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Sharia and Quran Invoked for Polarisation of Muslim Votes



- Huge increase in Muslim population in the country
- Huge public anger against rising prices in PoK

- India takes Chabahar port on lease from Iran
- Islamic madrasas or centres of sexual exploitation?

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Summary

It is very surprising that the Urdu media and the Muslim leaders are invoking Sharia, Quran and the Prophet for the polarisation of Muslim votes against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. They say that the Modi government wants to change the Constitution and make this country a Hindu Rashtra. This will put the separate identity of the Muslims in the country in trouble. In such a situation, it is necessary that Muslims should get united to protect Islam, madrasas, dargahs and masjids and should vote 100% against the BJP. As of now it is difficult to predict how much impact will this well-planned campaign have on the voting tendencies of Muslims.

A report of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has come to the fore recently. In this report, it has been claimed that there is a 43.15 percent increase in the share of population of Muslims between 1950 and 2015. Whereas, in the same period, the share of Hindu population declined by 7.82 percent. The Urdu media has expressed doubt on the authenticity of this report. Their claim is that the report has been made public during the election time so that a polarisation of Hindu votes takes place in favour of BJP on its pretext.

The public anger against rising inflation and economic crisis in Pak Occupied Kashmir has taken a serious turn. In this connection, the Joint Awami Action Committee organised a long march from Rawalakot to the capital of Pak Occupied Kashmir, Muzaffarabad. Due to this, the public life came to a standstill. In Mirpur, the protesters killed a police officer. Following this, the situation turned worse. The government had to impose a ban on internet and mobile services. Since the police failed to deal with the protesters, the government had to deploy Pakistani Rangers in huge numbers in the entire region. The seriousness of the situation could also be gauged from the fact that the Pakistan government had to call an emergency meeting of the cabinet to discuss the situation. This apart, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had to agree for an allocation of Rs 23 billion to provide relief from inflation in Pak Occupied Kashmir. Despite this, the protesters had refused to give up their demands. The talks between the Joint Awami Action Committee and the government of Pak Occupied Kashmir also failed.

Recently, the Modi government has got a major diplomatic victory. India will develop and maintain the Chabahar port in Iran for next 10 years. India and Iran signed an agreement in this connection. This port is of special importance because India can now directly trade with Afghanistan, Russia and one-and-a-half dozen countries of Central Asia, overlooking Pakistan. This deal has dealt a severe blow to both Pakistan and China. The agreement has also delivered a jolt to the importance of Gwadar port in Pakistan and the economic corridor that has been developed under the Belt and Road Initiative programme. The interesting thing is that the US did not like this agreement signed between India and Iran and has threatened to impose economic sanctions on India.

Sharia and Quran invoked for polarisation of Muslim votes



Perhaps for the first time in the history of the country, Muslim leaders and the Urdu media have openly invoked Sharia and Quran for the polarisation of Muslim votes against Prime Minister Modi and the BJP. For the past two months, the Muslim leaders and Urdu Media have been carrying out a systematic campaign to ensure that the Muslim votes do not get divided and all Muslim voters get united and vote against the BJP. It is being alleged that if the BJP comes to power again, the separate identity of Muslims will be in trouble because its leaders want to make this country a Hindu Rashtra.

An article has been published in **Hindustan** (May 1) in which it has been stated that Muslims should get united and vote for secular parties. It is our religious duty to vote. We could protect our faith and Islam through the power of our vote. We could keep alive the mutual brotherhood. Then we can change inexperienced and useless rulers. When the ruling class constantly attack our religion, Islamic faith and Sharia, then it is necessary for us to use our votes with full caution to protect Islam, religion and our existence.

Hindustan Express (May 10) has published an article and its headline was

‘Islamic view of politics.’ It has been said in this article that the principles of politics laid down by the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad have been gradually abandoned by the Ummah (followers of Prophet). Due to this, Muslims had to lose power and the politics went into the hands of non-Islamic people. The Prophet of Allah had predicted the current situation much earlier. According to the book Al-Iman, “Then the worthless people will take their place. Won’t do what you say. Those who do jihad using their hands, tongue and heart will be good Muslims.” In view of this, it is necessary for us to understand the politics of this era and get freedom from the present rulers.

Hindustan (May 10) has published an article written by Syed Islamuddin Mujahid and its headline was ‘Parliamentary elections and Muslims.’ It is said in the article that the entire Sangh Parivar has put in their full effort for the success of the BJP. The Sangh activists are engaged in their mission even in the remote parts of the country. The fascist powers are working in a planned manner. The BJP has given a communal colour to the entire election campaign. The Prime Minister of the world’s biggest democratic nation,



Narendra Modi, is using bad words against Muslims. In such a situation, he has lost the moral right to remain on the post of the Prime Minister. The BJP's real agenda is to spread communal hatred in the country and save its falling reputation, and that is why the prime minister and all the leaders of BJP are spreading poison in the country through their speeches. In order to change the current political atmosphere in the country, it is necessary to stop the division of Muslim votes. If the secular votes get united, the BJP will not come back to power. Muslims have this duty to use their vote to remove communal elements from power. The writer has expressed satisfaction that a political awareness campaign is being run among Muslims by different sections. Muslims are being advised to get united and cast their votes in favour of secular parties so that Islam and Sharia could be saved.

Urdu Times (April 21) has advised Indian Muslims to get united and throw communal elements out of power. It is necessary that every Muslim use his vote in every situation and should not hesitate in casting vote. Due to the division of Muslim votes such elements come to power who are anti-Muslims. Muslims should give their votes to such candidates who are not against Islam. In the eyes of Sharia, voting is equivalent to martyrdom and testimony. Similarly, voting in favour of cruel, tyrannical and anti-Islam people is the biggest crime in the eyes of Sharia.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (May 8) has advised Muslims that under any circumstance they should not give their votes to such people who claim that every

resident of this country is a Hindu and who are committed to ending the separate identity of Muslims. They insist that Muslims end their separate identity and join the national mainstream. In this way, they want to include the country's biggest minority community in the stream of Hindutva.

Hindustan (April 17) has published an article written by Qazi Mohammad Fayyaz Alam Qasmi,

whose title was 'Value of vote in a democratic country.' It has been said in this article that "as per Islamic Sharia, Muslims should give their vote only to such person who feels the pain about Islam and the community. Giving the vote to such a candidate is the true testimony. Quran has promised heaven to such people." The article further states that it is haram to vote for those who are traitors of the community and known for Muslim enmity and those who incite riots. (Shura al-Haj 30)."

Qaumi Tanzeem (April 23) has published an article in which Muslims had been directed to get united on the basis of faith and brotherhood. If Muslims get divided into sects and groups, then it is the biggest danger for Islam. Muslims should avoid ruining the heritage of their ancestors and should use their entire force to stop the growing fascism and communalism in the country.

Urdu Times (May 12) has published an article whose headline was 'BJP Muslims! If you have even a little bit of shame, drown yourself in little water.' Its subtitle was "Because of traitors among Muslims, the community is getting destroyed." It has been said in this article that now the BJP leaders are openly issuing threats to Muslims. Calls have been made from the dais to destroy the masjids and madrasas of Muslims and all Muslims are sitting with their tails pressed like wet cats and injured dogs. The way an atmosphere of fear and threats is increasing in the country, the Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Dalits and then all backward castes are bound to come next after Muslims since the

rule of goondaism and dictatorship is going to be established in this country. The Muslim leaders who are in the government are licking the feet of BJP through sycophancy, Muslim enmity and betrayal of the community. Allah will definitely destroy these BJP Muslims. The newspaper suggested that we need to ensure that our votes do not get divided and no candidate of communal party shall win the elections.



Urdu Times (April 24) said in its editorial that the situation that currently prevails in the country and the manner in which the BJP leaders are delivering their speeches during the elections can infer their dangerous intentions. In any case, if the Muslims do not vote 100 percent against BJP this time, then remember, you will be wiped out. Can any Muslim forget what has happened during the regime of Modi? Now this is the opportunity to get united and vote as a revenge for the brutal murder of our innocent Muslim brothers. Every Muslim voter should go to the polling booth and vote against the BJP. This time give 100 percent votes and prove that without Muslim votes no party can sit on the chair of power.

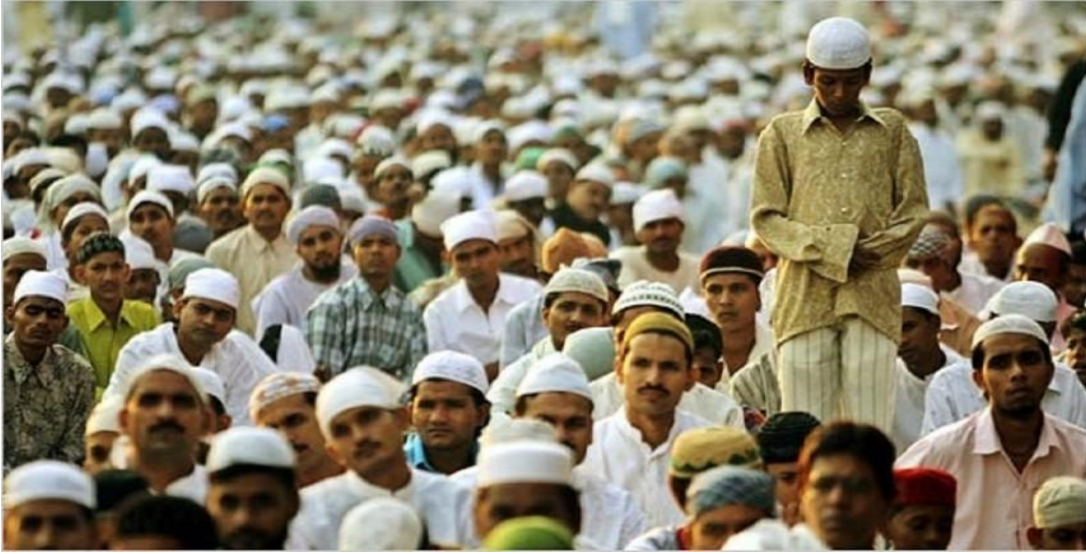
Mumbai Urdu News (April 25) in its editorial has advised Muslims to get united and vote to get rid of anti-Islam and anti-Muslim elements from power. There is no need to distribute our votes as prasad to keep each one of them happy. In the current political atmosphere, Muslims are requested that in case 10 Muslim candidates are vying for one seat, then do not divide their votes, instead get united and vote for the candidate who is capable of defeating communal elements.

Hindustan (May 8) in its editorial has said that Narendra Modi is the most failed prime minister. There has been strong criticism even in foreign countries against the atrocities being committed against minorities in his state. The newspaper said that Muslims should use

their votes in a decisive manner. This is not the time to sleep. Wake up! The Constitution and democracy are in danger in the country. If Muslims do not wake up, the Millet-e-Islamia will suffer such damages which will not be able to be compensated. We have to defeat the slogan of 'Abki baar 400 paar' slogan of Modi, Shah and Yogi. The condition for this is that Muslims get united and do mass voting against the BJP. Only then will we be able to put the last nail in Modi's coffin. Remember, a cruel person does not live long. History is witness to how dictators like Hitler met their end. Now, there is a need to eliminate hatred, Love Jihad and tyranny from the country. Those Muslim candidates who have been fielded as independents in order to divide the Muslim votes have to be totally rejected, otherwise the coming generation will not pardon you. The madrasas, masjids and dargahs will not remain safe. There is a need to open the eyes. There is strength in unity and death in division. The country should be freed of BJP. Then only we will get peace.

Urdu Times (May 10) in its editorial appealed to Muslims that voting should not be limited to mere rhetoric. Muslims should get out of their homes and vote. There is a need to go house-to-house and convince people about the power of vote. Now, this is not the time to hold meetings or deliver speeches. Muslims need to be made aware of the power of each vote. Ever since the Muslim votes have scattered, the political strength of Muslims ended.

Huge increase in Muslim population in the country



Etemaad (May 10) states that in a report of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, it has been claimed that there was a 43.15 percent increase in the population of Muslims from 1950 to 2015. Whereas the population of Hindus declined by 7.82 percent. The headline of this report was 'Share of religious minorities: A cross-country analysis (1950-2015)'. The newspaper has expressed doubt about the authenticity of this report. In this report, it has also been claimed that in 1950, the percentage of Jain community in the population of the country was 0.45 percent, which has now come down to 0.36 percent. Similarly, in 1950, the Muslim population was 9.84 percent, which increased to 14.09 percent in 2015. This means there was a 43.15 percent increase in the population of Muslims. This report was prepared under the leadership of a member of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Prof Shamika Ravi. As per this report, the population of Christians increased from 2.24 percent to 2.3 percent. This means there is an increase of 5.38 percent in the population of Christians between 1950 and 2015. Whereas the population of Sikhs in 1950 was 1.24 percent, which increased to 1.85 percent in 2015. It means there was a 6.58 percent increase in their population.

The newspaper said this report has come to the fore at a time Lok Sabha

elections are being held in the country. Various leaders have also given their opinion on this report. Congress leader Rashid Alvi said this is not any new survey. The truth is that in 1992, Muslim women on an average used to give birth to 4.4 children, which has come down to 2.6 in 2015. Whereas Hindu women on an average used to give birth to 3.3 children in 1992 which has come down to an average of 2.1 percent in 2015. President of National Muslim Assembly Syed Saheb Alam said this is indicative of narrow religious outlook. He said those conducting the survey have deliberately targeted a particular community. BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi said that in 1951, the Muslim population was low, but there were many talented Muslim personalities. However, now the population of Muslims has increased, but there is a decline in their intellectual level. Chairman of All India Muslim Jamaat Maulana Mufti Shahabuddin Rizvi said now the people have become alert. The educated people have started realising that if the number of children is less, they could be brought up in a better way.

Roznama Sahara (May 11) in its editorial said that the Indians, breathing in an atmosphere of religious aggression, communalism and hatred were waiting for a gust of clean air to come so that the

poisonous atmosphere will go away. But this hope does not seem to be fulfilled. The people of the ruling party are seen openly raking up communalism and dividing Hindus and Muslims. Narendra Modi, who is sitting on the Constitutional post of the Prime Minister, is also accusing Muslims of starting vote jihad without any reason. In between this, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has released an old report. The BJP is making every possible effort to make this report a means to collect votes. It has been claimed in this report that the population of Muslims is increasing and the population of Hindus is coming down.



After this report came to the fore, a question has arisen that since the Modi government has not conducted Census during its entire tenure, on what basis is it talking about the population? As far as the question of Muslim population is concerned, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the birth rate of Muslim women is at its lowest level of 2.4. Whereas in 2015-16, this was at 2.6 and in 2005-2006 it was 3.4. After this report came, the BJP and its leaders have started making it an election issue. They are provoking Hindus by saying that in the coming years, the Hindu population in Hindustan will be destroyed and hence vote for BJP. However, after this report came, the Population Foundation of India has warned that it should not be wrongly interpreted with the purpose of creating an atmosphere of fear against any community. The foundation, while citing the Census of 2011 and the data of NFHS, said that the birth rate is coming down among all the communities.

Inquilab (May 12) in its editorial said that in the report of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, which has been published, it has been claimed that the population of Muslims has

increased. This report is suspicious from various points of view. The first thing is why has this been brought to the fore during election campaign itself? Or has it been brought to the fore with the aim of giving a new direction to the election campaign of BJP? It may not be so but the suspicion is there, otherwise this revelation could have been made a few months ago or a few months later.

If the Central government has so much concern about the population, then why it did not conduct the Census? This Census was supposed to take place in 2021. Two years have passed even after Corona pandemic. Why the government has not done the Census so far? It is known that the last Census was held in 2011. Now a so-called council's report has been brought through the back door. Meanwhile, the effort to reap political benefits by showing the bogey of Muslim population is an old strategy. An effort is being made for a long time now to create this fear among the majority community in the country that if the Muslim population increases, then those days will not be far away when the majority community becomes minority and the Muslim minority will become the majority. Our question is, if it is necessary to release the data, then why only the data about the population is released? The details on unemployment, inflation and demonetisation shall also be made public. In any case, the central government has several other important issues like the situation in Manipur, the problems of

farmers etc. No White Paper has been issued on them till now. Our opinion is that the Election Commission should immediately take action against the government in this connection.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (May 12) said in its editorial that the population is not an issue in any country, but in Hindustan it has been made an election issue. The BJP is expressing concern over the decrease in Hindu population and increase in Muslim population as if the Hindu will become the minority and Muslim will become the majority. Experts have, while questioning this report, said that since no Census has been held till now, how can this data be called authentic? The India government has to clarify its stand on this issue. It was clear that the issue would become a political weapon from the manner in which politics started on it and the BJP leaders began

issuing statements on it after this report came in the media.

After this report came to the fore, Acharya Shukla said that if the population of Hindus is decreasing so much, then the Central government should take strong action on the issue. Shukla has advised the Central government that it implements population control law. Spewing venom, Union Minister Giriraj Kishore said the opposition parties are conspiring to make Hindustan a Muslim state. Political analysts say that the sole aim of releasing this report is that the BJP could come back to power by creating fear about the population of Muslims and thereby collect Hindu votes. The surprising thing is that the opposition leaders are silent on this report till late and the BJP is having stomach cramps. Actually, this is just Muslim enmity and nothing else.

Islamic madrasas or centres of sexual exploitation?



Hamara Samaj (May 14) states that the police have cracked the murder of Maulana Mohammad Mahir, the imam of a masjid located in Ajmer. The police claim that the imam was murdered by six students of his own madrasa, who were tired of the forced sexual assault by the imam. In this connection, the police have arrested six students of the madrasa. Superintendent of Police of Ajmer, Devendra Kumar Bishnoi, while making a sensational revelation, said the imam of the masjid used to have forced homosexual relationship with the students

of the madrasa. The 30-year-old imam, Maulana Mohammad Mahir, has been teaching students in an Islamic madrasa built on the premises of Mohammadi Masjid at Mohalla Kanchan Nagar under Ramganj police station area. The students of madrasa conspired for the murder of imam in order to escape from the daily sexual exploitation.

On the night of April 26, the students purchased sleeping pills from a store and mixed it with *bundi ki raita*. After this, they gave the food to imam. When the imam fell unconscious, the students brought *lathis* from a garbage behind the masjid and started beating imam's head with them. When an injured imam tried to escape from the students, all the students jointly put a noose around his neck and killed him. After the murder, the students made a plan that in case somebody asks how imam was killed, then they all would say that three masked men came there wearing black shirts and they locked

the students in one room. Later, they beat the imam to death using sticks. Later the students told this story to people staying in the neighbourhood of the masjid. The

police seized the rope used in the murder and the mobile phones from the students. Whereas the family members of imam said that the story of the police is not believable.

High court nod for changing the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad



Aurangabad Times (May 9) reports that the Bombay High Court has rejected petitions questioning the decision of the Maharashtra government to change the names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad. It is to be noted that the state government had decided to rename Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. The two petitioners, Mushtaq Ahmad and Mohammad Hisham Usmani, while commenting on the verdict of the high court, said they will question this decision in the Supreme Court. Mushtaq Ahmad said when the Shiv Sena was in power, the then chief minister Manohar Joshi had announced that the name of Aurangabad would be changed as Sambhaji Nagar, which we had questioned in the high court. However, the high court had rejected our petition but we got justice from the Supreme Court. Another petitioner, Mohammad Hisham Usmani, said this decision of the high court is surprising. Our lawyers had presented all documents in the court, but we did not get justice.

It is to be noted that former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had decided to change the names of these districts at the last meeting of Maha Vikas Aghadi cabinet

in June 2022. His government was overthrown soon after that. After Eknath Shinde became the chief minister, the new government decided to rename Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. The newspaper said the transfer of revenue area is done under Section 4 of Maharashtra Land-Revenue

Code, 1996 which permits the state government to make alterations on the boundaries of any revenue area, abolish the revenue ceiling or change its name. On February 24, 2023, the Union Home Ministry had put its seal of approval on changing the names of the two cities, but the Maharashtra Revenue Authority could not complete the process of changing the names. Later, the revenue authority issued a notification and sought objections, if any, from the public. On August 23, 2023, the Bombay High Court had rejected the petitions on the ground that the new names are not duly proclaimed. Two weeks after the high court rejected the petitions, the new names were announced, which the two petitioners questioned in the court.

The petitioners have claimed that before the names of these two cities were changed, the sentiments of people were not taken into consideration and the Constitution has been violated. They also alleged that the names have been changed to reap political benefits due to the sentiments of hatred towards Muslims. In this connection, it has been said in the public interest petitions filed that due to this decision of the state government, communal tension will increase in the state.

Apart from this, it has also been alleged that a decision has been taken to change the historical Muslim names of these cities with the aim of reaping political benefits through polarisation of votes. The state government, while rejecting the argument, said that Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj was a universally acknowledged personality of Maharashtra and hence there is no religious colour in the change of the names. The state government, while opposing the petition questioning the changing of the name of Osmanabad, filed an affidavit in the high court in which it has been claimed that majority of the residents of the city celebrated the changing of the name of Osmanabad and no communal tension took place there due to it. Later, the high court rejected both the petitions.

Comment: After Independence till now, the names of more than 100 cities in the country have been changed. After Independence, the name of United Province of Agra and Awadh had been changed to Uttar Pradesh. On November 9, 2000, a separate state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and it had been named as Uttaranchal. Later its name was changed to Uttarakhand. In 1996, the name Madras was changed to Chennai. In 1995, the name Bombay was changed to Mumbai and the name of West Bengal capital Calcutta was changed to Kolkata. Similarly, Bangalore's name was changed to Bengaluru. Poona's name was changed to Pune. In the same

way, the names of several districts and places in Maharashtra have also been changed. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the names of more than a dozen cities there have been changed. It included changing the name of Faizabad to Ayodhya and Allahabad's name to Prayagraj. Similarly, Mughalsarai's name was changed to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

The campaign to change the names was started by Samajwadi leader Ram Manohar Lohiya. Due to his movement, several roads in Delhi named after British rulers were changed. This apart, during the massive agitation of the activists of Samyukta Socialist Party, more than four dozen statues of foreign rulers erected in several locations of the national capital were damaged. Following this, the administration decided to remove the statues of foreign rulers from public places. The interesting thing is that Lohiya did not campaign to remove the names of roads named after any Mughal or Muslim rulers of foreign origin. Later, the leaders of Jan Sangh launched an agitation to remove the names of roads named after all rulers of foreign origin. Following this, the municipal corporation and New Delhi Municipal Council decided to change the names of several roads named after foreign rulers. Recently, a proposal to change the name of Aligarh as Harigarh has been accepted.

Maulana arrested on charges of conspiracy to kill BJP leaders

Urdu Times (May 6) states that a 72-year-old Maulavi was arrested from Surat on charges of conspiring for the murder of various leaders of BJP. According to police, the name of the man who has been arrested is Maulavi Sohail Abu Bakr Timol. He has been accused of threatening to kill the chief editor of Sudarshan TV, Suresh Chavhanke, BJP legislator T Raja Singh and former spokesperson of the party Nupur Sharma. The police claim that this

maulavi has conspired to murder the national president of Sanatan Sangh Upadesh Rana. He had telephoned Upadesh Rana more than 15 times and had threatened to kill him. It is to be noted that the national president of Hindu Samaj Party Kamalesh Tiwari was killed in Lucknow in 2019.

The police claim that the officials of Pakistan's intelligence wing based in Nepal and Pakistan had given a supari of one

crore to get these leaders killed. From the recording of the conversation, it has come to be known that Maulavi Abu Bakr wanted to kill Upadesh Rana as early as possible so that a communal atmosphere could be created during the elections. The police commissioner of Surat Anupam Singh Gehlot told journalists that the accused used to work in a private factory. This apart, he also used to teach students in a madrasa. The accused used a foreign number for his mobile. He came in contact with Pakistan's intelligence agencies through social media. On their directions, he contacted a Pakistani agent, Shahbaz, sitting in Nepal.



The police commissioner said police officials were conducting an investigation in this connection. Maulavi Abu Bakr had threatened to kill Upadesh Rana many times in March this year. The accused made a group call to the telephone numbers in Pakistan and Nepal through a virtual number in Laos. From the pictures obtained from the mobile of the accused and other details, it has come to know that he has been making preparations to target some people belonging to BJP and Sangh Parivar. For this, he has been making plans to collect funds and to purchase weapons. The police have registered a case against Maulavi Abu Bakr for spreading religious hatred, use of fake documents and also under different sections of IT Act.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 6) states that the accused has been working as a manager in a thread factory. He has been staying in Kathor village in Surat for a long time. The accused has been sent to police custody for 10 days.

Hindustan (May 6) states that the crime branch team has been investigating this issue for the past few months. The maulavi used to interact with his supporters using code words and was in touch with foreign spies based in Pakistan and Nepal.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 7) in its editorial said that after the arrest of an aalim-e-deen (religious scholar) from Surat in Gujarat, people might have remembered Mufti Abdul Khayoom who got trapped in

connection with the Akshardham terrorist attack. The mufti was accused of serious charges of maintaining links with Pakistani terrorists and for taking part in the planning for the attack on Akshardham, but the court had discharged him. Mufti saheb was released but 11 years of his life was wasted behind the bars. He also wrote a book, a reading of which gives an idea how the police treat Muslims in the jail. Mufti is not alone, there are dozens of such people, who were made accused and trapped in fake charges, but the courts have released them. The charge is that the investigating agencies and police do all this deliberately, despite knowing that the person arrested is innocent. It is said time and again that the sole aim of police and investigating agencies is to present Muslims as terrorists. When a secular investigating officer investigates honestly, then the milk and the water get separated. The example of Late Hemant Karkare is before us, who told the truth about the real accused in the Malegaon bomb blast case through his investigations. Maulana Suhail Abu Bakr has been accused of serious charges. Like maintaining links with Pakistan and purchasing of weapons. Can an aalim-e-deen plan something like this? This question is raised because in the past also those who were caught by the police on such charges were released by the court. All the charges made against him were proved to be wrong. The names of the BJP leaders which have been taken are patients of Islamophobia. No Muslim take them seriously. A conspiracy to murder them is a distant thing. The question here is will the police be able to investigate honestly and fairly against Maulana Suhail Abu Bakr?

Huge public anger against rising inflation in Pak-Occupied Kashmir



Sahafat (May 14) reports that the public anger that has arisen in Pak-Occupied Kashmir against rising inflation has taken a serious turn. As per latest reports, it has been confirmed that at least four protesters have been killed in police firing. The talks between the Joint Awami Action Committee, which organised the protests, and the government of Pak Occupied Kashmir has failed. Talking to media persons, leader of Joint Awami Action Committee, Umar Nazir Kashmiri, said that in view of the violence perpetrated by police in the past five days during the long march towards Muzaffarabad, the Joint Awami Action Committee has decided to dissolve the talks being held with the so-called Azad Kashmir government. Seeing the explosive situation in Pak Occupied Kashmir, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif called an emergency meeting of his cabinet. Umar Nazir alleged that the Pakistan government is not serious about the demands raised by them. After the talks failed, the protesters have relaunched the proposed long march from Rawalakot to Muzaffarabad. In an effort to stop them, the administration imposed a heavy security of

Pakistani Rangers on all the roads leading to Muzaffarabad and also parked containers on the road. An announcement has been made to shut down all government, private offices and educational institutions in Muzaffarabad division. This apart, internet services were also disconnected in Pak Occupied Kashmir.

It is to be noted that these massive protests were being held against rising prices of food items, gas and petrol. Earlier, a police officer was killed after the protesters opened fire in Mirpur. This apart, more than 100 people were injured in clashes with police. The protesters set fire to a number of government buildings and vehicles. In view of the seriousness of the situation, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif summoned the prime minister of Pak Occupied Kashmir, Chaudhary Anwarul Haq, to Rawalpindi. Shahbaz Sharif said that since we are a democratic country, we want a peaceful dialogue with our own people, but those who take law into their hands and those who damage government properties will not be spared under any circumstances. Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari appealed to the people of Pak



Occupied Kashmir not to take law into their hands and stop attacking police personnel. He said that a way shall be found through talks with the government so that the integrity of the Pakistan is maintained.

Taasir (May 13) states that in view of the explosive situation in Pak Occupied Kashmir, Pakistani Rangers have been deployed on duty. The entire life has come to a standstill due to suspension of mobile services and supply of electricity. The Pakistani media claimed that differences have propped up among the leaders of this agitation. A member of Joint Awami Action Committee, Sajid Jagwal, said he is in favour of organising the movement in a peaceful manner and the Joint Awami Action Committee has no hand in the violence that took place in Mirpur recently. Chairman of Anjuman Tajran, Sahibzada Wakaz, said our agitation is not against the government or any institution. This is our country. This is our Army. Along with this, he also said the rightful demands of the protesters shall be accepted, because the people are suffering due to the price rise.

Roznama Sahara (May 14) states that Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has called a high-level meeting in Islamabad to discuss the explosive situation

in Pak Occupied Kashmir. In this meeting, the prime minister of Pak Occupied Kashmir, Anwarul Haq, Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Raja Farooq Haider and Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam took part. Following this meeting, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif announced a special grant of Rs 23 billion to Pak Occupied

Kashmir. Commenting on the violent situation in Pak Occupied Kashmir, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that one day we will end the illegal occupation of Pak Occupied Kashmir and merge them with Bharat.

According to Pakistani newspaper **Jung** (May 14), Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the efforts made by some neighbouring countries to destroy the unity of Pakistan have been foiled by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif using his wisdom. We will overcome every conspiracy with the grace of Allah. We will take such steps which will put Pakistan's enemy forces in trouble. He claimed that the present government in Pakistan is taking concrete steps to overcome the economic crisis being faced by the country. Foreign investments are increasing day by day. He said that last year, the inflation rate was 36 percent, which has come down to 17 percent now. The enemies of Pakistan and the leaders of the Opposition parties here are not liking the steps taken by the government of Shahbaz Sharif for the betterment of Pakistan. He said that we will not let anyone set their eyes on Pak Occupied Kashmir and will take out the eyes of every enemy.

Pakistan-origin Sadiq Khan elected London Mayor

Hindustan (May 9) states that the son of a bus driver from Pakistan, Sadiq Khan, has created a new history by taking oath as the Mayor of London for the third time. While taking the oath of his office, he offered tributes to his father. He said his father had

served the residents of London for several years as a bus driver. When his father came to London, there was an atmosphere of hatred towards people from Asia, especially to those from Pakistan. It used to be written on the windows of shops and



Party, got 11 percent votes less than him. This time the mayoral election was quite a tough one because, for the past few years, there has been a huge increase in the number of crimes in London. Recently, several incidents of knife attacks had also taken place. It is to be noted that in London, the police are under the mayor. In

guest houses that, “entry of blacks, Irish people and dogs prohibited.” He said that despite that he became a member of the state council of South London for the first time.

It is to be noted that 53-year-old Sadiq Khan was born in Tooting in South London. He secured a law degree from University of London. He started his political career by becoming a member of Wandsworth Council. The father of 1970-born Sadiq Khan had arrived in Britain from Pakistan. Since then, he has been staying in a modest flat given by the council. Sadiq Khan was elected the mayor of London for the first time in 2016. In that election, he had defeated Zac Goldsmith, the brother of Pakistan’s former prime minister Imran Khan’s wife Jemima Goldsmith. Before becoming the mayor, he was also a member of House of Commons (2005-2016). In the recent election campaign, he had promised free food for children in schools and rent control homes in London. This apart, he had also promised to increase the strength of police to improve the law and order and also construction of additional flats for housing.

Hindustan (May 6) reports that the Conservative party in Britain suffered a massive setback in the elections for the mayor’s post in London. In this election, Sadiq Khan of Labour Party received more than 10 lakh votes and 44 percent voters had given their votes to him. Whereas his opponent, Susan Hall of Conservative

view of this, Sadiq Khan had to face a number of criticisms. The London residents were disappointed with Sadiq Khan also because he had given open permission for protest marches supporting Palestinian people in the city. Sadiq Khan had also promised to steeply hike the fine being imposed on car owners to curtail the increasing pollution in London.

In the recently held elections, Labour Party’s mayor candidates have once again registered their victory in Liverpool, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire in Britain. Whereas in West Midlands, the Labour Party’s candidate defeated the incumbent Mayor of Conservative Party. In this elections, the Labour Party has captured several such councils in the cities of England where the powers were in the hands of the mayors of Conservative Party for several decades. However, in some regions, the candidates of Labour Party also had to face defeat. The reason for this is that Muslim voters did not give their votes to the Labour Party, because Labour Party is considered to be supporters of Israel. It is to be noted that Sadiq Khan has won the Mayor seat after a tough fight with several candidates. This time he had to face opposition from Conservative Party leader Susan Hall, Liberal Democrats Party candidate Rob Blackie, Reform UK Party’s Howard Cox, Green Party’s Zoe Garbett, Social Democratic Party’s Amy Gallagher and Britain First’s candidate Nick Scanlon.

Indiscriminate firing on namazis in Afghanistan



Sahafat (May 1) reports that a few terrorists entered a masjid in western Afghanistan and opened indiscriminate firing on namazis in which at least six persons were killed. An official spokesperson, while confirming the incident, said all those who were killed belonged to Shia community. Spokesperson of Afghanistan's interior ministry Abdul Mateen Qani told 'AFP' representative in Kabul that this attack took place in a masjid in Guzara district in Herat province. A few armed attackers entered a masjid at nine o' clock at night and opened indiscriminate firing on people offering namaz there. It is being said that the hands of Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS were behind this attack. Earlier also this terrorist organisation had attacked more than a dozen masjids and killed over 200 namazis. Majority of them belonged to Shia and Hazara community. As per information received from Guzara, the attack was carried out by three armed terrorists. The brother of the imam of the masjid who was killed in the attack, Ibrahim Akhlaqi, said two armed men stood guard outside the masjid. The third man entered the masjid and opened fire in which at least six persons were killed and many were injured. Syed Murtaza Hussaini claimed that 30 people were killed in a suicide attack that took place in a masjid in Kandahar in April. He said the hands of banned terrorist

organisation ISIS were behind these attacks which is running a campaign against the Taliban government.

Inqilab (May 9) states that suicide attackers attacked a military vehicle at Faizabad city in Afghanistan. Two vehicles suffered damages in this attack and six soldiers were killed on the spot. Whereas, a dozen soldiers were also injured. It is being said this explosion was triggered through remote control. Till now, no organisation has claimed responsibility for this attack. It is said that ever since Taliban came to power in 2021, the Khorasan chapter of Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS has been targeting military bases, military convoys, imambaras and government offices in Afghanistan in which so far more than 500 people have been killed. The Taliban government has started a search for the terrorists. Spokesperson of Afghan government Zabiullah Mujahid expressed concern over these attacks and said the hands of foreign sources were behind these incidents, who wants to spark Shia-Sunni riots in Afghanistan.

Inqilab (May 2) states that the United Nations in one of its reports has expressed concern over the increasing incidents of human rights violations and said the Afghan government has been violating the fundamental rights of people. A mass murder of more than 800 former employees of Afghan National Security

Force has already been committed. From November 2022 to April 2023, a total of 43 incidents of public flogging of women and children took place. The Taliban government has given public flogging for 58 women, 274 men and children as punishment. From August 2021 till now 2,045 incidents of violation of freedom of press have been registered. During this time, 61 journalists were arrested while 130 journalists were expelled from

Afghanistan. Taliban is also forcing minor girls into marriage. Under the rule of Taliban government, 334 people belonging to Hazara sect of Shia community were killed and 631 were injured. A total of 4,519 incidents of minor children being forced into labour had also taken place. In this report, it has also been claimed that the Afghan government has imposed a ban on women travelling alone which is a violation of human rights.

Iran decides to seal Afghanistan border



Roznama Sahara (May 4) states that Iran has decided to seal its border with Afghanistan. The Afghanistan border will be sealed in six provinces of Iran. A spokesperson of Iran government said in Tehran that after Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in 2021, it has become the main centre of Islamic terrorists and they are playing Holi with blood in neighbouring countries. This is the reason why Pakistan started fencing the Afghanistan border in the beginning itself and it is hoped that the Pakistan government will complete this work in the next six months. Among the Islamic terrorist groups which are active in Afghanistan currently, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), ISIS and Jaish al-Adl are the main ones.

According to Iran's interior ministry, the provinces in which the border with Afghanistan will be sealed include

Mazandaran, Golestan, Razavi Khorasan, Northern Khorasan, South Khorasan and Semnan. According to the commander of Iranian ground force Brigadier General Hasan Maqfi, the Iran government has allocated three billion dollars to set up barbed wires, fencing and for the construction of a five-metre high concrete wall on Iran-Afghan border. Iran's defence minister Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani said the Afghanistan government has totally failed to stop the activities of terrorist groups, and hence we were forced to take this decision to seal the border with Afghanistan.

It is to be noted that two months ago, Iran had attacked several villages in Afghanistan using missiles in which more than two dozen people were killed. In retaliation for this, the Afghan Army also bombarded Iranian villages, in which two dozen people were killed. After this

incident, the Afghan government alleged that Iran has violated international laws by breaching Afghanistan border. In reply to this, the Iran government said that it had targeted the bases of Jaish al-Adl and ISIS located in Afghanistan on the basis of information obtained from intelligence sources. These terrorist groups had carried out suicide attack at a dargah in Iran's Kerman province and



killed more than 200 innocent Iranians. The Iran government also claimed that its step would also help stop illegal infiltration through Afghan border and also smuggling of drugs. According to sources in Iran government, more than 80 lakh Afghan citizens were staying illegally in Iran out of which more than 50 lakh people were expelled from the country by Iran government and sent back to Afghanistan. After this incident, a sense of bitterness has arisen in the relationship between the two countries. The Afghan government alleged that the Iran government had forcefully expelled even those Afghan citizens who had been staying there after obtaining passport and visa.

Aurangabad Times (May 4) states that the mutual relationship between the two countries deteriorated even on the issue of distribution of water. According to the spokesperson of Iran government, Taliban had signed an agreement to supply 220 million cubic metres of water from Helmand river every year to Iran, but the Afghan government is not adhering to it. Iran has threatened to take this issue to international court of justice.

Avadhnama (May 13) states that Dawn News has claimed that Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had

constituted a high level committee under the chairmanship of Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti to discuss about the Afghan border issue. This committee will visit the border and study the situation. Secretary of home department in Balochistan told media that the surveillance on the border has been tightened and the Balochistan government has sent back 2.2 lakh Afghan citizens staying illegally to their native place. The intelligence agencies in Pakistan are keeping a close watch on the activities of terrorists.

Taasir (May 15) states that clashes took place between the soldiers of Taliban and Pakistan's border Rangers on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This clash took place on May 13 after a Pakistani aerial attack on Afghanistan territory. Following this attack, the Taliban has suspended the visit of a high-level delegation of Pakistan Army to Kandahar. Pakistan claims that banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is using Afghanistan's territory to carry out attack on Pakistan. Whereas Taliban alleges that Pakistan is using Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS against the Taliban. They are also supplying weapons to ISIS to spread disturbance in Afghanistan.

Direction for action against those seeking Islamic Caliphate in Germany

Avadhnama (May 3) states that Germany's radical party Christian Social Union has demanded in the parliament that stringent action should be taken against those people who have been seeking to change the current structure of German democracy and implement Sharia law in its place and establish an Islamic Caliphate. Leader of Christian Social Union in German Parliament



Alexander Dobrindt said in his speech that those who are dreaming about establishing an Islamic Caliphate in Germany should either be immediately sent to jail or they should be deprived of German citizenship. It is to be noted that Christian Social Union is the main opposition party in Germany which is the opponent of the ruling alliance headed by the current Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Dobrindt said that whichever person wants to implement Sharia in Germany and establish an Islamic Caliphate is an enemy of our democratic system. One should not show any kind of leniency towards such people. Such anti-democratic elements should be given at least life-term in jail as punishment and they should be deprived of the rights and facilities available to the citizens. The dual citizenship of such people who are enemies of the country should be immediately cancelled. He said that a ban should be imposed on all such Islamic organisations who want to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Germany.

Interior minister of Germany Nancy Faeser has assured Alexander Dobrindt that if anyone demands to change the current democratic structure of Germany at the rally or demand to implement Sharia law in the country, then stringent action will be taken against such persons under German law. Germany has given clear instructions to the police in this connection. Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz also expressed

concern over the increasing activities of Islamic fundamentalists in Germany and said that stringent action will be taken against such pro-Islamic elements under our democratic and legal framework.

Mentioning about the rally held by fundamentalist Islamic groups in Hamburg recently, German minister for economic affairs Robert Habeck said the demand being raised in this rally to establish an Islamic Caliphate and implement the Sharia law has raised serious questions about Germany's democratic values. He said that more than 1,100 Muslim fundamentalists took part in this rally, which was organised by extremist Muslim community. It is to be noted that the people at the rally organised by Muslims in St George district in Hamburg expressed anger over Islamophobia in Germany and also against the campaign in the media against Muslims. In this rally, it had also been stressed that permission be given to the Muslims who stay in Germany to adopt Sharia law and to establish administrative setup on the basis of their religion. In this rally, many speakers have also demanded that an Islamic Caliphate shall be established in Germany. Those who took part in the rally were carrying banners on which it had been written that the campaign of hatred against Muslims and Islam should be stopped. Establishment of an Islamic Caliphate is the only way to ensure security to the Muslims living in Germany.

India takes Chabahar port on lease from Iran



Roznama Sahara (May 14) states that India has taken on lease a port named Shahid Beheshti in Chabahar region in Iran for a period of 10 years. In this connection, an agreement has been signed between the two countries. Now the port will be entirely managed by Bharat. This apart, India has now got an alternative route for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia. This agreement has dealt a severe blow to Pakistan. Till now, India's entire trade with Afghanistan was through the Pakistani route. As per the agreement, Indian company India Port Global Limited will invest 120 million dollars in order to develop this port. Union Minister Sarbanand Sonowal had been sent to Iran for the agreement.

It is to be noted that Iran and Bharat have been working on the Chabahar project for the past 20 years. Chabahar is the first port taken on lease abroad by Bharat. India wants to improve its trade across the world. Chabahar port could play an important role in this connection. By taking this port on lease, India can now directly trade with Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. It is to be noted that India and Iran signed an agreement in connection with the

construction of Chabahar in 2018. Currently, India is supplying wheat to Afghanistan through this route to overcome the food crisis in that country. Now India can also import gas and oil through this port from Central Asian nations.

Roznama Sahara (May 15) states that after the agreement between India and Iran over with the Chabahar port, the US indirectly opposed it and threatened that it may impose sanctions on India also for doing trade with Iran. Deputy spokesperson of US State Department Vedant Patel, while talking to reporters in New York, said we have got information that Bharat and Iran signed an agreement regarding Chabahar port. India is free to take its own decisions regarding its foreign policy and on its relationship with other countries, but the US may impose economic sanctions on those nations which Iran enters into a trade relationship with. When he was asked whether the US would impose economic sanctions on Indian companies which have trade links with Iran, he said we had clarified it several times that if any institution, any company or any country is planning to do trade with Iran, then they should understand that the US may impose sanctions on them as well. He said we are



not at all prepared to give any kind of exemption to any nation in our policy. It is said that in 2018, when an agreement was signed between Bharat and Iran on Chabahar, the US had given this indication that it would not impose any sanctions on Bharat, but now the US has changed its stand.

It is to be noted that Pakistan has criticised this agreement. Earlier also Pakistan had issued this threat that it may cancel the transition facility given through Pakistan for trade between India and Afghanistan. It is worth mentioning that the Chabahar is also a part of the International North-South Transport Corridor stretching from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai to St. Petersburg in Russia, which is also a traffic route that links India Ocean with the Persian Gulf. Now India can also use the Chabahar port as an alternative route to Red Sea.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 16) in its editorial said the agreement will have its effect in the entire region in future. India has been trying for this agreement for quite some time and the then president of Iran Hassan Rouhani had taken a personal interest for this deal. The interesting thing about this agreement is that it has delivered a setback to the importance of Pakistan's Gwadar port and the Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI) programme of China. Now, with this agreement, India can overlook Pakistan and reach up to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Chabahar may become the link for trade with Central Asian countries. The US has not liked this agreement and it has threatened to impose economic sanctions on Bharat. It is a matter of happiness that the country's foreign minister S Jaishankar said we will not compromise on our interests due to pressure from anyone.

Etemaad (May 16) in its editorial has expressed concern that the US, for the sake of its friendship with Israel, has threatened to impose economic sanctions on Bharat. According to analysts, there are several reasons for this threat. The Biden Administration has been putting pressure on Bharat over the so-called conspiracy for the murder of Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who stayed in the US and the murder of another Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. This threat by the US could lead to tension in the relationship between the two countries. The US has also accused the Indian companies of secretly doing trade with Russia. The US has also imposed sanctions on three Indian companies for doing trade with Russia and Iran. It is also debated that the US wants to keep India away from the growing closeness between Saudi Arabia, Iran and China. It is also being said that the Biden Administration is not in favour of the return of Modi government because Narendra Modi's leaning is towards Donald Trump and this has not been hidden from anyone. It is happy to note that Bharat is not willing to wilt under the pressure of the US. ■

Proposal for UN membership for Palestine gets nod

Urdu Times (May 12) states that a resolution moved in the United Nations General Assembly by United Arab Emirates has been approved. The resolution has mooted full membership for Palestine

in United Nations. It is to be noted that till now Palestine has been granted only observer status in the United Nations. A total of 143 nations voted in favour of the proposal moved by the United Arab



Emirates. Whereas nine countries including the US, Israel, Argentina and Hungary opposed this proposal. Meanwhile, 25 countries did not take part in the voting. It is said that many Arab countries have been making efforts for the past seven months to ensure that Palestine gets full membership of the United Nations. This proposal has also been important because Israel has been strongly going ahead with the work to set up Jewish settlements in West Bank region. However, the United Nations had described it as illegal. After the voting, though Palestine did not get membership of the United Nations, it has been recognised as being eligible to get permanent membership of United Nations. Palestine representative in United Nations, Riyad Mansour, while addressing the United Nations General Assembly, said they wanted independence.

According to French news agency 'AFP', Israel had bombed Rafah last Friday. The talks being held in Egyptian capital Cairo over the ceasefire in Gaza has been suspended before reaching any conclusion. It is to be noted that recently US President Joe Biden said in an interview that if Israel resorts to any major attacks in south Gaza, the US would stop the supply artillery shells and other weapons. This was the first time the US President had stepped up pressure on Israel. The US has also threatened to block

military aid worth three billion dollars to Israel. The US had time and again urged Israel not to attack Rafah. Biden also said this policy of the US is not against any state, but an investment for peace.

On the other hand, Israel's representative in United Nations Gilad Erdan has condemned the draft resolution and said that accepting this proposal will grant recognition to Palestine as a nation, which is a violation of the charter of the United Nations. After the voting in the General Assembly over granting membership for Palestine in the United Nations, the deputy representative of US in the United Nations, Robert Wood, said our vote is not an indication for our stand against the Palestinian state. We are making efforts to take forward permanent peace in the region. Palestine will get the recognition of a full state when direct talks are held between the two countries. It is to be noted that 140 member nations of the United Nations had granted recognition to Palestine as a state earlier itself, but the US had vetoed this proposal in the Security Council. Due to this, the issue of granting full membership to Palestine in the United Nations landed in trouble. The US has been supporting Israel right from the beginning. In this connection, it has fully stood with Israel during its war in Gaza.

Urdu Times (May 3) states that Bharat has dealt a heavy blow to Israel by



openly supporting Palestine. India's permanent representative in United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, said that Bharat is in favour of recognising both Israel and Palestine as independent nations so that the Palestinian people stay in an independent nation within a secure border. This step by Bharat is considered as a setback to Israel, because Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had described Palestinian state as a threat to the existence of Israel. Kamboj condemned Hamas as well and said that terrorism cannot be supported in any form. Bharat has always been opposed to terrorism. She demanded that all the citizens taken hostage by Hamas shall be released immediately. She also stressed on increasing the aid being given to the people of Gaza so that their problems are solved. It is said that Bharat had always stood with Palestine, but recently the Modi government has started adopting the policy of becoming close to Israel. This is the first time that Bharat, while openly supporting Palestine, arguing for an independent Palestine. This policy of Bharat has dealt a blow to the US as well.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 4) in its editorial has welcomed Bharat's open support to Palestine. Bharat said that recently a proposal has been tabled in the Security Council seeking full membership for Palestine in the United Nations. Though 140 nations supported it, the US had vetoed the resolution. It is clear that this step by the US is in support of Israel. Israel doesn't want Palestine to be a member of the

United Nations. It considers Palestine as a threat to its existence and wants the entire world to consider Palestine as a threat just like they consider it. Now, Bharat has supported the membership of Palestine and delivered a serious blow to both the US and Israel. Nowadays, there is a strong relationship between Bharat and Israel. Largescale trade takes place between the two countries and weapons are

also purchased. Hamas had attacked Israel against the announcement made by Israel to set up Jewish settlements in West Bank. As far as strictness on terrorism from India's side is concerned, it is a part of the Modi government's policy, but we want to make it clear that declaring Hamas as a terrorist organisation will not make any difference. In order to find solution to the dispute between Palestine and Israel, there is no way except to hold talks with Hamas. However, when a proposal for ceasefire has been moved by Jordan in the United Nations General Assembly, Bharat did not take part in the voting. Making clear its stand on the policy for taking part in the voting, Bharat had said that since the proposal did not condemn the attack launched by Hamas on Israel on October 7, Bharat did not take part in the voting. The question here is if India is an opponent of terrorism, why it is not condemning Israel along with condemning Hamas, which has been regularly killing citizens and small children. This is a good opportunity for Modi government to condemn the crimes of Israel along with its condemnation for Hamas. The same way some European and African nations are doing. Bharat had always stood with Palestine and is a supporter for an independent Palestine even today. This decision to support Palestine was taken during the election time. It is known that that Prime Minister Modi finds an opportunity in every disaster. Is he looking for an opportunity in this war as

well, and in order to get Muslim votes, has he been saying that his government has been standing with Palestine Muslims?

Roznama Sahara (May 12) in its editorial has supported the resolution passed in the United Nations General Assembly. The newspaper said we welcome the manner in which Bharat has supported the Palestinians. As far as the issue of US and Britain is concerned, they are against the people of Palestine right from the beginning. The sympathy of the US and its allied nations towards Israel is

not hidden from anyone. Unless the US makes changes in its policy, no permanent peace would be possible in the Middle-East.

In another news published in the same newspaper, the Saudi Arab government supported the resolution passed in the United Nations seeking permanent membership for Palestine. As per another news, Turkiye also, while supporting this proposal, expressed hope that the world will grant recognition to Palestine as an independent nation. ■

Kuwait Parliament dissolved



Roznama Sahara (May 12) states that the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has dissolved the National Assembly. This apart, an announcement has also been made to suspend a few sections of the Constitution for a period of more than four years. He has also taken control of many government departments. This has resulted in a huge Constitutional crisis in Kuwait. According to Kuwait news agency 'Kuna,' the Emir has ordered dissolution of the Parliament and keep a few sections of the Constitution in suspended animation. As per the royal decree, Emir Sheikh Meshal has taken over all the powers of the Parliament. He announced this decision while addressing the nation on television. He claimed that

Kuwait is passing through a difficult time. In order to save the country and to protect the national interests, he had to take some harsh decisions. He said that for the past few years, corruption has increased on a largescale in many departments of Kuwait government. The atmosphere in the country has been deteriorating due to this. The saddest thing is that the corruption has spread to even security and financial institutions. Even the judicial system is not immune to it.

It is to be noted that the highest post in Kuwait's administrative system is that of the Emir. The Emir had constituted the new Parliament in April and its first meeting was supposed to take place on May 13 but many leaders had refused to be part of the



government. The Emir said that the failure in the formation of the government is due to some leaders not following his orders and conditions. According to the official TV of Kuwait, after the dissolution of the Parliament, the entire powers of the National Assembly have been relegated to the Emir and his cabinet. Earlier in February also, the parliament was dissolved. Following this, elections took place in April.

Like other Arab nations, a monarchical system headed by a Sheikh prevails in Kuwait also, which is currently caught in a political turmoil. However, compared to other Arab countries, the Kuwait Parliament definitely has some powers. For the past few years, a crisis has been going on in the domestic politics of Kuwait. There are huge differences

between the Emir and the Parliament on several issues. The main issue is over the country's welfare system. Due to this reason, the Kuwait government is unable to take loans. This is the reason why despite huge profits from oil, there is no money in government treasury even to pay salaries to the employees. As far as the political structure of Kuwait is concerned, the country has been divided into

five provinces. The people select 10 representatives from each of the provinces. These representatives are elected for a period of four years. There are no political parties as there is a ban on political parties in Kuwait. The prime minister is also appointed by the Emir. After that, the prime minister selects his cabinet with the help of the Emir. As per the Constitution of Kuwait, the Emir of Kuwait has the power to dissolve the Parliament without citing any reason. Elections have to be conducted once again two months after the dissolution of the Parliament. In the past 28 years, the Kuwait Parliament was dissolved 12 times. There are 16 ministers in the Kuwait cabinet. The recent decision of the Emir has created a crisis for the administrative system of the country. ■

Turkiye halts trade relationship with Israel

Urdu Times (May 4) states that Turkiye has stopped all kinds of trade relationship with Israel in protest against Israel's aggression in Gaza. In a press statement, Turkiye's trade ministry claimed that Turkiye will not get involved in any

import-export with Israel. Until a permanent ceasefire is implemented in Gaza, the trade relationship between the two countries will remain suspended. Israel's foreign minister alleged that by stopping the import-export of Israeli goods



at ports, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is violating the agreement signed between the two countries. Earlier, the United Arab Emirates had also announced breaking of bilateral relations

with Israel. Iran has also imposed a ban on export-import with nations supporting Israel.

Hindustan (May 5) states that Turkiye's minister for trade Omar Bolat said that recently the Israel government had

claimed that the Turkiye government had indicated that it would soften the ban imposed on import-export with Israel. However, there is no truth in this claim by Israel. It is to be noted that Israel's foreign minister had said that the President of Turkiye had decided to remove the ban imposed on trade with Israel. Bolat said this claim by Israel is totally wrong. He said that the Turkiye government has directed those companies which export to Israel to complete the order given by other third countries in the next three months. He said that the purpose of this direction is to ensure that traders in Turkiye should not face any trouble in supplying the orders given by the third countries.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 3) states that Colombia President Gustavo Petro, while opposing the Israeli attack in Gaza, announced that Colombia is breaking its diplomatic relationship with Israel. Addressing the workers on the occasion of Labourer's Day, he said that the Israeli government is going ahead with the policy of genocide. He said that Colombia has decided to be party to the petition on genocide filed against Israel in international court along with South Africa. It is to be noted that the diplomatic relationship between Israel and Colombia was established in 1950. Recently, Bolivia had also announced breaking of diplomatic relationship with Israel.

Iran threatens to make nuclear bomb

Avadhnama (May 10) reports that Iran has for the first time officially threatened to use nuclear bombs against Israel. The advisor of Iran's supreme religious leader Ali Khamenei, Kamal Kharazi, said though we had declared time and again that Iran would not make nuclear bombs, we have decided to make changes in our policy since our existence is under threat from Israel. If Israel attacks our nuclear bases, then we will definitely retaliate using nuclear bombs. He said that today Iran is in a position that whenever it wants it can make nuclear bomb. However, before this we were in favour of the stand that nuclear energy shall not be used in war, but only for the development of peaceful nuclear programme. In 2019, Ali Khameinei had said that we were of the belief that making nuclear bomb, stocking it and using it was *haram*. In 2021, Iran's minister for intelligence wing had said that due to pressure from Western countries, we had to reconsider our nuclear policy and in the changed situation we will follow the policy of developing nuclear weapons. As per the report of International Energy Agency, Iran is in a situation where it can develop



nuclear bombs whenever it wants. Recently, Iran President Ebrahim Raisi, while addressing media on the occasion of the extension work of a nuclear reactor, said though we are in a position to make nuclear bombs, still we may not make them. Iran's foreign minister said that in the changed situation, we need to reconsider our nuclear policy.

Sahafat (May 11) states that Iran President said that we are committed to our policy to develop nuclear power. We will not succumb to the pressures of any other nation on this issue and neither would reach on any agreement with anyone. He alleged that foreign powers are trying to stop the development of people of Iran by

creating unrest and through terrorist attacks. We trust God. Our intentions are steady. We will continue to develop nuclear power. If necessary, we will not hesitate to use it for our existence.

Qaumi Tanzeem (May 13) reports that in the parliamentary elections held in Iran, radical elements secured a majority in the Parliament. According to AFP, the voters have been called to vote once again on May 10 in those places where the candidates had failed to poll the requisite votes in the voting held in March. It is to be noted that in March, in the first parliamentary elections held after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, least number of Iranian voters took part. In this elections, 41 percent voters exercised their franchise. The voting took place once again in 15

provinces out of the total 31 in Iran. According to government television, the voting was held with the help of electronic machines. Iran's interior minister Ahmad Wahidi said that fundamentalist candidates won in 31 seats out of 45 seats. It is to be noted that the current president Ebrahim Raisi is considered to belong to the radical ideology. In the parliamentary elections held in March, 2.5 crore voters took part. Whereas the number of registered voters in Iran is 6.1 crore. The alliance of liberal parties in Iran, Reform Front, had announced boycott of the elections. They said that this election was not being held in a free and fair atmosphere and hence taking part in it is meaningless. Earlier in the parliamentary elections held in 2016, nearly 61 percent voters had taken part.

Decision to open Saudi Arabia's royal palaces to tourists




Hamara Samaj (May 9) reports that Arab News said that the Saudi government has taken a decision to open the palaces of the royal family for tourists. This decision was taken as part of the Vision 2030 of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman with the aim of developing tourism in the country. According to official sources, the process to open some royal palaces to the tourists will begin in the next six months. The rest of the royal palaces will be opened to the tourists in 2025. A decision has been taken to convert a few palaces as hotels. It is to be noted that the Saudi government has fixed a target of attracting 10 crore

tourists to Saudi Arabia by 2030. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund Company announced that the royal palaces which will be converted into hotels include Al Hamra Palace, Tuwaiq Palace and Red Palace. In order to develop these hotels, the cooperation of foreign companies is also sought. It is said that the aim of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman is to ensure that the economy of Saudi Arabia is not limited to the export of oil, instead other alternative resources are also being used for its development. They include attracting foreign tourists, developing several tourist spots etc.

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