

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 7

Issue : 6

March 16-31, 2024

₹ 20/-

## Urdu Media Targets Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh



- Controversy over Amit Shah's statement on Sharia
- UNSC adopts resolution seeking ceasefire in Gaza
- Hundreds killed in terrorist attack in Moscow
- Darul Uloom Deoband gets one more notice

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

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## Summary

The Allahabad High Court has declared the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004 as unconstitutional. The verdict of the court has put a question mark on the future of 25,000 madrasas in the state and the teachers in them. The court also directed the state government that the alternative arrangement for the education of nearly 26 lakh students currently receiving education from these madrasas shall be done with the recognised schools in the state. In its 86-page judgment, the Allahabad High Court said the basic tenet of Indian Constitution is based on secularism, and hence a secular state has no right to constitute a board to provide religious education.

Meanwhile, a section of Muslims has opposed this verdict of the Allahabad High Court. Their argument is that the verdict of the court is against the special rights given to the minorities in the Constitution. Several petitioners representing madrasas have questioned this verdict of Allahabad High Court in the Supreme Court.

Recently, some people attacked some foreign students in a hostel located on the premises of Gujarat University. The wisdom shown by the Central and state governments to resolve the situation arising out of this attack was praiseworthy. More than 300 foreign students are getting education at this University. It is to be noted that a few people clashed with the foreign students on the issue of offering *tarawih* namaz on hostel premises on the occasion of Ramzan. A few people were injured in this clashes. The incident could have damaged the image of the country abroad and hence the Central government immediately directed the state government to take action on the issue. Following this, the state government formed nine police teams to arrest the accused involved in the incident. The interesting thing is that even the newspaper of fundamentalist Muslim organisation All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, 'Etemaad' also supported this decision of the Gujarat government.

Nearly 150 people were killed in an Islamic terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall located in Russian capital Moscow recently. The accused involved in this attack have been arrested. Four among them have admitted to be guilty in the incident. The US media has blamed extremist Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS for the attack. Whereas, Russia has blamed US, Ukraine and Britain for the incident. However, it cannot be denied that Islamic terrorism is spreading rapidly in Russia.

The strain in the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is increasing day by day. Recently, the Pakistan Air Force targeted many villages in Afghanistan after violating their air space. Many Afghan citizens were also killed in this attack. The Afghan government has lodged a strong protest over the incident. Meanwhile, the Pakistan government has clarified that it had targeted only those Islamic terrorist bases in Afghanistan which are being used to spread the flames of terrorism in Pakistan. ■

## Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act declared unconstitutional



**Inquilab** (March 31) states that recently the Allahabad High Court had declared the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004 as unconstitutional. Following this, many petitioners representing the madrasas knocked at the doors of the Supreme Court against this verdict of the court. Many petitioners including Anjuman Qadri in their petition argued that the decision of the Allahabad High Court was not appropriate. It is to be noted that nearly a week ago, while declaring the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004 as illegal, the Allahabad High Court had said this Act was against the principles of secularism. In its judgment, the court said that a secular state has no right to constitute a board to provide religious education. The court had also directed the state government that a ban shall be imposed on the madrasas in the state and admit their children in recognised schools.

Following this verdict of the Allahabad High Court, there is an atmosphere of uneasiness among Muslims across the country because the future of lakhs of children studying in these madrasas and their thousands of teachers are at stake. It is to be noted that after this

verdict of Allahabad High Court, the Uttar Pradesh government has also come into action. In this connection, the chief secretary of the state has called a meeting of senior officials of basic and secondary education departments along with senior officials of minorities welfare and the madrasa board. In this meeting, the situation arising out of the verdict of the high court was deliberated upon. Here it is also worth mentioning that in the BJP-ruled Assam, 1,281 Islamic madrasas have been converted into schools. The Muslims had established these madrasas using their own resources and the role of the state government was limited to paying salaries to the teachers in the madrasas. Now, the state government has confiscated the properties of these madrasas whose worth is said to be billions of rupees. The matter is now pending before the Supreme Court.

**Inquilab** (March 23) states that a division bench comprising Justice Vivek Chaudhary and Justice Subhash Vidyarthi in its 86-page verdict, while declaring the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act as unconstitutional, directed that the students studying in these madrasas shall be transferred to other schools and

colleges. Muslim thinkers say that as per the Constitution, the minorities in the country have the right to establish educational institutions, but for some time now, only Islamic madrasas are being targeted on some pretext or the other. While hearing a petition, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on February 8, 2024 had reserved its judgment. This petition was filed by Anshuman Singh Rathore.

In its verdict, the Allahabad High Court said the present Madrasa Board Act in Uttar Pradesh is a violation of the principle of secularism, which is a part of the original structure of the constitution. This apart, the Act is also an open violation of Section 14, 21 and 21A of the Constitution apart from Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The court said that taking into consideration the interests of the students studying in the madrasas in the state, a direction is being given to the state government that it shall make arrangements to admit these students from madrasas into recognised schools and intermediate colleges. If the situation demands, new schools shall also be set up.

Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, Dr Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, while expressing surprise over the verdict of the court, said the government grants are being provided to madrasas not for religious education, but for promotion of Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit languages and Sanskrit and Arabic-Persian Boards have been constituted for the same. He said that we could not correctly place our arguments before the court. General secretary of Teachers Association Madrasa Arabia Uttar Pradesh, Diwan Saheb Zaman Khan, said this decision of the court was unfortunate. He said the court did not give any attention to the arguments placed in the court by two senior lawyers on behalf of madrasa education board and delivered a unilateral judgement. Zaman Khan said that as per Article 29 and 30 of the Constitution, minorities have the right to open their educational institutions and receive grant

from the government. He said that if the students of madrasas are transferred to other educational institutions, then all Islamic madrasas will be closed down. Then what will happen to the teachers who teach in madrasas?

Lawyer Afzal Ahmad Siddiqui, who has been arguing this case in the court on behalf of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, also expressed surprise over this decision of the court. He said that grants to the madrasas is being given on the orders of the government and not under the law of madrasa board. He said that madrasas are being run even before 2004 and they have been getting government grants.

**Roznama Sahara** (April 23) reports that the senior member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, said this decision of Allahabad High Court will be questioned in the Supreme Court. He said the Muslim community has established madrasas as per their constitutional rights and there are Sanskrit pathshalas in the state as well. It is to be noted that currently more than 25,000 madrasas are present in Uttar Pradesh. Out of them, 16,500 have got recognition from Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. Among them, 560 madrasas get grants from the government. This apart, there are more than 8,500 unrecognised madrasas in the state. The newspaper said this decision of the court has come after a survey conducted by the Uttar Pradesh government about the Islamic madrasas in the state. Earlier, the state government in October 2023 had constituted an SIT to probe into the sources of the financial aid received from abroad. The team had expressed doubt that some madrasas in the state have been getting financial aid from foreign sources in an illegal manner. The SIT in its report had also recommended closing down of some madrasas in the state.

As per another news, the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act was passed in the year 2004. Its aim was to improve the educational system in the madrasas in the state. The board had also

issued directions regarding the syllabus in madrasas and about the training of the teachers. As per another news, mini ITIs are being run from 121 madrasas in the state. There are 9,514 teachers working in them. Earlier, these madrasas were working under Arabi-Persian Board, but in 1996, they were separated from this board and brought under the minorities welfare department. On December 14, 2007, the state government had changed the name of Arabi-Parsi board to Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board and its headquarters was shifted from Allahabad to Lucknow.

**Etemaad** (March 25) states that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, while commenting about the verdict of the Allahabad High Court, said the decision will affect 26 lakh children and 10,000 teachers. He said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should say whether he is in favour of shutting down Islamic madrasas? If not, will the government appeal in the Supreme Court against this decision? He alleged that the Yogi government wants to shut down the religious madrasas. Owaisi said that these madrasas are the forts of Islam and our ancestors had given the fatwa for jihad against the British from these madrasas.

**Hindustan** (March 30) in its editorial has condemned the decision of the court and asked whether minorities do not have the right to live with Constitutional rights in a democratic country like Hindustan? India is a welfare state and it is the responsibility of the state that it provides facilities for education, but the government has been regularly cutting down on its budget for education. Targeting religious madrasas is an indication that the present government does not want minorities, especially Muslims, while remaining true to one's religion, live a happy life in this country.

It is being said in the editorial that the religious madrasas in Bharat have a long history. During the freedom movement, the leadership of the alliance of

Muslims who came out against the British was in the hands of the students from these madrasas. Thousands of Islamic scholars from these madrasas have sacrificed their lives for the country. Despite such a huge sacrifice, describing religious madrasas as the centres of terrorism is tantamount to tarnishing history. The newspaper said the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh and Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam have opened a front against religious madrasas. In Assam, several madrasas were razed using bulldozers after describing them as centres of terrorism. Due to such government policy, the insecurity feeling among Muslims have been increasing. All these will remain till the end of the elections. The ruling party wants to collect the votes of the majority community by running a poisonous propaganda against Muslims. The issue is not just to finish off the madrasas, instead it is a well-planned conspiracy to erase the religious and social identity of Muslims.

**Urdu Times** (March 24) said in its editorial that ever since Yogi Adityanath became the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, his eyes are set on the religious madrasas. It is a bother to him how are these madrasas running, which have an annual budget of crores of rupees? The previous government had constituted the Madrasa Board for the development of madrasas and to resolve the financial difficulties of the teachers there. The madrasa teachers were given salary by the government through this board. Due to this, the financial condition of the teachers had improved, which the Yogi government could not digest. During this time, many people like Anshuman Singh Rathore went to the court and questioned the constitution of Madrasa Board itself. The argument was that the board was against the concept of secularism. The court also cancelled it declaring it as unconstitutional and also stopped the government grants which were being given to the madrasas.

It has been said in the editorial that this decision of the Allahabad High Court

raises several questions. Now since the board has been declared unconstitutional, the previous government has also come under suspicion. If this is true, then those officials should get punishment, who created this unconstitutional law for madrasa education board. Due to this verdict of the Allahabad High Court, a message has gone to the entire world that the teachers at religious madrasas are taking salary in an illegal manner. The newspaper said the court has delivered its

verdict and one can't even object to it. However, there is definitely one regret that when lakhs and crores of rupees were being spent otherwise, if some money is spent for education through some board, then it should not be stopped. If the court has directed to stop the grant, then the government should appeal against it in the Supreme Court, because all people give taxes to the government. It is assumed from the silence of the government that it too wants the same. ■

## Darul Uloom Deoband gets one more notice



**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 30) reports that the National Child Rights Protection Commission (NCPCR) has once again tried to besiege Darul Uloom Deoband. The NCPCR, in a letter to the District Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Saharanpur, directed them to take action against Darul Uloom Deoband over some objectionable material in their fatwa. However, Darul Uloom Deoband has made it clear that the fatwa which has been cited has not been present on their website. It looks like the NCPCR is running a campaign against Darul Uloom Deoband. In the past also, it had issued notices two times to the District Magistrate of Saharanpur seeking action against Darul Uloom Deoband. The district administration of Saharanpur has written a letter to the commission as reply to the notices and clarified that there is no reason

for taking action against this institution on the basis of the fatwa of the Darul Uloom Deoband which has been mentioned. The chairman of the commission Priyank Kanoongo said we got objectionable material from the website of Darul Uloom Deoband. He directed the Uttar Pradesh police that a case shall be registered against Darul Uloom Deoband for publishing misleading and objectionable material on its

website.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 30) states that a spokesperson of Darul Uloom Deoband, while commenting about this notice of NCPCR, said such a fatwa is not present on its website. Whereas, the chairman of the commission, Priyank Kanoongo, has claimed that he has got a copy of this fatwa, where a person from Pakistan has raised a question regarding suicide attack on non-Muslims. In reply to this, the Darul Uloom Deoband, instead of describing it as wrong and inhuman, said he should contact local Muslim scholars in this connection. Kanoongo said this has once again exposed that this kind of fatwa is very dangerous for the national security. He directed the district administration that a case shall be registered against Darul Uloom and sent a copy of the same to the

commission within three days. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Chief Secretary and Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.

In a news published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (March 19), chairman of NCPCR Priyank Kanoongo has been accused of raising inappropriate and objectionable questions during an inspection of a madrasa in Bengaluru. The officials of madrasa said the duty of the commission is to protect child rights, and not to curb it. According to the newspaper, a student of a madrasa in Bengaluru alleged that a team of NCPCR has thrashed him during an inspection. During this time, he was asked several objectionable questions. The girl said she was asked her name and age. After that she was asked whether she would be married off and sent to Kuwait and Dubai? The girl said when she refused to say anything in this connection, they slapped her. The girl also said she was asked how many girls from this madrasa got married and went to Dubai? In a video that went viral on social media, a woman office-bearer of this madrasa has alleged that the NCPCR team asked indecent questions to the children. They asked when a person comes to the madrasa, what does he bring? Do they touch you? Some children were asked whether they would leave for Dubai and Saudi Arabia after completing education from there? Whereas some other students were asked why they were studying in the madrasa? They should have gone to study MBBS or Engineering.

**Inquilab** (March 21) states that Jamiat Ulema has sought stringent action against NCPCR chairman Priyank Kanoongo on charges of giving a bad name to religious madrasas and Jamiat open school. On behalf of the chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, renowned lawyer Vrinda Grover wrote a letter to the chairman of the commission and said he withdraws his statement within a week, otherwise legal action will be taken against him. It is to be noted that on March 13, Priyank Kanoongo wrote a letter to the National Institute of Open Schooling



(NIOS) and described the educational institute of Jamiat Ulema, Jamiat Open School campaign, as an organised crime. Along with this, it was also accused of collecting funds from abroad and maintaining links with Pakistan. Kanoongo has repeated this allegation in a TV programme as well. In the notice, it has been stated that any effort to give a bad name to a nationalist organisation like Jamiat Ulema and accuse it of fake charges will not be acceptable under any condition. The religious madrasas have legal recognition under the educational system of the government. It is clear from the compulsory education act that the law can't be implemented on madrasas, vedic pathshalas and in other institutions that basically provide religious education. Similarly, madrasas have legal recognition under Section 29 and 30 of the Indian Constitution. It is being said in the notice that the allegation of receiving funds from Pakistan was baseless and mischievous.

**Avadhnama** (March 31) in its editorial said the NCPCR has once again tried to lay siege to Darul Uloom Deoband. This time, a new fatwa has been cited in this connection. However, Darul Uloom Deoband has made it clear that the fatwa which were being cited are not present on its website. It looks like the commission is deliberately running a campaign against Darul Uloom. This was not the first time that Darul Uloom has been targeted. Earlier, when the Mulayam Singh government was in power in Uttar Pradesh, then also Darul Uloom Nadwa was raided. It is another thing that Mulayam Singh



Yadav had taken a serious note of this raid. It is clear from this that whether it was then or even today, there are such officials whose eyes are on Muslim institutions.

Earlier, the District Magistrate had handed over the investigation report to the commission on the notice issued by NCPCR. In the report, the District Magistrate has said there was no basis for taking action against Darul Uloom. Two things are worth mentioning in this connection. The first thing is that Darul Uloom itself has rejected the claim that such a fatwa is present on its website. Even if it is accepted that Darul Uloom had directed the questioner to contact the local Muslim scholars, what is there to charge this institution to be dangerous to the security of the country.

The editorial has alleged that such elements are present in this country, who regularly run a campaign against Muslims and their institutions in the country. Before writing such a letter, the chairman of the NCPCR should have studied about the history of Darul Uloom and their role in the freedom movement of the country. He also should have find out how many Muslim scholars were hanged to death on charges of conducting jihad against the British. If a

person sitting on such a responsible position does such things against Muslim religion due to his hatred, then he has no right to continue in his post. Darul Uloom should take stringent legal action against such irresponsible persons.

The editorial, while expressing surprise, said the image of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is very good compared to other BJP chief ministers because he has concretely presented the formula of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas'. Even today he openly says that he will not allow injustice to be done to any community in the state as long as he is in power. It is also seen that there is not much difference between what he talks and what he does. The newspaper said that whatever be the personal religious belief of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, we have nothing to do with it, but his work as a chief minister is far better compared to other chief ministers. This is the reason why there is a constant increase in his popularity. Isn't there a conspiracy to tarnish the image of a good chief minister by targeting an institution like Darul Uloom Deoband time and again during his regime?. Hence the chief minister should immediately take note of this issue. ■

## Action against those accused of attacking foreign students in Gujarat

**Etemaad** (March 18) states that a few mischievous elements attacked a few foreign students staying in the hostel of Gujarat University during a namaz on the night of March 16. Following this, the Gujarat government took stringent action against the attackers. The police arrested two attackers from the spot itself. In this connection, many other attackers were also taken into custody following an investigation. According to police, following the incident, two students belonging to Sri Lanka and Tajikistan were admitted to hospital in injured condition. The incident took place at the A block hostel on Gujarat University premises.

DGP Tarun Duggal said a case has been registered against 20-25 unidentified people on charges of rioting, unlawful assembly, damaging property and trespass. The two persons who have been taken into custody have been identified as Hitesh Mewara and Bharat Patel.

Commissioner of Police of Ahmedabad, G S Malik, said nine police teams have been constituted to conduct an investigation into this incident. Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi called a meeting of senior officials on the incident and directed them to take stringent action against the accused. It is being said that on Saturday night (March 18) around 11 pm,



nearly two dozen people entered the hostel of Gujarat University and thrashed the foreign students who were offering namaz there. Malik said the outsiders told the students that they offer namaz at masjid only. Following this, a clash took place between the two groups. Along with this, these people entered the rooms of foreign students and damaged items. He said the teams which have been constituted to carry out investigations against the accused are being headed by the Joint Commissioner, Crime Branch and the situation is under control. He said the police are taking stringent action against such mischievous elements and will do so in future as well.

Several videos have also gone viral in connection with the incident, where some people were seen pelting stones. A person was seen slapping an employee of the university. The police commissioner said that a thorough investigation is being conducted into this video. More than 300 foreign students are studying in Gujarat University. Many of them belong to Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka and African countries. Nearly 75 foreign students stay in the A block of the hostel where this incident took place. Within a few minutes of the incident, the police arrived on the spot and they took control of the situation. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Neerja Gupta, said a clash took

place between two groups in the hostel in which five foreign students were injured. The state government took a serious note of the incident on the directions of the Central government and stringent action is being taken against the accused. Spokesperson of external affairs ministry Randhir Jaiswal said that an injured foreign student has been discharged from hospital. He said the foreign ministry is in touch with Gujarat government and stringent action is being taken against the accused.

The newspaper said that since there is no masjid on the Gujarat University premises, the foreign students gathered at the hostel to offer the tarawih namaz. During the namaz, some people carrying lathis and knives attacked them and also damaged items. The security personnel at the hostel failed to stop the mob. A student from Afghanistan said the attackers were raising provocative slogans and they entered the rooms of students and destroyed their laptops and other items. Five students were injured in this attack who belong to Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and African countries. As soon as the police arrived, the attackers fled from the spot. Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi has condemned this incident and demanded the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to intervene in the issue. He also told External

Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar that the feeling of hatred being unleashed against Muslims in the country has been creating a bad name for Bharat across the world.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 19) states that the external affairs ministry has sought a report from the state government in connection with the dispute that took place on the issue of offering namaz at Gujarat University. In this connection, five persons have been arrested so far and a search is on for other accused. Policemen have been deployed in hostels and the head of the security wing of the university and the warden of the hostel have been transferred out. The foreign students have been given accommodation facility at secure places. Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr Neerja Gupta said that religious places and rooms should be used for namaz and these kind of religious activities should not be organised in public places.

**Etemaad** (March 19) said in its editorial that before this incident at Gujarat University, a police officer in the country's national capital Delhi had also misbehaved with namazis. It has damaged the image of the country across the world. The newspaper alleged that it looks like the attack was a planned one. The newspaper accepted that the Gujarat police has taken immediate action in view of the seriousness of the incident and the attackers were arrested. The newspaper asked who had given the right to the attackers to question whether there is permission to offer namaz within the hostel or not? When the attackers entered the hostel carrying weapons, why the employees there did not call the police immediately? This incident did not take place in any backward or remote corner of the country, instead it took place in the home state of our Prime Minister, which has been presented as a model state across the country.

The newspaper said that in the recent days it has also been seen that objections are raised on giving *azaan* over loudspeaker and those offering namaz in a peaceful manner are being targeted. A few

days ago, a masjid was attacked in Gurugram in Haryana as a protest against offering namaz at public places and it was set on fire. An imam died in this incident. Due to these incidents, people are writing on social media that at one level Prime Minister Modi is inaugurating mandir in Abu Dhabi, at another level, the police are lathicharging those offering namaz on the roads while those offering namaz in hostels are attacked. Such examples of hatred unleashed against Muslims currently in the country were never witnessed in the past. Earlier, efforts were often made to create communal tension in regions identified as communally sensitive, but now Muslims are being openly targeted.

**Hindustan** (March 22) in its editorial asked why objections are being raised on offering namaz now? Hasn't Muslims in this country got the right to practice their religion as per their belief? The newspaper demanded that the government take stringent action against those who spread hatred, because publication of the news about the harassment of Muslims in foreign media will tarnish the image of the country.

**Siasat** (March 18) in its editorial alleged that as soon as the Lok Sabha elections are announced, the hooliganism of communal elements has started. Foreign students offering namaz at the hostel of a university in Gujarat have been made the target of their violence. This was not a sudden incident, instead taken as part of a deliberate strategy to vitiate the communal atmosphere before the Lok Sabha elections and take political advantage from it. These elements are not bothered that such actions by them will damage the image of the country in world platform.

They have just become victims of religious passion and a toy in the hands of politicians. In any case, the US and the United Nations have expressed their concern on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act and now due to the attack on the foreign students, the country would get a bad name in the world. From the beginning itself there is an extremely

dangerous atmosphere in Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's state Gujarat. Hindustan had to hang its head in shame in front of the world due to the manner in which the riots that took place in Gujarat in 2002. It is another thing that neither Gujarat nor its leaders felt embarrassed, instead they feel proud about the same. An attack was launched on foreign students offering namaz in a hostel. Now action will be taken only on paper. It will be claimed to have identified the attackers and a threat will be made to arrest them. It is a hard truth that targeting Muslims and other minorities have become



a common affair and instead of awarding punishment to the attackers, the police focus more on saving them. On the other hand, cases are registered against the victims. It has started a tradition where rioters get encouragement.

## Controversy over Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on Sharia

**Inquilab** (March 21) states that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while speaking to a Television channel on the issues of Muslim Personal Law and Uniform Civil Code, said that if someone wants to live as per Sharia or Hadis, then he should live his whole life as per the same. Taking part in the 'Rising Bharat Summit' of CNN News18, Amit Shah said that as per Sharia and Hadis, the hands of thieves



should be chopped off and those who commit rape should be publically stoned to death. As per Sharia and Hadis, no Muslim can open a savings bank account, can't charge interest and can't even take a loan. He said that if one wants to live as per Sharia and Hadis, then the whole life should be spent accordingly. Why resort to Sharia and Hadis only to get married four times? It should not be like that. Shah said that whenever a Muslim files a case before any court in the country, the verdict is delivered as per our Constitution or as per

the law that prevails in the country and not as per Sharia or the Hadis. The issue of Uniform Civil Code in the country is not an agenda of BJP, instead the makers of the Constitution had talked about it. In Hindustan, for every Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist there should be one law for all. We do not interfere in their religion, but the law should be same for all.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (March 24) states that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said that Sharia is not bigger than the Constitution of the country.

This country is run as per Constitution and not as per Sharia. He said that Muslims are getting houses, employment and all facilities but they should follow the laws of Hindustan. If Muslims accept this, then the people of the country will welcome them. Supporting the modernisation of Islamic madrasas, he said that we are making them modern. We need scientists, engineers and skilled persons. We will have to adapt our educational institutions accordingly. It is our aim to bring equality in the educational system in our state.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said we cannot play around with our Hindu faith, may be because of which we couldn't create a space for ourselves in the minds of Muslims. Hindutva is the soul of Hindustan and we cannot insult it. If anyone has this misunderstanding that we do politics by offending the sentiments of Hindutva, then we will dump such politics. We will not compromise with anyone on the question of the national security and respecting the Hindu faith. We have God's grace and people's blessings. Yogi said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is not into politics of polarisation, but talks about development. We respect the faith of the people. If someone riots, we will take stringent action against him as per law and will free the state from such riots.

**Urdu Times** (March 24) states that reacting to the statement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, chairman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said that his statement on Uniform Civil Code is misleading. Rahman said that it is certain that the criminal law is the same for all citizens. This law is not as per different classes, religions and customs. The home minister said that if one follows the Sharia and the Hadis, then the hands of those who

commit robbery should be chopped off and those who commit rape should be stoned in public. No Muslim should either open a savings account and nor should take any loan. This argument of the home minister is completely baseless.

Maulana said that Amit Shah should know where Sharia law is implemented. This law is implemented in those countries where Islamic rule is fully in force. It is also worth mentioning that all these things are not only in Islamic Sharia, but are there in other religions as well. In Manusmriti, the punishment for robbery and burglary is said to be chopping off hands. In Manusmriti, the punishment for a man committing rape is to make him lie down on a hot iron bed so that he is burnt to death. This apart, there is also a provision to cut off the genitals of the man as punishment for rape. However, Brahmins have been kept outside these punishments. For them, the sole provision was to tonsure their head and expel them from the country. Similarly, the vedas have also forbidden taking of interests. All the religions in the world, whether Hindu or Islam, have given special importance to morality. In order to stop immorality, stress has been laid on creating an atmosphere so that people avoid committing crimes.

Maulana Rahmani said that targeting only Sharia indicates the mentality to defame Islam. In Islam, there is definitely provisions for stringent punishment for some crimes so that people should be scared of committing crimes. In Islam,



there is provision for rigorous imprisonment for drinking liquor, but this would be possible only if Islamic Sharia is fully implemented. In Islam, there is stringent punishment for rape, but along with it there is proper system for the purdah as well. In countries where Islamic Sharia is implemented, there is special arrangement to avoid mingling of men and women.

**Aurangabad Times** (March 24) states that Maulana Saifullah Rahmani said that if anybody steals due to hunger, then he cannot be given punishment as per Sharia. He said that in Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia where Sharia is fully implemented, the number of crimes is zero. On the contrary, where no efforts have been made to create an atmosphere to stop crimes, and where only provisions have been made for stringent punishments, there will definitely be an increase in crime rate. An example for this is our Bharat. In our country, the differences in social law for different religions has been accepted and that is why religious freedom is guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution. Stress has been laid on conducting things like marriage as per one's own religion and customs. However, in Islam, men are allowed to marry more

than once, but this is just a permission. Islam neither directs for the same and nor promotes it. The Prophet himself had described *talaq* as the most unfortunate thing.

Rahmani said that in Hindu religion, a Shudra has permission to keep only one wife. Similarly, Vaishya has two, Kshatriya has three and a Brahmin has the permission to have four wives. Whereas the King can keep as many wives as he wants. It is a pity that the Home Minister of a secular nation expresses ideas based on hatred and hostility towards the followers of the second biggest religion of the country. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board strongly condemns this and appeals to all people in the country that they

don't get into such things. This is just an unjust attempt to target a particular community for political purposes.

The headline of the editorial of **Mumbai Urdu News** (March 26) is "Shah and Yogi feel pain due to Sharia." It has been said in the editorial why Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath suddenly feel the pain of Islamic Sharia? Yogi says that Sharia is not bigger than Hindustan and the Constitution and the country will be run as per the Constitution. Whereas, Shah is very much free to implement Sharia law on those Muslims who have committed crimes. Who has stopped him? Why would a Muslim object to this? Because this law will bring Muslims on the right path to a great extent. However, what Amit Shah said is not that Muslims should follow the Sharia law completely or to fully implement the Sharia law for them. He just dropped a sparkler. Indeed, Shah wants to inculcate in the minds of people that Muslims talk about Sharia without any reason. They themselves do not follow it and hence their opposition to Uniform Civil Code is also baseless. The truth is that every religion has its own laws for marriage, succession and divorce which is

directly related to the belief and faith of the person belonging to the religion. It cannot be changed.

The newspaper said that the criminal law is almost same in the entire world. In India also the accused are given the same punishment which are like in other democratic countries. In Arab countries, since Islamic system is in place, the punishment for robbery and rape are as per the Sharia law. Now coming to the implementation of Sharia in Hindustan, the Constitution of the country has given the right for the same to the Muslims. Under

this, the followers of all religions, not just Muslims, are given the right to practice own religion. The newspaper said that Shah and Yogi talk about such crazy things in view of the elections as per their special agenda. In any case, there is a question for both of them, from when did the Constitution become so dear to them? Did they think about the Constitution while crushing the farmer protests and the anti-CAA agitation? Finally, under which provision of the Constitution they are running the bulldozers on the houses of innocent people?

## Urdu media targets Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh



**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 19) said in its editorial that for any organisation which becomes active in the name of nationalism, the others are often not nationalists. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which claims to be the biggest social, welfare-oriented and cultural organisation in the country, is one such organisation. They do not find any other nationalists except themselves and other organisations associated with them. It is not possible for everyone to follow their scale of patriotism. For example, if Muslims want to establish themselves as nationalists in the eyes of the Sangh, then they have to call themselves as Hindu. Now every Muslim cannot call

himself a Hindu. Yes, some people having beard and wearing kurta-pyjama and brought up by Indresh Kumar, does this work, and hence they are nationalist Muslims in their eyes. The rest crores of Muslims are not staunch nationalists in the eyes of the Sangh.

The newspaper has alleged that nowadays the farmers are on the target of Sangh. The farmers have been raising the flag of protest against the Central government and their protests are for their legitimate demands. Their actions seem to be anarchic for Sangh. Recently, the Sangh has presented its annual report, where it has mentioned about the farmers. Strongly

condemning the farmers' protest, Sangh said that terrorism based on separatism has been spreading once again in Punjab. Efforts were being made to spread anarchy before the Lok Sabha elections on the pretext of farmers' protest. Two things are especially worth considering. The farmers' protest is not limited to Punjab, instead, farmers from Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh are also taking part in it. The question is why stress has been laid on Punjab alone? The answer is before us. It is easy to give a bad name to Punjab and farmers for Sangh and its affiliated organisations especially the BJP. Punjab was once the centre of Khalistani terrorism and countless Sikhs have fallen prey to it. The Sangh is looking at the possibility of keeping ordinary people away from the farmers' protest or prepare to oppose them in the name of Punjab, Sikh, terrorism and Khalistan. Along with this, Sangh and BJP do not have much hope on the elections in Punjab, and hence the risk of defaming Punjab and Punjabis can be taken. The other thing is that Sangh and the BJP cannot offend the farmers of Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, because they need the votes of Jat farmers. Even if they do not fulfil their demands. However, the farmers are all together, whether they belong to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan. The truth is that the government has trampled the demands of farmers under its feet again and again.

The newspaper said that accusing the farmers of spreading anarchy and terrorism is an insult to the farmers of the entire country. Since the annual report of Sangh has come just before the elections, it would not be wrong if it is described as part of the BJP's election campaign. BJP is not willing to listen to farmers and Sangh is condemning the farmers. This is just an election campaign. In the report of Sangh, apart from the farmers' protest, the Ram Mandir, violence in Manipur and the incident in Sandeshkhali are also mentioned. In the report, it is said about Ram Mandir that year 2024 will be ever remembered for the Pran Pratishtha of Ram

Lalla at Ayodhya. January 22, 2024 was a historical opportunity, which can never be forgotten. The newspaper said that definitely this date will be remembered by all for forcibly building the temple on a grabbed land. In its report, the RSS has described the Sandeshkhali incident as a heart-wrenching incident. In this report, concern has been expressed over the violence in Manipur as well. However, this report does not mention anything about the countless incidents of violence against the minorities. The newspaper has described this annual report of Sangh as unilateral and one-sided.

**Siasat** (March 17) states that the RSS said that ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the separatists are promoting terrorism in Punjab through farmers' protest. The RSS has released its annual report before the Lok Sabha elections. In the report, the RSS has given its opinion on the latest issues in the country. In its report, while condemning the farmers' protest in strong words, the RSS said that in Punjab, terrorism based on separatism is spreading its network again and efforts to spread anarchy have intensified once again on the pretext of farmers' agitation. Expressing concern over the violence in Manipur, the Sangh said that due to this, a sense of mistrust has originated between the two communities in the society namely Meitei and the Kukis.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 18) states that the Sarkaryavah of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dattatreya Hosabale, said there is a need to rethink about the concept of minorities. For RSS, all those citizens staying in the country are equal. On the last day of three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha of RSS held at Resimbagh in Nagpur, Dattatreya Hosabale was elected as the Sarkaryavah for another three-year term for a second time. Later addressing journalists, Hosabale said the many important personalities in the world have appreciated the changes that took place in the country in the past 10-years of the central government. In the forthcoming elections, the people will evaluate the





performance of the government through the medium of votes. For RSS also, it feels that lot of work has been done in different sectors in the past 10 years and the prestige of the country has also increased.

Expressing his opinion on the violence in Manipur, Hosabale said the deep wounds inflicted in the minds of people during the violence in Manipur would not disappear all of a sudden. RSS swayamsevaks are there among both Kuki and Meitei communities. In the past one year, the Sangh tried to maintain peace in the state by talking to the prominent leaders of both the communities. About the Uniform Civil Code, Dattatreya Hosabale said the Sangh has appreciated the state government for implementing Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand. Right from the beginning, RSS has been in support of implementing Uniform Civil Code across the country. On the occasion, Hosabale also condemned the incident in Sandeshkhali. Along with this, he also stressed on keeping away from elements like Amritpal, who are promoting terrorism in Punjab. He appealed to the citizens of the country that they should remain alert about those anti-national elements taking part in the farmers' protest. Talking about respecting women, he said that it is totally unjustifiable to consider women as either only *devi* or as a worker.

The headline of the editorial of **Etemaad** (March 30) was 'RSS schools in Kashmir'. The newspaper said that it has been claimed that more than 1,200 schools are being run in Kashmir at the behest of

RSS-affiliated organisation Sewa Bharati, where children are being taught about the lessons about Bharat apart from teaching of Quran. The Muslim children in Kashmir will be made aware about the real meaning of Kashmiriyat and Bharatiyata. The Ekal Vidyalaya project is being successfully implemented in Kashmir Valley. Nearly 85 percent students studying in these schools are Muslims who

are being taught about lessons in love for nation through Hindu culture and its ideology. There are 1,250 such schools spread over 10 districts in Kashmir Valley. Whereas, the number of such schools in Baramulla is 180. The highest number of terrorist attacks take place here. Till a few years ago, it was impossible to even think about the establishment of any institution linked to RSS in Kashmir. Now seeing the number of such schools there, it could be assumed how Sangh is strengthening its roots in Kashmir Valley. From the spread of RSS schools in Kashmir, it could be assumed that the foundation is being prepared to spread a special civilization and culture in Kashmir and inculcate the mentality of children accordingly.

The newspaper said that ever since the Central government scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu-Kashmir, the political and religious leaders of the state were imprisoned in houses and jails for several months. During this time, efforts were made to settle people from other states in Kashmir. Similarly, organisations like RSS which support the Hindu Rashtra were also given ample opportunity to flourish. However, now restriction of the political leadership is over as the Supreme Court has also described the scrapping of Article 370 as appropriate. However, the religious leadership is in bad shape even now. Syed Ali Shah Geelani has passed away and the detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is not revoked. Every now and then the historical



teachers. They say that they are giving books in the hands of Kashmiri children, instead of stones. In these schools, the medium of education is Kashmiri and Urdu. As per the claims, efforts are being made to make the Kashmiri children studying in these schools as real Hindustanis. We are not concerned whether efforts are being made to make the children good Hindustanis, but the problem is that whatever is being taught

or told to these children, all those are done under the supervision of RSS. RSS doesn't consider Gandhi as its leader, instead it considers Savarkar as its leader.

The newspaper claimed that many teachers who were selected by Sewa Bharati for this project were part of this for the past five to 12 years. There is no need to mention what kind of Hindustanis that these RSS-trained teachers will make out of the children. A study of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's speeches is more than enough to know what kind of Muslims that the RSS considers as original Hindustanis. In order to run these schools, the RSS has selected such youths who are unhappy with the earlier atmosphere in Kashmir and who want to lead a peaceful life. Among them, the number of women are much higher. Here, apart from the syllabus based on nationalist ideology, Kashmiriyat is also taught and they are also taught about the changed history of the Valley. It is worth mentioning that in order to run these schools spread over 480 villages in Kashmir Valley, approximately 1.19 billion crore rupees is being received, out of which Rs 44 crore has come from abroad. There is a need to understand how RSS is working towards making this country a Hindu Rashtra.

Jama Masjid in Srinagar is being closed. The indication is that the Muslims of Kashmir should be fearful about purchasing even watermelon during the Holy Ramzan because this fruit is being linked to Palestinians. For the other people in the country, especially Muslims, they do not care what is happening in the Union Territory of Kashmir. The reason for this is that the Muslims in the country have kept themselves away from Kashmir issue right from the beginning due to the sensitivity of the issue. Now Kashmir has changed. Along with scrapping the special provisions of the Constitution, Kashmir joined Hindustan and hence Kashmiris should not be treated as strangers. Hindustan's Muslim religious organisations should take a special interest in their religious and community issues.

The newspaper has advised the Muslims that the way the RSS has started increasing the network of schools in the Valley in the name of nationalism and Kashmiriyat, in the same manner the Muslim organisations in the country should establish Islamic madrasas there so that the faith of the new generation could be protected. Otherwise, in the coming days, the children of Kashmir will not understand the difference between Holi and Eid. These RSS schools are being run by Muslim

## Hundreds killed in terrorist attack in Moscow



**Sahafat** (March 24) reports that 149 people were killed and 185 injured in a terrorist attack that took place at the Crocus City Hall located in Russian capital Moscow. According to foreign news agencies, terrorists wearing military uniform opened indiscriminate fire in Crocus City Hall and also used hand grenades. A terrorist strike of such a massive scale has never taken place in Russia in the past few years. Earlier in 2004, terrorists had attacked a school in Russia in which more than 1,000 people including hundreds of students were taken hostage. In this attack, nearly 350 people were killed including hundreds of children. A concert of Rock Band Picnic was taking place at the hall where the latest attack took place. After this terrorist attack, fire spread in all four sides. More than 6,000 people were present in the hall during the attack.

As per the US media, an eyewitness said a terrorist rained bullets indiscriminately on the audience in the hall for 20 minutes. According to Russian media, following this attack, all the functions organised in Moscow were cancelled. Spokesperson of Russian foreign ministry Maria Zakharova appealed to countries across the world that they

condemn this terrorist attack. The chief of Russian security agency FSB told Russian President Vladimir Putin that 11 people have been taken into custody in connection with this attack. He said those who were responsible for this attack will not be spared. The Russian President said this was a terrorist attack and whosoever's hands were behind this attack, they will have to pay a heavy price for it.

According to Russian media, the responsibility for this attack has been owned by Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. This terrorist organisation has confirmed on social media platform Telegram that this attack was carried out by its jihadis. A government agency of Russia has said that Ukraine's hands were behind this attack. Whereas the advisor of Ukraine President, while rejecting this allegation, said Ukraine has nothing to do with this attack. Our war is with Russia and its Army and its outcome will be in the warfront. According to British news agency Reuters, the US has claimed they had warned the Russian government in the beginning of this month itself that there could be a major terrorist attack in its capital any time soon.

Many nations including Bharat, US and China have condemned the terrorist

attack that took place in Moscow. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on social media platform X that ‘We strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack that took place in Moscow. Our condolences are with the family members of the victims. In this hour of grief, India stands united with the government of Russia and its people.’ Chinese President Xi Jinping said China is opposed to all kinds



of terrorism and it condemns this attack. The Secretary General of UN has also condemned the attack. The European Union, while expressing surprise on the terrorist attack that took place in Moscow, said the European Union condemns any kind of attack on citizens and we stand with the citizens of Russia at this hour of grief. French President Emmanuel Macron condemned this attack and expressed condolences to those affected in the incident. The foreign ministry of Germany said this attack which took place on innocent people was shameful and there should be a proper investigation into this issue. Many other nations have also condemned the attack.

**Siasat** (March 26) reports that a chargesheet has been filed against the four terrorists who were caught from the spot. These accused have admitted in the court that their hands were behind this attack. As per media reports, the Russian intelligence wing has produced three terrorists blindfolded before the court. Whereas the fourth person was produced in the court in a wheelchair in an injured condition. The four accused have been identified as Shamsidin Fariduni, Dalerdjon Mirzoyev, Saidakrami Muradoli Rachabalizoda and Muhammadsobir Fayzov.

A court statement has been issued through Telegram in which it has been said the accused had accepted their crime and they belong to Tajikistan. They will be kept in custody till May 22. According to

Russian media, seven other persons have also been arrested and are being interrogated.

**Urdu Times** (March 26) states that the BBC said though Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, the Russian government without any concrete evidence has blamed Ukraine for the attack. Whereas the Ukraine government rejected this allegation. Following this terrorist attack, Russia had announced a nation-wide mourning.

**Hindustan Express** (March 26) states that the number of people who were killed in the attack could go up further because the condition of more than 100 injured persons in hospitals are serious.

**Etemaad** (March 26) reports that US Vice-President Kamala Harris said that Ukraine’s hands were not behind this attack, instead the hands of Khorasan chapter of ISIS were behind it.

**Etemaad** (March 27) states that following this attack, Russian President Putin, while addressing a high-level meeting of security officials, said a fair investigation is being conducted in the issue without any political bias. We know that the hands of fundamentalist Muslims are behind this attack and Muslims across the world have been fighting against them for hundreds of years. In spite of this, the manner in which the US has supported Ukraine is in front of us. We know who has committed this bloody crime on Russia and its people and who conspired for this

attack. He asked whether the fundamentalist organisations carried out the attack after seeing the Russian interest in the Middle-East? Putin asked what is the reason for those who claim to be Muslims daily to do such a thing in the month of Ramzan? Who will get the benefit from it? He said that after the attack, why the attackers tried to flee to Ukraine? Isn't this proof of the fact that Ukraine's hands were behind this? The question here is who is behind the Islamic terrorism?

**Siasat** (March 28) states that the chief of Russian security agency FSB Alexander Bortnikov claimed that US, Britain and Ukraine were behind this attack. He asked who had given the direction to the attackers to flee to Ukraine? He said we had also got the information that preparations were made to give them a grant welcome in Ukraine. He also claimed that Ukraine has been given training to Islamic jihadis in the Middle-East.

## Eight Afghanis killed in Pakistani air strike

**Etemaad** (March 19) states that an official spokesperson of Afghanistan has claimed that Pakistan carried out aerial attacks in two provinces in Afghanistan after violating its air space in which at least eight persons were killed. However, till now no statement has been issued either by Pakistan's foreign ministry or by the Army on this allegation by Afghanistan. Spokesperson of Afghanistan government Zabiullah Mujahid said the attack was carried out at night and all those who were killed were women and children. Earlier, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari had said those terrorists who had taken refuge in Afghanistan had carried out attacks in northern Waziristan in which nine personnel of Pakistan Army were killed. He said that a befitting reply will be given for this attack. If anybody has carried out terrorist attack on Pakistani soil, then we will not hesitate to take retaliatory action against them. He claimed that Hafiz Gul Bahadur group has taken responsibility for this terrorist attack that took place in northern Waziristan.



Afghan spokesperson Mujahid has said there would be serious consequences for the attack carried out by intruding into the air space of Afghanistan. Banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban

Pakistan (TTP) has also confirmed the attack. The attack has dealt a heavy blow to the efforts being made to establish normal ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is to be noted that recently a senior Pakistani official held a meeting with the Governor of Kandahar Mullah Muhammad Shirin Akhund with this aim. Akhund is counted among the senior leaders of Taliban.

**Etemaad** (March 22) states that a spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the action taken by Pakistan on March 18 was not against the people of Afghanistan or the Army there, but was against the terrorists of TTP who had taken refuge in Afghanistan. She claimed this attack was carried out by the Pakistan air force after collecting information from intelligence sources. Its aim was to destroy the bases of terrorists who had taken refuge in Afghanistan. She said we had sent a protest letter to the Afghan government in this

connection in which full details were given regarding the bases of Pakistani terrorists who had taken refuge in Afghanistan. The spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign ministry claimed we had urged the Afghanistan government time and again that it take action against those terrorists who had taken refuge on its land, but they did not take any action.

**Urdu Times** (March 20) states that the US State Department had claimed that Pakistan had taken action against Pakistani terrorists who had taken refuge in Afghanistan in retaliation to the attack carried out on its security checkpoint. A spokesperson of the US State Department said that Pakistan is a friend of ours and we are in constant touch with the country on the issue of terrorism.

**Siasat** (March 22) states that Pakistan's defence minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif said that Pakistan does not want a military conflict with Afghanistan. He said that Islamabad may close down the corridor which it had given to Afghanistan to carry out trade with



Bharat. He said that when Afghanistan treats us like enemies, why should we extend them the facility to carry out trade. He alleged that the Afghanistan government is not taking any interest in destroying the bases of terrorists who had taken refuge in the border areas.

**Urdu Times** (March 22) states that three persons were killed and 12 injured in a terrorist attack that took place on a bank premises in Kandahar. Deputy spokesperson of Afghanistan government Inamullah Samangani has confirmed this attack. He expressed doubt that the hands of ISIS could be behind this attack. ■

## US Muslims give US\$1.8 billion in zakat

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (March 22) states that Muslims observe Roza across the US on the occasion of Ramzan and they also liberally donate to charity institutions. These funds are sent to Gaza as well. However, a major portion of it is spent in the US itself for needy Muslims. Director of Muslim Charitable Initiative at Indiana University, Shareek Siddiqui, said there is an illusion about Muslims staying in the US that they send their entire income abroad. However, the truth is that the Muslims who stay in the US give an average of US\$ 4.3 billion as *zakat* every year. Nearly 85% portion of it is spent in the US itself. Whereas 50% of the rest of the money is given to organisations run by

Muslims for work related to public welfare. Whereas 40% portion is given to charitable institutions which are run by non-Muslims.

It is to be noted that there are 35 lakh Muslims in the US. Shareek Siddiqui has claimed that major portion of the zakat money is given to Muslims compared to non-Muslims because ordinary Muslims give preference to those who believe in Islamic faith. Founder of American Muslim Community Foundation Muhi Khwaja claimed that Muslims are serving the American society through various means. Muslims donate liberally during Ramzan. Roza and Zakat are among the five pillars of Islam. He said that every year, during Ramzan, American Muslims give US\$ 1.8

billion in zakat. In Islam, there is a special significance in giving zakat during Ramzan.

One major charity institution of Muslims, Islamic Relief USA, claims that during the Ramzan month this year, nearly 10 lakh people were supplied with ready-made food. According to the CEO of Muslim Aid USA, Azhar Aziz, food items worth 10 lakh dollars have been distributed among the poor through his organisation. This apart, the money from the zakat has also been utilised to extend health facilities

to the poor. Another Muslim organisation has claimed that housing and food facilities are being provided to needy Muslims staying in 42 states in the US through his organisation. An individual associated with this organisation said that when they arrived in the US from India for the first time, they were under this wrong illusion that there were no poor in the US. However, later when he started working with the welfare sector for poor, he understood that there is no shortage of needy persons in the US as well. ■

## Attack on Chinese in Pakistan



**Etemaad** (March 27) states that five Chinese travelling in a vehicle were killed in a terrorist attack that took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Malakand DIG Mohammad Ali, while confirming the incident, said a team of Chinese engineers were proceeding from Islamabad to Dasu. On the way, the suicide attackers rammed a car filled with explosives on their bus in which all Chinese engineers including the Pakistani driver were killed. Earlier also, the terrorists had targeted Chinese engineers at least four times in this region. Following this incident, Pakistani security forces

cordoned off the entire region. An intensive search is underway for terrorists.

**Inquilab** (March 28) states that commenting on this attack, a spokesperson of Chinese foreign ministry said those people who are trying to create a rift in the friendly relationship between China and Pakistan through such actions will never succeed. The spokesperson has demanded the Pakistan government to conduct a high level inquiry into the incident and take stringent action against the accused. The spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry has confirmed through a statement that the Chinese engineers working with

the Dasu Hydroelectric Project have been targeted through this terrorist attack. He also demanded the Pakistan government that the Chinese citizens working with various under-construction projects shall be provided with tight security in such places. This apart, the Chinese spokesperson also directed all its citizens staying in



Pakistan to remain alert and do not neglect their own safety. The Chinese foreign ministry said that after this incident, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and expressed condolences to the family members of the deceased Chinese men. The Chinese foreign ministry also said China will continue to contribute towards the reconstruction of Pakistan.

**Siasat** (March 27) states that the Pakistan Army has confirmed that terrorists had attacked a Naval training centre in Turbat in Pakistan, which the Army has foiled. The firing continued from both sides for a long time as a result of which the Army has killed four terrorists. The Pakistan government confirmed that two Pakistani soldiers were also killed in this attack. The Majeed Brigade of banned organisation Baloch Liberation Army has taken responsibility for the attack. It is to be noted that five days earlier also a terrorist attack took place at the Gwadar Port being built with Chinese help in which two Pakistani soldiers were killed. Whereas the Army shot dead eight terrorists. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said we will take rest only after wiping out the terrorists active in Pakistan.

**Sahafat** (March 28) in its editorial has expressed concern over the increasing terrorist incidents in Pakistan. The

newspaper said earlier also several attacks took place on Chinese citizens in Pakistan. It is being said the hands of Balochistan Liberation Army were behind these attacks. This organisation is so powerful that it is continuously challenging the Pakistan Army. It is also being alleged that in the name of crushing terrorism in Pakistan, ordinary people are being tortured. There is no doubt that a feeling is growing in the minds of people who stay in Balochistan that Pakistan has given a free hand to Chinese to plunder the mineral wealth from this region. The local people are opposed to this.

The newspaper said that Pakistan's compulsion is that it has taken huge financial aid from Chinese in return for these projects. Nowadays Pakistan is in the grip of a huge economic crisis and its financial dependency on China is increasing day by day. The second reason is that Pakistan wants to establish friendship with China and put pressure on Bharat. The recent attack launched by Pakistani army after entering Afghanistan has also created lot of tension between the two countries. Indeed, Pakistan has adopted a two-pronged policy in the name of terrorism. At one level, it is using terrorists against Bharat. At another level, terrorism is spreading fast in its own territory and it is unable to control the same.



## Increase in the number of child labourers in Afghanistan



**Hindustan Express** (March 26) states that due to the wrong economic policies of Afghan Taliban, poverty rate is growing almost daily in Afghanistan. The children are becoming the victims there, who have been forced to work hard. After Taliban came to power, there is a huge increase in the number of such children who do not go to school to receive education due to financial constraints. Due to the worsening financial situation, they are being forced to do child labour. During Ramzan, there is a huge increase in the number of children doing hard labour in coal mines, in carpet weaving, construction work and agriculture in Kabul. Thousands of children pick rags on the streets and also take to begging.

As per a survey of United Nations, after Taliban came to power, there is an increase of 10 lakh in the number of child labourers in

Afghanistan. Director of Save the Children, Afghanistan, Arshad Malik said that as per a survey of United Nations, after Taliban came to power, there is a 38 percent increase in the number of child labourers. Majority of the children had to do the labour to feed the family. Earlier, the International Child Emergency Fund of United Nations had described 2023 as a devastating year for Afghan children. As per this survey, one-third of the child labourers in Afghanistan are working in hazardous industries and after Taliban came to power, there is a huge increase in their number. There is also an increase in the number of child labourers due to the ban imposed by the Taliban government on women from taking up employment. In this survey, a concern has been expressed that smugglers are using children for drug trafficking.

## UN Security Council accepts ceasefire proposal in Gaza



**Inqilab** (March 27) states that the United Nations Security Council has for the first time accepted a proposal seeking immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The US for the first time did not veto the proposal for ceasefire in Gaza. It did not take part in the voting meant for this proposal. The Security Council had tried several times to pass the resolution in order to stop the war that began in Gaza on October 7, 2023, but since the US vetoed it every time, the resolution could not be passed. Now, on the resolution tabled in the Security Council, 14 countries out of 15 extended their support.

Since the US did not veto this resolution, there is a possibility of differences cropping up between Israel and the US. Israel has strongly reacted to this stand of the United States. Whereas the Secretary General of United Nations, António Guterres, has stressed that the ceasefire shall be implemented quickly. He said that if we fail to do so, it would be unpardonable. In the resolution, along with the ceasefire in Gaza, a demand has been made to immediately release all Israeli citizens taken hostage by Hamas without

any conditions. As per latest information, despite the resolution being adopted, there has been no let-up in the war between Israel and Hamas. The Israeli military action continues in Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the US has stressed that the decision not to take part in the voting for the resolution is not an indication of any change in its policy. However, the US has been adopting a stringent stand towards Israel for some time now. Israel, while expressing opposition on the stand of the US, cancelled the scheduled visit of a high-level delegation to the US.

**Etemaad** (March 26) states that it has been demanded in this resolution that a ceasefire should immediately be implemented in the holy Ramzan month in Gaza so that the war could be stopped permanently there. It is to be noted that the resolution was moved by Algeria and Slovenia and Switzerland also took part in the preparations for the same. Earlier, the US had vetoed several times the resolutions seeking ceasefire. Recently, there has been a change in its stand and it has opposed the launching of military operation by Israel in Rafah. Before this, the US had also tried to

move a resolution seeking ceasefire in the UN Security Council, but Russia and China vetoed this resolution. A US spokesperson said that since the resolution doesn't condemn Hamas, we did not take part in the voting. Commenting on the decision of Israel Prime Minister to cancel the visit of his two senior advisers to the United States, the US spokesperson said we are totally disappointed over the decision of the Israel Prime Minister. Israel's minister for national security Itamar Ben-Gvir said the United Nations has become a worthless organisation. Whereas the British representative expressed regret that the resolution does not condemn the attack by Hamas.

Palestinian organisation Fatah's Central Committee member Sabri Saidam said this resolution of the security council is a step in the right direction. This will help stop the killing in Palestine. The foreign affairs ministry of Palestine also appreciated the resolution and said this will open the door for the return of homeless people. United Nations director at Human Rights Watch, Louis Charbonneau, demanded from Israel that it immediately implement this resolution. The representative of Algeria has also welcomed the passing of this resolution. The countries which voted in favour of this resolution include Algeria, Guinea, Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Korea and Switzerland apart from the four permanent members of the Security Council.

**Urdu Times** (March 27) reports that Israel has thrown the resolution for ceasefire into the waste bin. As per latest reports, Israel's air force and artillery continued intense bombing in different regions of Gaza Strip. The attack targeted houses, roads and homeless people, in which hundreds of citizens were killed. The Israeli military entered a camp of homeless people on the way to Al-Shifa Hospital premises and it ordered a group of people hiding in a house through loudspeaker to immediately surrender their weapons. Following this, Israeli artillery started

indiscriminate bombing on this region. This apart, Israeli military also targeted the eastern region of Rafah and also carried out indiscriminate bombing in Khan Younis region. The Israeli military also rained bullets on many villages and refugee camps.

**Etemaad** (March 27) states that Israel's Defence Minister said we would tell the US that Israel would take action against Hamas in all places. Until Hamas releases Israeli hostages without any conditions, till then our bombing would continue. In a press release issued by the office of Israeli Prime Minister, it has been said that from the stand of the US, it is clear that there is a change in its old policy. Due to this, there is a setback to the Israeli action against Hamas and the issue of the release of 130 people taken hostage by Hamas has also landed in trouble. Israel's foreign minister said that despite this resolution on ceasefire, we will continue with our military operation and will stop only after destroying Hamas. We don't care about this proposal.

**Etemaad** (March 28) in its editorial has condemned the fact that despite passing of a resolution seeking ceasefire in the United Nations Security Council, there is no softening of Israel's offensive stand in Gaza. From the fact that the US did not veto this resolution, it is sure that there is a change in US policy towards Israel in view of the increasing anger against Israel across the world. It is also being said in the resolution that so far 32,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks. Whereas, the Israeli military claims that so far 10,000 people belonging to Hamas have been killed as revenge for the death of 1,200 people who were killed in the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. The Israeli military has also made it clear that it is trying to ensure that the ordinary citizens are not affected in this attack and only the cadre of Hamas and their bases will be targeted.

Palestinian representative in United Nations has alleged that Israel has used 25,000 tonnes of explosives so far in order



to destroy Gaza, which is equivalent to two nuclear bombs. He also said that Israel has failed to prove that the people who have been killed are fighters of Hamas. Following a meeting of European Council in Brussels, the Prime Minister of Spain said that Spain along with Ireland, Malta and Slovenia is willing to give recognition to Palestinian state. It is being said in the editorial that it is such a painful thing that the Palestinian citizens of an autonomous state are being killed in their own country and there is nobody to save them. The international resolution had no effect on Israel. Human rights organisations of the whole world, who take pride in raising any incident that takes place in Islamic countries, have become mute spectators on the Israeli attack on innocent Palestinians.

**Inqilab** (March 29) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

said the cancellation of the visit of his senior advisors to the US is a clear indication that Israel will never bow down before the increasing international pressure for a ceasefire in Gaza. He said that the stand adopted by the US in the Security Council is a totally wrong step and the worst thing is that this stand of the US will be a boost to Hamas to adopt a strong stand and not release the Israeli hostages. The newspaper said that Israel has announced boycott of the series of secret talks being held in

Qatar capital Doha between Israel and Hamas.

In reply to a question by a journalist, a US spokesperson said the announcement made by Israel to continue the military operation in Rafah is aimed at finishing off the rest of the leadership of Hamas. Military commander of Hamas, Mohammed Deif, appealed to Muslims across the world that they march towards Palestine. In an audio statement issued to Arab media, he said we appeal that Muslims from all Arab and Islamic countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Malaysia march towards Palestine. This march should begin not tomorrow, but from today, now itself. He said there is no need to care about international borders and hurdles in order to liberate Masjid Al-Aqsa.

## Saudi Defence Minister gets Nishan-e-Pakistan award

**Hindustan Express** (March 24) states that in a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr (President's House) in Pakistan, Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia, Khalid bin Salman, has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Pakistan namely 'Nishan-e-Pakistan.' Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari handed over the Nishan-e-Pakistan award to the Saudi Defence Minister. On this occasion, he said the

Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia is known across the world for his unique talent and for his efforts for peace in the region. The steps being taken against terrorism in Saudi Arabia under his leadership is commendable. In a message, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, said there is a strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia since ancient times which played a major role in

maintaining security and stability in the region. On this occasion, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and the chiefs of the three armed forces were present.

In a special military parade organised in Islamabad on the occasion of Pakistan Day, the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia took part as a special guest. On this occasion, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Army chief General Syed Asim Munir, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Navy chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Air Force chief Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu were also present. It is to be noted that Pakistan Day is celebrated on March 23. On the same day in year 1940, a resolution was adopted in Lahore for creation of Pakistan. On this occasion, President Zardari said today is a very important day for Pakistan because on this day we have made a demand for creation of a separate country for Muslims and finally



we managed to secure it. We are especially grateful to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and China because they stood with Pakistan in every difficult time.

**Comment:** The relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan remained strong ever since the creation of Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is the only country which has been permitted by the Pakistan government to recruit its citizens for its army. This apart, all the guards of the Saudi's royal family are of Pakistani origin. Currently, two brigades of Pakistan Army are present in Saudi Arabia, whose entire expenses are taken care of by the Saudi government.

## Houthis announce blockade in Indian Ocean too

**Etemaad** (March 17) states that a spokesperson of Yemen's armed forces has announced that now the Houthis will target the ships of Israel and its allied nations in Indian Ocean as well apart from Red Sea and Arabian Sea. Addressing a military parade in Yemen capital Sana'a, General Yahya Saree announced that an Israeli ship and a US warship were targeted in Red Sea. Similarly, three US and Israeli ships were targeted in Indian Ocean as well. He claimed that the Houthis have targeted a ship of Israel 'Pacific 01' and many destroyer ships of the US Navy apart from many missiles and drones and destroyed them. He said they will also target those

ships of Israel and its allies that travel through the channel of Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. We warn that the ships of these countries should not travel on the route of Cape of Good Hope, otherwise they will have to bear the consequences of the same. He said that as long as the Israeli offensive action continues in Gaza, the action of Houthis in Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean will not stop.

As per another news, last week, at a joint meeting of Houthis and its supporting organisations, it has been decided that all these organisations will continue with their joint action against Israel and its allied



nations. In this meeting, apart from Houthi rebels, senior commanders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine took part. As per another news, Republican MP of the US Dan Sullivan appealed to the Biden administration that it should warn Iran that if Houthi rebels continue to attack US ships in Red Sea, then the US will sink Iranian ships in the sea. He said that until the US takes stringent action in this connection, it would not be possible to stop the attacks by the Houthis on US ships.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (March 22) states that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that it is totally wrong to blame Iran for anti-American actions taking place. The anti-American organisations which are active in the Middle-East are independent. The Palestinian group Hamas, Hezbollah of Lebanon, different militia organisations of Iraq and Syria and the Houthi rebels of Yemen are included in this group. He said that we are opposed to the US and we also extend all kinds of help to these militia organisations. Addressing Iranians on the occasion of Nowruz (Iranian new year) Ali Khamenei said that all these groups function independently, but the US blame Iran for their actions. He said that due to pressure from these resistance groups, the US have to pack their bags from all the countries in the Middle-East. We will fully

extend help to any force that fights the Israel.

**Siasat** (March 23) states that the US military has claimed that its two warships have destroyed several ballistic missiles. These missiles were fired from Yemen by the Houthis. A spokesperson of US defence ministry said that this year so far the Houthi rebels in Yemen have carried out 50 attacks on US ships which we will not tolerate and they will be given a befitting reply.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 18) states that seeing the growing attacks by the Houthis in the Red Sea, the US military has announced that concrete steps are being taken to stop the supply of weapons by Iran to Houthis. The US understands that the Houthis will become a major threat to it in the near future, hence its effort is to stop the supply of weapons from Iranian sources to Houthis and other organisations linked to Iran under any circumstance. A spokesperson of US Defence Department has claimed that from November last year till now, the Houthi rebels have targeted at least 105 US ships.

**Inquilab** (March 28) reports that the US has taken action against Iran-supported Houthi rebels, Hezbollah and six organisations linked to Quds Force and against two ships which were either located or registered in Liberia, India, Vietnam, Lebanon and Kuwait. The US

spokesperson said that our effort is to ensure that the financial aid being given to these terrorist groups in an illegal manner should be stopped at any cost. Among them, those organisations are also included which support the Bashar Al-Assad government in Syria and provides them financial resources in an illegal manner.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 29) states that the trade that takes place through Red Sea is nearly 12 percent of the world trade. Similarly, India's trade worth US\$ 200 billion takes place through the Suez Canal and Red Sea route. Nearly 80 percent of Bharat's goods meant for Europe also passes through this route. Now since the Houthis have started targeting this sea route, the commercial ships are forced to

pass through the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. Due to this, there is a huge spike in the transport charges. Recently, the Houthis had also targeted many Indian ships in Yemen. This is the reason why the Indian Navy has deployed ships in large numbers in the Arabian sea to ensure security. This apart, surveillance aircraft belonging to Navy have also been deployed there.

**Inqilab** (March 29) states that more than 10 people were killed clashes between the Houthis and the government forces in Yemen and many dozen people were injured. The clashes took place between Ansarullah group present in the frontline in Bab Ghalab region and the Yemeni soldiers.

## Visa-free entry for 87 nations in United Arab Emirates

**Urdu Times** (March 20) reports that the United Arab Emirates has announced visa-free facilities for citizens from 87 countries in the world on their arrival at its airports. According to Arab media, the list of the countries which the foreign affairs ministry of United Arab Emirates has decided to offer visa-free facilities, is being created again. This includes 87 countries including Israel and Bharat. According to the foreign affairs ministry of United Arab Emirates, the citizens from these countries will be given a visa for 30—90 days on their

arrival at the airport, which could be extended for another 10 days. It has also been said in the official statement that citizens from the member nations of Gulf Cooperation Council need no entry visa and they could enter United Arab Emirates on production of passport or identity cards issued by their own countries. There is no need for Indian citizens also to secure a visa in advance to visit United Arab Emirates. They will be given a 14-day free visa immediately on their arrival at the airport.

## Iran's new Gaza drone a threat to Israel and the US



**Etemaad** (March 27) states that Iran has presented for the first time its most modern drone named 'Gaza' at the international

weapons show in Doha. As per a report in Wall Street Journal, the engine is turboprop and it could reach its target nearly 2,000 kilometres away, travelling at a height of 35,000 feet. It has the capacity to carry 13 guided bombs. Iran has named it as 'Gaza' in order to express solidarity with the Palestinians, who are fighting a war against Israel in Gaza. Iran has for the first time took part in an arms

show outside the country. This apart, Iran also displayed a pilot-less war plane in the exhibition which could hit targets 1,243 miles away.

As per the report, this drone and the driver-less plane could target Israel. Due to this, there is a possibility of US interests suffering a huge setback in the Middle-East. In this exhibition, Iran has presented its many missiles and rocket launchers as well. In October last year, after the ban imposed on weapons by the United Nations

expired, Iran has started showcasing its weapons for sale in international market. Iran's Deputy Defence Minister Seyed Mehdi Farahi said that Iran had sold weapons worth 1 billion dollars between March 2022 and March 2023, which, when compared to last year, is three times more. Iran's defence scientists have developed most modern weapons recently on a large scale. Its aim is to make Iranian military self-reliant regarding weapons and to sell them in international market.

## Israeli attack on Syria



**Inqilab** (March 30) states that the Israeli military has started bombing Syria as well, along with Gaza. In an Israeli air force strike in Aleppo city in Syria, 42 people along with six senior commanders of Lebanese terrorist organisation Hezbollah were killed. Syria's defence ministry has confirmed that several soldiers and civilians were killed in this strike. On the other hand, Israeli foreign ministry has claimed that they have targeted Hezbollah bases in Syria and six senior commanders of Hezbollah's Lebanon group were killed in this attack. British organisation Human Rights said Israel had carried out a strike at an ammunition depot located near the international airport in Aleppo and several huge explosions took place there. Recently, Israel has stepped up its attack on the bases of Iran-supported organisations in Syria.

Israel targeted the bases of Syrian army and air force as well.

It is to be noted that Israel had announced that it would continue its attack on the military bases of terrorist organisations belonging to Iran located in Iraq and Syria. The Israeli military has so far carried out 147 attacks on Iran-supported terrorist organisations this year. The Iraq government has warned Israel to desist from violating its air space, otherwise there would be serious consequences. In reply to this, Israel's military headquarters has claimed that its air force is not targeting any soldier or citizen of Iraq, instead it is targeting only the bases of those militia organisations supported by Iran which are involved in anti-Israel activities and who are targeting the soldiers and citizens of Israel.



