhi, Maulana Syed Ahmad Bukhari has declared his son and the current Naib Shahi Imam Maulana Syed Usama Shaban Bukhari as his successor at a ceremony. On this occasion, the Dastar-e-Imamat (headgear of imam) was tied on the head of Shaban Bukhari. Ahmad Bukhari said that this tradition has been going on for more than 400 years. Every imam announces his son as his successor during his life time and I am following this tradition.

This ceremony of Dastarbandi was organised under the chairmanship of the manager of Darul Uloom Deoband (Waqf) Maulana Mohammad Sufiyan Qasmi. On this occasion, the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, Amir of Jamiat Ahle Hadis Maulana Asghar Ali Imam Mahdi Salafi, Deputy Manager of Darul Uloom Nadwa, Maulana Syed Zafar Masoon Hasani Nadwi, Maulana Riaz Ahmad of Tablighi Jamaat, Islamic scholar Dr Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad, Maulana Fazlur



Rahman Qasmi of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Mufti Mannan Raza of Jamia Ashrafiya and the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to India Abdunasser Alshaali were among those present. The Dastarbandi of Shaban Bukhari was also done on behalf of the brothers of Syed Ahmad Bukhari, Syed Yahya Bukhari and Syed Tariq Bukhari. On this occasion, it has also been declared that the son of Syed Shaban Bukhari, Syed Areeb Bukhari will become the Naib Shahi Imam.

Shaban Bukhari said he will protect the honour and sanctity of Jama Masjid under any circumstance and will maintain the ancestral tradition. It is to be noted that in future if due to any reason, the current Shahi Imam Ahmad Bukhari faces any difficulty in discharging his duty, then Shaban Bukhari will function as the 14th Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid. On this occasion, Shahi Imam Ahmad Bukhari, while shedding light on the lineage of the Shahi Imams, said that when Mughal Emperor Shahjahan constructed this masjid, he had sent a message to the ruler of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) that he sent an Islamic scholar to Bharat, who will take over as the Shahi Imam of the newly built Jama Masjid. The ruler of Bukhara sent his son-in-law Hazrat Syed Abdul Ghafoor Shah Bukhari to Bharat to function as the imam of the Jama Masjid in Delhi. That time, his age was 63. As per the wishes of the Mughal Emperor, since then till now the imamat of the Jama Masjid is through his lineage.

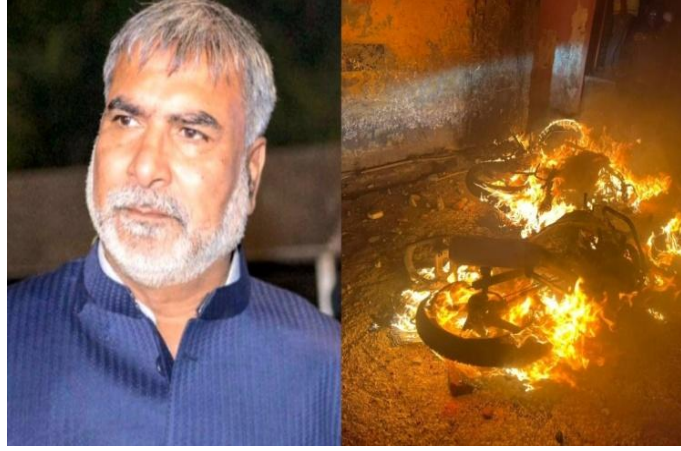
Comment: The successor of the Imamat of Jama Masjid in Delhi, 29-year-old Usama Shaban Bukhari, was born in

Delhi on March 11, 1995. He has an MA degree from Amity University. This apart, he has got an Alimiyat and Fazilat degree in Islamic religious studies. He has got basic education in Islam from Madrasa Jamia Arabia Shasmul Uloom in Delhi. Shaban was declared as the Naib Imam of Jama Masjid in 2014. On November 13, 2015, Shaban Bukhari married a Hindu girl from Ghaziabad. Due to pressure from the family of the Shahi Imam, this Hindu girl converted to Islam before the nikah. After this, Shaban's wife has been named as Shazia. They have two children.

Shaban's grandfather Syed Abdullah Bukhari had an old association with controversies. During Emergency period, he had opposed forced sterilisation and described it as against Shariah and Islam. When Indira Gandhi announced fresh elections in the country, Abdullah Bukhari issued a fatwa and appealed to Muslims that they support Janata Party. However, he always had a conflict with former Prime Minister Morarji Desai. Later he used to issue fatwa in favour of different political parties from time to time. In Islamic world, the Delhi Jama Masjid may be the only one such masjid, where the imamat belongs to just one family for the past 500 years. As per the rules of Islam, limiting the post of Imam to one family is against Islam and Shariah. As per Shariah, any individual could function as imam during the namaz and one single person cannot be kept permanently on the post of the imam. Not only this, in the entire world, the Jama Masjid in Delhi is the only one such masjid whose imam calls himself as the Shahi imam.

Mastermind of Haldwani riots Abdul Malik arrested

Inquilab (February 25) reports that the police have arrested the mastermind of Banphoolpura riots in Haldwani, Abdul Malik, from Delhi. It is to be noted that riots erupted in Haldwani following the demolition of a masjid and a madrasa. Huge Muslim crowds attacked police and the employees who went to raze the masjid. Following this, at least six persons were killed in police firing during retaliatory action. After this incident, Abdul



Malik has fled from the area. The lawyers of Abdul Malik filed an anticipatory bail petition before the sessions court in Haldwani. They claimed that on the day of the incident, Abdul Malik was not present in Haldwani. The lawyers of Abdul Malik had mentioned the address of his house located in Delhi in this petition. After this, the Uttarakhand police came to Delhi and arrested him. Now he is being interrogated. Apart from Abdul Malik, his wife Safia Malik was also arrested on charges of creating fake documents and producing them in the court. The Haldwani police have so far arrested 90 persons in connection with the riots.

Hindustan Express (February 22) states that in connection with the riots, the Haldwani police have arrested six other persons as well. Haldwani SSP P L Meena told reporters that various teams of police are continuously searching for the rioters and in this connection, CCTV footage are also being examined. Illegal weapons, petrol bomb and the cartridge looted from the jawans of PAC were also seized from the possession of the rioters.

Inquilab (February 19) states that 43 retired officials who had served in important positions in the government of India in the past have written a letter expressing strong resentment on the Haldwani incident. They alleged that the administration is not functioning in an

objective manner and Muslims are being deliberately targeted. The police are booking innocent people in fake cases and are harassing women and children on the pretext of searching for the accused. Protests are taken out in different places in Uttarakhand at the behest of the government during which demands have been made that those Muslims who have come from other parts of the country and settled in Uttarakhand should be evicted from there and the Rohingya infiltrators shall also be expelled from the state. Due to these protests, tension has arisen in the society. He alleged that administrative machinery has been utilised for political purposes so that votes could be polarised in the forthcoming elections. Tired of police harassment, Muslims are packing their bags from different places and taking refuge in other places in the country. In this letter, it has also been demanded that a judicial inquiry shall be conducted into the riots as there is no possibility of getting justice on the decision taken to conduct the magisterial inquiry.

Hamara Samaj (March 1) states that the police arrested the son of the mastermind of Haldwani riots Abdul Malik and an accused in the Banphoolpura riots Abdul Moied from Delhi. This man has been absconding from February 8 and the police teams were searching for him in different parts of the country.

Setback to Muslim side in Gyanvapi case



Urdu Times (February 27) states that the Allahabad High Court has delivered its verdict in the Gyanvapi case. The court, while rejecting the petition of the Muslim side, directed that the puja being held at Vyas tekhana shall be continued. Earlier, the Varanasi district court had delivered its verdict in favour of the Hindu side. The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had filed an appeal in the Allahabad High Court. In this petition of the Muslim side, a demand has been made to stop the puja in the Gyanvapi tekhana. The Muslim side said the Varanasi court had appointed the district magistrate as the Receiver and he was a member of the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Trust from the beginning and hence he should not have been appointed as the Receiver. The Muslim side also said that the documents do not mention about any tekhana. This tekhana was opened after the survey of Gyanvapi masjid. Shailendra Kumar Pathak had filed a case in this matter. The district judge had given the rights to do puja at the Gyanvapi tekhana to the Hindu side on January 31. Following this, the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Trust started puja-archana in the tekhana. Earlier, the Hindu side claimed that puja used to be held in the tekhana before November 1993. Later the administration

stopped it and hence permission should be given to continue the puja.

Avadhnama (February 28) states that the Muslim side has questioned the verdict of the Allahabad High Court in the Gyanvapi issue before the Supreme Court. On December 19, 2023, the Allahabad High Court, while delivering the verdict in favour of the petition filed by Hindu side seeking the custody of Gyanvapi, had rejected all the petitions filed by the Muslim side. As per the petition filed before the Supreme Court, this decision of the high court is an interference in the Places of Worship Act, 1991. This should be stopped immediately. In its verdict, the high court said the law does not clarify the religious role and hence the court is free to decide at its own discretion.

While questioning this judgment of the Allahabad High Court in the Supreme Court, the Muslim side said in its petition that these kind of questions cannot form the basis of a case and these should be decided on the basis of evidence. It was totally wrong on the part of the high court that that the law of 1991 does not stop from deciding on the religious position. The masjid committee's contention was that since the tekhana is a part of the masjid premises, Muslims have a right over it. The

Vyas family or any other person has no right to do puja-archana in the tehkhana. In its verdict, the high court said that the puja-archana will continue in the Gyanvapi tehkhana and there is no basis for stopping it.

Roznama Sahara (February 29) reports that the Hindu side filed a petition in the court of the district judge and urged that the entry of any person on the roof portion of south tehkhana (Vyasji tehkhana) should be stopped and no permission shall be given to offer namaz there. The Hindu side claimed that this 500-year-old roof is very weak. If permission is given to offer namaz there, then the roof will collapse. This petition was filed on behalf of the Hindu side by Dr Ram Prasad Singh. Along with this, the Hindu side also filed a caveat petition before the Supreme Court in which it has been stated that in case the Supreme Court hears the petition of the Muslim side, then it should also hear the Hindu side.

Roznama Sahara (March 1) said that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has made Dr Ajay Krishna Vishwesh, the judge who handed over the tehkhana of Gyanvapi to Hindus on the last day of his retirement, as the Lokpal of a University. This is a government university and its chairperson is the chief minister of state, Yogi Adityanath. The order appointing Vishwesh as the Lokpal was issued on February 28. He has been appointed for a period of three years. Similarly, retired district judge Surendra Kumar Yadav, who had acquitted all the accused in the Babri structure demolition case, was appointed as the Up Lokayukt of Uttar Pradesh by the same Yogi Adityanath government.

As per another news published in the same newspaper, the civil court has delivered an important verdict on the controversy over the Laxman Teela located in Uttar Pradesh capital. This decision has been considered as a severe jolt to the Muslim side. The revision petition filed by the Muslim side in the court on the dispute



over the Teele Wali Masjid has been rejected by the court. The court said that petition filed by the Hindu side is eligible for hearing. In this petition, it has been claimed that the Teele Wali Masjid in Lucknow was built after demolishing an ancient Hindu mandir. This temple was destroyed on the directions of Aurangzeb. Along with this, it has also been alleged that the Muslim side is destroying the Seshnag mandir located inside the masjid. The Hindu side has demanded that a direction shall be given to conduct a survey of the masjid so that the situation becomes clear.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 18) has alleged that as soon as the election bugle has been sounded, the BJP started spreading the poison of hatred in the society in the name of religion. In order to play Hindutva card, everything is being done, from using the dispute over the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid to awarding Lal Krishna Advani with Bharat Ratna, who had poured fuel to the fire in the riots in the country. This apart, he has also been presented as a true hero of the country. Now, the Gyanvapi dispute has been raked up in Varanasi and by reviving the Srikrishna Janmabhumi dispute in Mathura, a demand is being made to remove the Shahi Idgah located there. However, there is a law in this country which has been passed by the Parliament. This law has prescribed that whatever was the position of a place of worship as on 1947, it shall be maintained as such.

Murderers publicly executed in Afghanistan



Hindustan Express (February 24) states that the ruling Taliban government in Afghanistan has expedited the process of awarding punishment to accused persons under the Shariah law. Recently, two murderers were sentenced to death by shooting in front of thousands of onlookers at a football stadium in Ghazni. It is to be noted that during the first term of Taliban (1996 – 2001), the Shariah law was strictly enforced and apart from giving death sentence to the accused in public, they were also given public lashes.

As per the news, the two accused of murder were publicly sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Afghanistan and this was confirmed by the supreme leader of Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada. He had issued the order for the public execution of the two accused. Later, a top official of the Supreme Court, Atiqullah Darwish, read aloud the *firman* of the supreme leader of Taliban in front of nearly 7,000 people who were present there, which stated that the two accused have been awarded death sentence by the court on charges of murder. Now, I confirm public death penalty to them as per Shariah. The family members of those who were killed by the accused were also present on the spot to witness the

execution. On the occasion, though the Qazi asked the family members of the victims whether they wanted to pardon the accused, they refused to pardon them.

It is to be noted that as per Islamic Shariah, the relatives of a victim are allowed to take blood money from the accused or just pardon them. Before being sentenced to death by shooting, the Qazi asked the relatives of the victims whether they wanted to carry out the punishment with their own hands? When they declined the proposal, they were handed over to a military squad. Following this, two soldiers shot at the two accused and carried out the death sentence. According to the newspaper, the accused who have been given the death sentence have been identified as Syed Jamal and Gul Khan. Both the accused had knifed to death two persons in January 2022. The United Nations has been requesting the Taliban time and again that Shariah law should not be implemented in Afghanistan as it is a barbaric law. However, the Taliban government had always rejected these directions of the United Nations. Spokesperson of Afghanistan government Zabiullah Mujahid said the Taliban government is a staunch Islamic



government and it is its religious duty to implement the Shariah law as per Quran and the Hadis. He said the United Nations has no right to interfere in our religious matters.

Zabiullah Mujahid said that after coming to power in 2022, the supreme leader of Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada had announced the implementation of Shariah law in Afghanistan. He said that in Islamic Shariah, there is the provision for eye-for-eye and head-for-head justice. He said the Islamic law or Shariah is an excellent way of living for Muslims across the world. In Shariah, there is provision for death sentence to those accused of murder and rape. Whereas, those accused of theft, drinking liquor and burglary are given public lashing. Earlier in June 2023, in Laghman province in Afghanistan, a man accused of murder was given death sentence in front of masjid after the juma namaz. The United Nations Mission in Afghanistan has condemned the public execution and demanded the government there that it impose a ban on it.

Avadhnama (February 27) states that 84-year-old Herbert Fritz, who has been incarcerated in Afghanistan, was arrested by the Taliban government there during his visit to the country last year. The Chancellor of Austria had sought the help of the Emir of Qatar for the release of Fritz. According to official sources, the Afghan government had sent Fritz to Qatar capital Doha after his release and he was brought to Austria from there. Fritz is the founder of right wing party National Democratic Party. He was arrested on charges of spying during his visit to Afghanistan in May

2023. The foreign ministry of Qatar, while expressing gratitude to Afghanistan government, said that on an appeal of the Emir of Qatar, the government there took the decision to release the foreign citizen.

It is to be noted that after the expulsion of US soldiers from Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban had captured power in Afghanistan, but so far no foreign government has granted them recognition. However, the Qatar in 2019 had granted permission to Taliban to open its office in Doha. Following this, many countries including the US had accused the Qatar government that it is promoting terrorism. Recently, the Taliban government had put up some conditions to attend a meeting called by the United Nations in Qatar to discuss about the issue in Afghanistan. The first condition was that other than Afghanistan, no other side shall be given invitation for the meeting and Afghan representatives shall be given invitation to attend the meeting under the United Nations prescribed protocol. The United Nations had refused to accept this condition of the Taliban government and said that accepting these conditions mean that the United Nations had given official recognition to the Taliban government, for which we are not ready now. Commenting on the boycott of the meeting organised by the United Nations in Qatar by the Taliban, Pakistan has described it as a diplomatic mistake by the Taliban government. It is to be noted that the Taliban government did not take part in this meeting in Doha, but many representatives from its opponent groups took part in this meeting.

Urdu Times (February 24) states that the United Nations has welcomed the announcement of the Afghanistan government to give admission to girl students in medical colleges. It is to be noted that the Afghanistan government had announced that from next year girl students could take admission in colleges for medical education.

Imran Khan, wife found guilty in 190-million pound corruption case



Siasat (February 28) states that a court in Pakistan has found former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi guilty in the 190-million pound corruption case. Judge of a court in Islamabad, Nasir Javed Rana conducted the hearing in the case at Adyala jail. Imran and his wife are lodged in this jail. The government lawyer had demanded in the court that Imran and his wife should be punished, which the lawyers of Imran Khan had opposed. The judge told Imran Khan that charges have been framed against you. Now you tell whether you are guilty or not? On this, Imran Khan said that what should I do by reading the chargesheet? I know what is being written there and what verdict you

will be delivering. After this, the judge read out the chargesheet.

On this, Imran Khan and his wife said they have been trapped in fake cases. The lawyers of Imran Khan demanded in the court that they shall be handed over a copy of the chargesheet filed against the two accused by the anti-corruption wing. The judge rejected their request and said you were given enough time earlier and it is not possible to give more time now. Imran Khan said we do not want to delay the case further. The anti-corruption wing was keen to speedily conduct the hearing in the case before February 8 and now after the declaration of the election results we are also in favour of an early verdict in this case.

The lawyer of Imran Khan said that among the documents presented by the anti-corruption wing in this case, 50 documents were not readable. We want their clear copies, because we want the verdict to come early. The lawyer said that it is a surprising thing that we were not even given those documents on the basis of which the court had declared Imran Khan guilty. ■

Canadian youth accused of murder of Muslim family get life-term

Mumbai Urdu News (February 23) states that French news agency AFP has claimed that for the first time in the history of Canada, a court has delivered a judgment in a case on the basis of anti-racism law. The court has found guilty a white supremacist Nathaniel Veltman for the murder of four members of a family. In this attack, Pakistan origin 46-year-old Salman Afzaal, his wife Madiha Salman, daughter Yumna and his 74-year-old mother Talat Afzaal were killed. In this attack, his nine-year-old son was also injured. Accused Veltman admitted in the court that he had

deliberately crushed this Muslim family under his pick-up truck. During the hearing of the case, the lawyer of the accused argued that the intention of the accused was not to murder the Muslim family, but was only to scare them. The lawyer also claimed that the accused was drunk at the time of the incident and was mentally disturbed.

Judge of court in Ontario, Renee Pomerance, while awarding life-term to the accused, said that the accused had made a plan for the attack many years ago and it is a result of Islamophobia. The accused



wanted to ensure that more and more Muslims are killed. The judge said the accused has given a statement to the police that he wanted to give the message that Muslims will not be tolerated in Canada and the other citizens of Canada shall also be persuaded into forcing Muslims to leave Canada by threatening them about mass murder. Adopting a soft stand on such persons will be a threat to the culture and security of Canada. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that Canada is a country where people belonging to different faiths and culture live and the Canadian Constitution provides them equal rights. He had said that under no circumstance a mad man could be given permission to run a hate campaign against any particular religion.

Hindustan Express (February 24) states that the court has described this incident as a case of terrorism and said that it is very much necessary to give stringent punishment to such extremists for the security of the citizens of Canada. During the case, the police officials in their statement said that the investigation of the case has confirmed that the accused strongly hates Muslims and Islam and he decided to publically kill this Muslim family under a well-planned conspiracy. After the verdict of the court, Salman Afzaal's mother-in-law Tabinda Bukhari said that on this I could just say that our entire family has been killed and it is not possible to compensate them but I welcome the sentence awarded to the fanatic by the court of law.

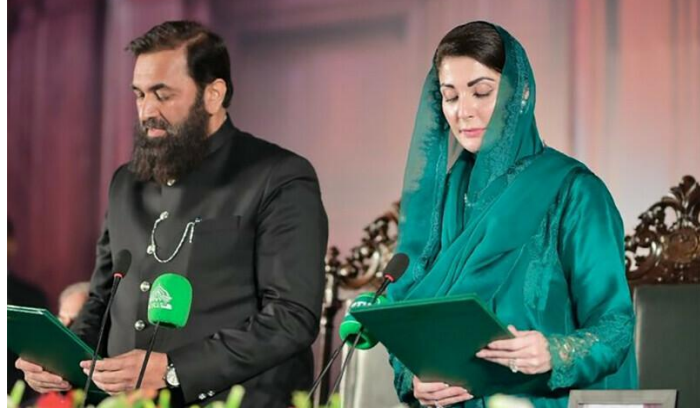
Three-and-a-half years in jail as punishment for burning Quran in Chechnya

Urdu Times (February 28) states that a court in Chechnya's capital Grozny has awarded a jail term of three-and-a-half years to a Russian citizen. He has been accused of burning Quran. Twenty-year-old Nikita Juravel was arrested on charges of burning Quran in May 2023. This youth has burnt Quran publicly outside a mosque. It is to be noted that the Muslim population in Chechnya region in Russian is more than 75 percent. Russian supported leader

Ramzan Kadyrov presents himself before the people as protector of Islam. He urged the Russian government that stringent action should be taken against those who rake up anti-Islam sentiments. Following this, a case was registered against Nikita Juravel in a court in Chechnya. It is to be noted that the Russian government had formulated this law in 2013 and for the first time a hearing in a case took place under this law.

Maryam Nawaz elected first woman chief minister of Punjab

Sahafat (February 27) states that the leader the alliance formed under the leadership of Muslim League (Nawaz), Maryam Nawaz, has been elected as the chief minister of Punjab. This was the first time in the history of Pakistan that any woman is taking over as the chief of minister of any province. After counting of votes, the chairman of Punjab Assembly has announced the



selection of Maryam as the chief minister. In the 371-member Punjab Assembly, Maryam Nawaz got 220 seats. The Opposition has boycotted the election of the chief minister. Due to this reason, the candidate for the post of the chief minister Aftab Ahmad Khan did not get even a single vote. Maryam Nawaz took over after taking oath as the chief minister.

It is to be noted that Muslim League (Nawaz) had announced Maryam Nawaz and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supported Sunni Ittehad Council had announced Rana Aftab Ahmad Khan as candidates for the post of the chief minister of Punjab. Earlier, two independent legislators Sardar Khizer Hussain Khan Mazari and Tahir Qaisrani, after declaring to join Muslim League (Nawaz), took their oath of office. On this, Rana Aftab raised objections. He wanted to raise a point of order, but the Speaker did not give permission for the same. Rana Aftab said that today's Assembly session has been called only for the election of the chief minister and the swearing in of the two legislators is not included in the agenda. Despite this, how come the Speaker sworn-in him? After this, over not getting permission to speak in the Assembly, the legislator of Sunni Ittehad Council walked out of the house. Maryam Nawaz appealed to the Opposition that they take part in the working of the House. She sent six leaders of Muslim League (Nawaz)

to pacify the legislators of the Opposition. She urged the Speaker that he give permission for the Opposition to speak. It is another thing that we may lose or win, but it is necessary for them to take part in the elections.

Newly elected chief minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz said that my mind and the doors of our office are always open for the opposition. Had the Opposition members been here, and make noise, I would be happy. She said that she would also be the chief minister and the daughter of those who did not vote for her. I am not just the chief minister of Muslim League (Nawaz), instead the chief minister of the entire Punjab.

Maryam Nawaz is the daughter of the former prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif. She was born in Lahore on October 28, 1973. She has taken an MA Degree in English Literature from Punjab University. Commenting on the election of Maryam Nawaz as the chief minister of Punjab, spokesperson of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said that today a fake chief minister has been elected in Punjab. Those people who won elections through fraud, today they are electing a fake chief minister. This family has looted Punjab and Pakistan for decades using both hands and they had created assets worth billions of rupees in foreign lands. Now they have once again come to power in order to loot Punjab.

US veto on resolution against Israel in United Nations



Roznama Sahara (February 22) reports that the United States has vetoed for the third time a resolution tabled in the United Nations Security Council seeking ceasefire and stopping of Israeli offensive in Gaza. Following this, the US is being criticised in every possible way. According to French news agency AFP, before voting on the resolution, the US had presented the draft of an alternative proposal in order to resolve the dispute. In this resolution, there is no mention of immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Algeria has been working on a proposal for the past three weeks which has been tabled in the United Nations Security Council seeking an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. In this resolution, it has been demanded that a ceasefire shall be declared in Gaza on humanitarian basis and all the sides shall honour the same.

Palestine representative in United Nations Riyad Mansour, while criticising the veto of the US, said this action of the US is extremely dangerous and irresponsible. On the contrary, the US representative in the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, has described the resolution of Algeria as irresponsible.

Citing the people who have been taken hostage by Hamas, she said that we do not want to jeopardise the process of negotiations. She said that we had proposed that in exchange for the offer of temporary ceasefire, all the Israelis taken hostage shall be released, but it was not accepted. It is to be noted that earlier also the US had vetoed two times the proposal presented in the United Nations Security Council for a ceasefire in Gaza. The US decision to veto the proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza was criticised by US allies France, Slovenia and Malta apart from China and Russia. Slovenian representative Samuel Zbogar said we had voted in favour of this resolution so that the genocide of the citizens stop in Gaza. The French representative said that seeing the genocide in Gaza and the difficulties being faced by the people there, it is necessary that the actions of Israel should necessarily stop. The representative of Algeria said we want to give a message to the Palestinians through this resolution, but unfortunately, the United Nations Security Council has failed once again. This resolution has been presented at a time when more than 29,000



people have been killed so far in Gaza in Israeli bombing. Majority among them are women and children. Now, the Israeli Army is making preparations to enter Rafah city located in south Gaza Strip. Scared of Israeli bombing, more than 14 lakh Palestinians have taken refuge in Rafah.

Palestine news agency 'Wafa' said the Palestinian administration has condemned the US for the third time over a resolution presented for ceasefire in Gaza. The agency said that it is surprising that the US is creating hurdles on the path to stop the Israeli genocide of Palestinian people. The manner in which the US has foiled the announcement of ceasefire in Gaza is equivalent to the Israel's continued aggression on the people of Gaza Strip and waving green flag to the proposed bloody attack on Rafah. The US policy has become a threat to the peace in the world. Hamas said it is clear from this that the US is openly supporting the aggressive intentions of Israel. It is to be noted that Britain abstained during the voting in United Nations Security Council. Whereas 13 other nations voted in favour of the resolution seeking ceasefire. The US had earlier also on October 18 and December 8 vetoed the resolution in United Nations Security Council regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Urdu Times (February 27) states that the international court of justice has directed Israel that it stops its action in Gaza, but despite that Israel has stepped up

its attack on Gaza. This apart, it has threatened to send the Army to Rafah, a city located near the southern border of Egypt, where lakhs of citizens from Gaza had taken refuge after getting scared of Israeli bombing. UNRWA spokesperson Jonathan Fuller told Al Arabia that Israeli

protestors are stopping the relief trucks to Gaza at Ashdod port and this border was also closed two times. Due to this, there is a starvation-like situation in Gaza. Observers expected that after the decision of the international court, the Israeli attack on Gaza would reduce but it looks like that it had no effect on Israel and instead the attacks have become more intense. Pressure has been exerted on US that it stops supplying weapons to Israel.

Mumbai Urdu News (February 18) states that pressure has been exerted on Israel from US, Britain and France that it does not implement the plan to carry out attack on Rafah, but Israel is not ready for it and it has presented its plan to attack Rafah before its War Council. Israel's foreign minister said it is necessary to carry out military operation in Rafah. We cannot spare Hamas there. He said that if our diplomatic efforts fail to impose restrictions on the activities of Hezbollah in Lebanon, then we have to step up military operation there. Spokesperson of Egypt's foreign ministry said that 15 lakh Palestinians have taken refuge in Rafah city located on Egypt's border. They are desperate, hungry and scared. Hence, Israel has to refrain from carrying out attacks in this region.

Roznama Sahara (February 23) states that Saudi Arabia and Egypt have expressed concern over the possible attack on Rafah by Israel. They urged nations across the world to put pressure on Israel so that it refrain from aggressive actions. ■

Turkiye cancels citizenship of Muslim Brotherhood leader

Inqilab (February 20) states that after the visit of Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Egypt, there has been a sudden change in the liberal policy adopted by Turkiye towards Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood). The Turkish government cancelled the citizenship of Ikhwanul Muslimeen leader Mahmoud Hussain who stays in Istanbul. This apart, his passport has also been cancelled. The Turkish government has informed Mahmoud Hussain about its decision. However, the Turkish government did not any cite reason for its decision. Through a lawyer, Mahmoud Hussain sought information from the Turkish government on what basis his citizenship had been cancelled? This apart, he has also stepped up efforts to take refuge in some other country following expulsion from Turkiye. It is being said that he is in touch with many European nations apart from many Muslim nations in this connection. Mahmoud Hussain also sold off his flat located in Istanbul. It is being said that the other leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen who stay in Turkiye are also very much worried about their future and they are making efforts to take refuge in some other countries.

It is to be noted that the current President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has had a bitter relationship with extremist Islamic organisation Ikhwanul Muslimeen. In 2011, the Arab Spring agitation started in Egypt as well. Due to this agitation, the people of Egypt at the behest of foreign powers had stepped up a series of nationwide mass protests against the then President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak. It is being said that the hands of Ikhwanul Muslimeen were behind these protests. Seeing the public anger, Hosni Mubarak



had to resign from his post and the country's administration was taken over by the Supreme Council of the Army. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was also a senior member of this council. El-Sisi is considered as a fundamentalist Muslim. Due to this reason, the Army made El-Sisi as the medium to elicit the cooperation of Ikhwanul Muslimeen. In this way, the Army wanted to strengthen its control on the country. In June 2012, an important leader of Ikhwanul Muslimeen Muhammad Mursi became the President of Egypt. Mursi made El-Sisi as the Army chief and the country's defence minister.

Later differences between the Army and Ikhwanul Muslimeen started surfacing. At the behest of Army, mass protests against Ikhwanul Muslimeen started growing in the country. Due to pressure from the Army, Mursi had to resign from his post and the Army chief Abdel Fattah El-Sisi took over the reins of the power. Later, the Army banned Ikhwanul Muslimeen and thousands of activists belonging to it were lodged in jails. Massive protests took place against it in the country, which the Army crushed with an iron hand.

It is being said that hundreds of workers of Ikhwanul Muslimeen were killed during these protests and many leaders of this organisation had to flee

Egypt and take refuge in foreign countries. Later the Army organised elections in the country in which El-Sisi got 57 percent votes. El-Sisi got such a huge victory because he had banned opposition parties from contesting the elections. After this, El-Sisi had declared anti-government

protests across the country as illegal. In the elections that took place in Egypt recently, El-Sisi got 89 percent votes. It is being said that due to pressure from El-Sisi, the President of Turkiye has started taking action against the leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen.

30 people killed in attack by Islamic terrorists in Burkina Faso



Sahafat (February 28) states that Islamic terrorists attacked a masjid and a Catholic Church in African nation Burkina Faso in which there was information about the death of 30 people. According to the newspaper, at least 14 namazis died on the spot in an attack on a masjid in the eastern region of Burkina Faso. Whereas, more than two dozen people were injured. It is being said that four armed attackers came on a motorcycle on Sunday and opened indiscriminate fire on the namazis. After playing Holi with blood, they fled from the spot. As per another news, an attack took place on a Catholic church on the same day in Burkina Faso. This attack happened at a

time when the people gathered at the church for prayers. Fifteen people were killed and 23 were injured in this attack. An official belonging to the church said the hands of Islamic terrorist organisation Al Shabab were behind this attack. He said that in the past one year, this terrorist organisation has

attacked at least a dozen churches and killed nearly 200 Christians.

According to informed sources, the namazis who were killed in the masjids belonged to the Shia sect. In the past also, the terrorists belonging to Al-Shabab had three times targeted at least four masjids in which many dozen people were killed. It is to be noted that Al Shabab is said to be linked to Sunni terrorist organisation Al Qaida. Official sources have confirmed that a civil war is on in this African nation and the terrorists of Al Shabab have seized the southern part of the country. Now they are trying to target the country's eastern part as well.

Whole cabinet including Prime Minister resigns in Palestine

Roznama Sahara (February 27) states that the entire cabinet of Palestinian Authority in West Bank, including Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, has submitted its

resignation. According to the media house in Qatar, Al Jazeera, the Prime Minister had said that the Israeli attack on Gaza is increasing day-by-day and the people there

have become victims of starvation. Due to the increasing attacks by Israel in West Bank and Jerusalem, Shtayyeh has handed over his resignation to President Mahmoud Abbas.

According to Al Jazeera, the resignation of the cabinet of Mohammad Shtayyeh has come at a time when the US has been putting pressure on President Mahmoud Abbas to create a new political structure in Palestine. Many Arab countries including Saudi



Arabia are exerting pressure on the United States that they put pressure on Israel and try to end the Israel-Hamas war and cooperate in establishing an independent Palestine state. In this connection, the US is holding talks with Israelis and Palestinians and trying to find out that in case an independent Palestine state is formed, who should become its ruler. After the resignation of Palestine Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, now President Mahmoud Abbas has to decide whether to accept the resignation of the Prime Minister and his cabinet or not.

As per the rules of the Palestinian Authority, the President is the head of the state. The current President Mahmoud Abbas has been heading the Palestinian Authority since 2005. The President appoints the Prime Minister and the Parliament approves it. Mohammad Shtayyeh has given the name 'Blood Valley' to Gaza. He had claimed that due to the Israeli attack that began in Gaza on October 7, more than 30,000 people have died so far. At international level, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has been granted recognition as a governing body of the Palestinian region. In order to run the administration, a Palestinian Council is also present, which also represents Palestinians at international level.

In Palestine, there are two big political parties namely Hamas and Fatah.

Hamas has been ruling Gaza Strip from 2007. Similarly, Fatah has been ruling West Bank and Jerusalem, which has got international support. The spokesperson of Fatah told Al Arabia that if the Israeli blockade continues, no party will be able to play its role in this region, hence it is necessary that whichever administration be in this region, there should be representative of all communities in it. Due to Israeli blockade, the financial condition of Mohammad Shtayyeh government is turning worse with each passing day.

It is to be noted that recently Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas had visited China. Ever since, China has shown greater interest in this region. For increasing dominance of China among Arab countries, it is necessary that it supports the independent Palestinian state to get the support of Palestinian people. Till now, Saudi Arabia has been considered as an ally of the US, but after the visit of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia to China, there is lot of change in the situation. China has made a plan to make largescale investments in Saudi Arabia. In such changed circumstances, the US has also been forced to reconsider its Middle-East policy. In this connection, possibilities of restructuring Palestinian Authority are also being explored. It is being said that the resignation of Palestine Prime Minister and his cabinet is an important step in this direction.

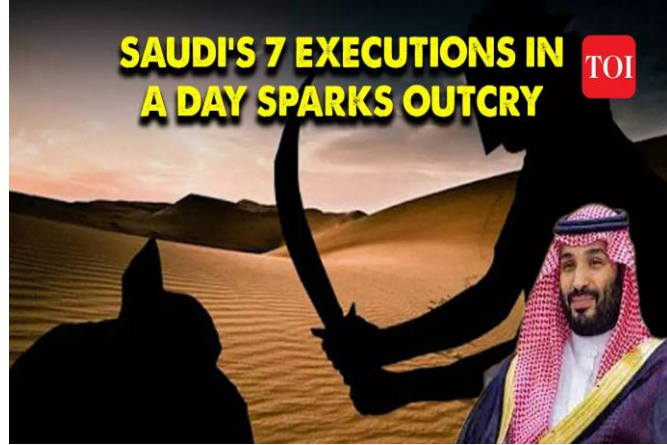
Seven get death sentence on terror charges in Saudi Arabia

Roznama Sahara (February 28) reports that the Home Ministry of Saudi Arabia has confirmed that seven persons were executed on the orders of the court. According to Saudi Press Agency, those who were given death sentence were accused of terrorism, damaging property and betraying the country. Those who were beheaded by the executioners are said to be Ahmed bin Saud bin Saghir Al-Shammari, Saeed bin Ali bin Saeed Al-Wadaei, Abdul-

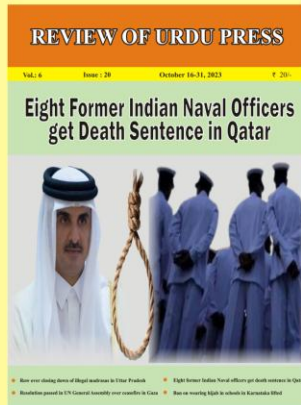
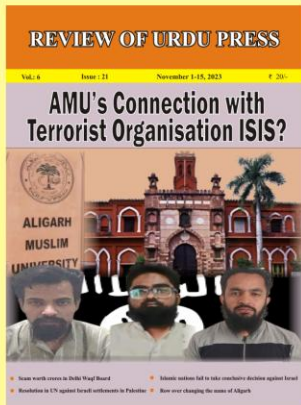
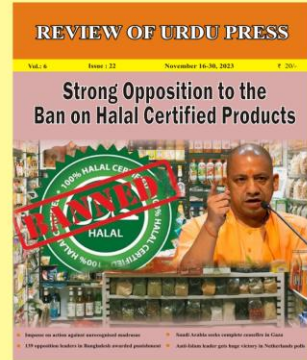
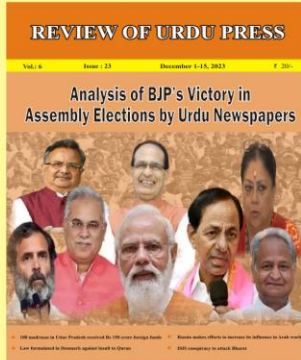
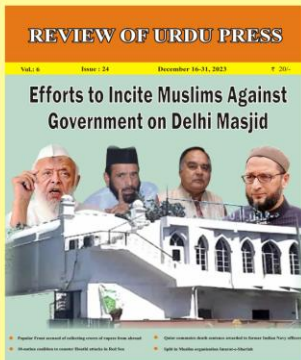
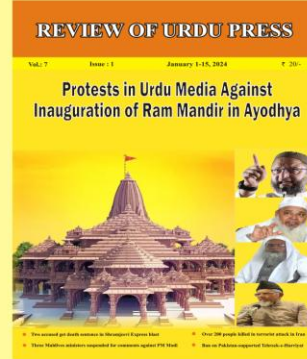
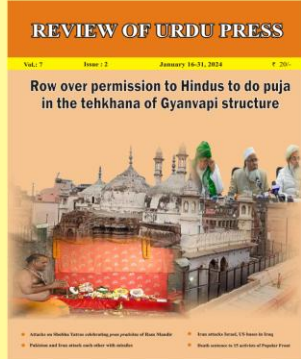
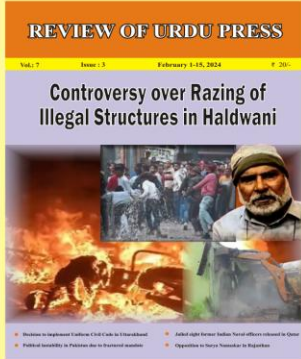
Aziz bin Obaid bin Abdullah Al-Shahrani, Awad bin Mushabab bin Saeed Al-Asmari, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Majoul Al-Saeedi, Mohammad bin Haddad Bin Ahmed bin Mohammad, and Abdullah bin Hajis bin Ghazi Al-Shammari.

All of them were citizens of Saudi Arabia. They were arrested on the basis of the information provided by intelligence agencies. Later, cases were heard against them in the court. During the hearings, they were accused of colluding with terrorist organisations in order to disturb peace and stability in Saudi Arabia. The government lawyer succeeded in establishing charges against them in the court. The court awarded them death sentence nearly six months ago. Now the executioners publicly executed them in Riyadh. The Saudi government did not give more information in this connection.

As per another news, the Saudi government had announced that in the forthcoming Haj season, no Saudi citizen or any person staying in the country will be allowed to take part in Haj without



requisite permission. Any person offering Haj without permission will be awarded six months in jail and 50,000 Riyal as fine. This apart, he will be expelled from Saudi Arabia for a period of 10 years. This order has been publicised through the media in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government had also directed that it is mandatory for any person entering any holy place to obtain permission from the government. If any person tries to enter any holy place in Mecca and Medina without a permission letter, then stringent action will be taken against them under the Saudi law. It is being said that the Saudi government has taken this decision after collecting information from intelligence sources. The intelligence sources had expressed doubt that foreign powers were making efforts to arouse public anger against Saudi government and the foreign agents would flare up terrorist violence during Haj or before it. In this connection, the Saudi government alerted the security agencies that they maintain a strict vigil on suspicious persons.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान
India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018
E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolicy@gmail.com
Website : www.ipf.org.in