

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

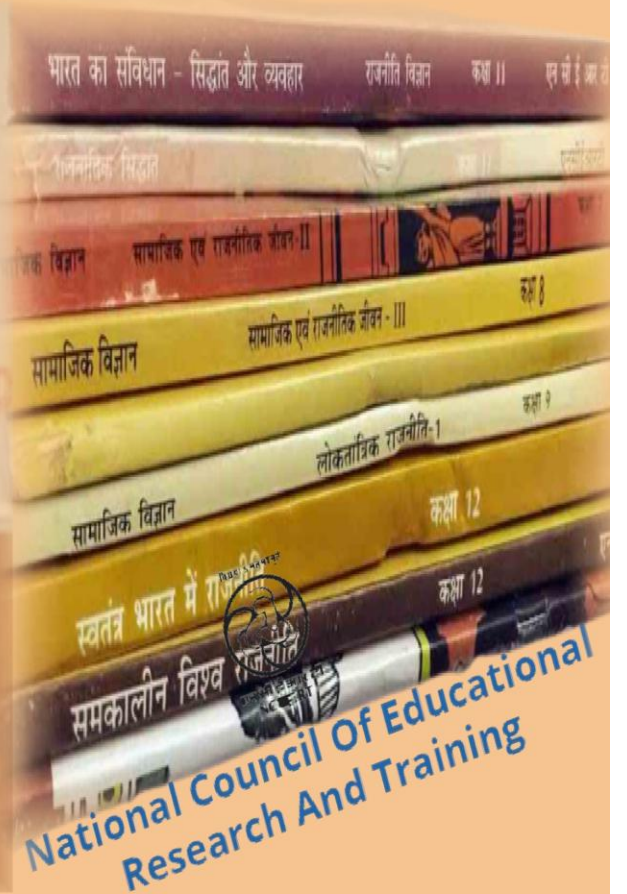
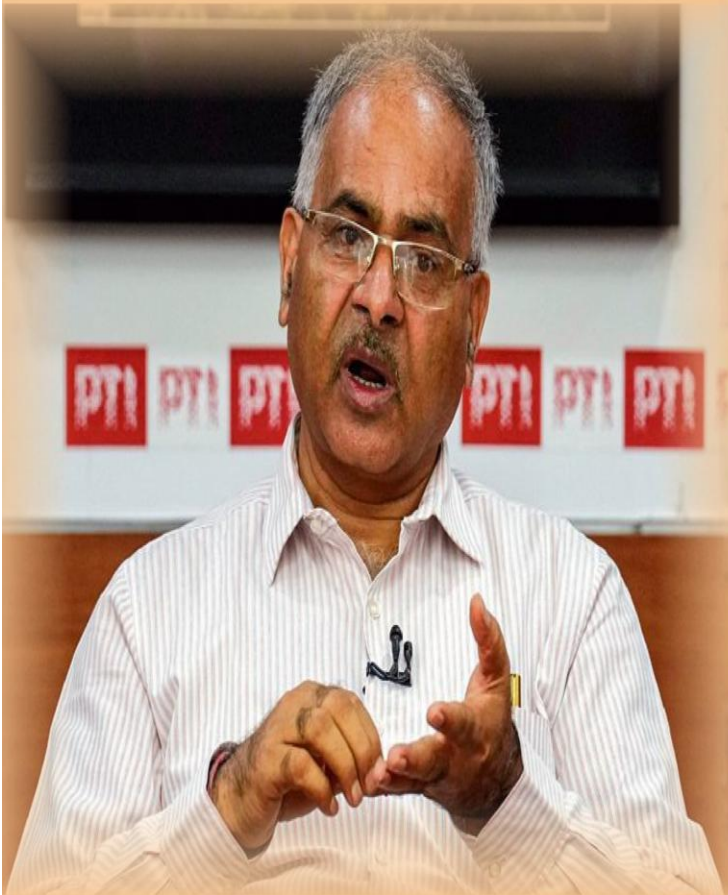
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## Controversy over NCERT Textbooks



- Murtis of Hindu devi-devatas found on Bhojshala premises
- Slovenia and Armenia grant recognition to Palestine state
- Muslim nation Tajikistan bans hijab and burqa
- Uproar in Muslim world over large number of deaths of Hajjis

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## Summary

It is a very strange that fundamentalist elements dream of establishing an Islamic Caliphate in Bharat through violent means at the behest of foreigners. Recently, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had arrested two persons involved in this conspiracy from Tamil Nadu. Earlier, the NIA had raided different places in the country and took into custody 16 people belonging to terrorist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir. It is said that this international Islamic terrorist organisation called Hizb ut-Tahrir was established in 1953. Its network is spread across many dozen countries in the world. In 2003, the German government had imposed a ban on this organisation. In October last year, the Hamas had launched an attack on Israel. Following this attack by Hamas, people belonging to Hizb ut-Tahrir held open celebrations in Britain and highly praised the terrorists of Hamas. Following this, the British government imposed a ban on this organisation. This apart, many other nations also imposed a ban on Hizb ut-Tahrir. This organisation has also been accused of spreading anti-Jewish sentiments. In Bharat, this Islamic terrorist organisation became active recently.

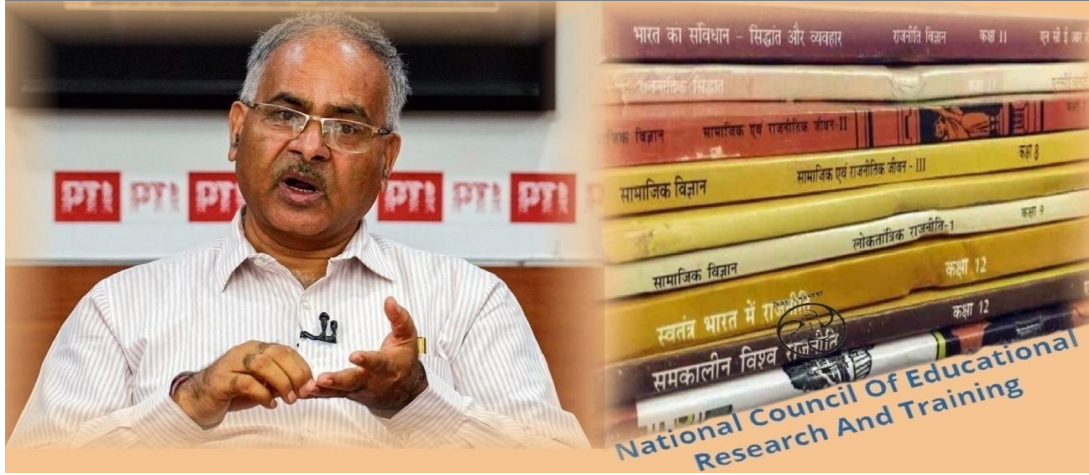
The tribunal constituted to review UAPA cases has upheld the ban imposed by the Central government last year on Muslim League-Jammu and Kashmir (Masrat Alam group) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. The links of both these organisations extend to Pakistan and its intelligence agency ISI. This organisation has been openly running a propaganda in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of Pakistan and has also been spreading flames of terrorism. While announcing a ban on both these organisations, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the Modi government would not tolerate any Pakistan-supported organisation in Jammu and Kashmir and these anti-national activities will be strongly crushed.

The Tajikistan government has imposed a legal ban on burqa and hijab in the country. Tajikistan is a Sunni-majority country and 98 percent of the population is Muslims. The nation was once a part of Soviet Union, but it had declared independence after the dissolution of Soviet Union. May be it is the only Muslim country in Central Asia which has imposed a legal ban on the use of hijab and burqa. A fine will also be imposed on those who use these dresses.

The Archaeological Survey of India has completed its survey at the historical building Bhojshala located in Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. During this survey, over 1,700 artefacts were uncovered at the Bhojshala premises, which the archaeological department has taken into its custody. These artefacts include 39 broken murtis of Hindu devi-devatas as well. From these artefacts, it is being confirmed that this historical building was constructed by Maharaja Bhoj of Parmar dynasty and the mandir of Vaghdevi (Saraswati) was also a part of it.

According to historians, during the reign of Alauddin Khilji, one of his commanders, Dilawar Khan, forcefully converted the Bhojshala into a masjid and also built a mazar there. Muslims claim that this mazar belongs to Kamaluddin Chishti, who was the Khalifa of Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi. Archaeological expert of Royal Asiatic Society Michael Willis had confirmed in his research paper that Bhojshala was originally a Vaghdevi mandir. After conducting a research on this building, the British archaeological expert also confirmed that the pillars of this dargah belonged to ancient Hindu mandir, which have the murtis of Hindu devi-devatas engraved on them. On the floor of this dargah, there are three Sanskrit inscriptions, which are said to be of 10<sup>th</sup> century.

## Controversy over NCERT textbooks



**Inquilab** (June 17) states that the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has gone ahead with the process of “saffronisation” of textbooks and tampering with history. In the Political Science textbook of Class XII, the NCERT has described the Babri Masjid as a three-domed structure. There is lot of anger among Muslims over this. Earlier, the chapter related to Gujarat riots was removed from this book. Giving a clarification on this, NCERT director Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani said that the Gujarat riots and demolition of Babri Masjid were removed from the textbooks so that these incidents should not create a feeling of violence and frustration among the new generation.

The newspaper claimed that not only the razing of Babri Masjid, even the *rath yatra* of veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani was also removed from the textbooks. Due to this *rath yatra*, communal riots had broken out in many places of the country. The newspaper said that if one agrees to this clarification of Saklani, then all the incidents related to the wars that took place during the Mughal period had to be removed, because that can also create an atmosphere of violence and desperation in the country. In the Political Science textbook of Class XII, while describing the Babri Masjid as a three-

domed structure, it has been said that it was demolished on December 6, 1992. After this, the chapter also mentions the verdict of the Supreme Court, due to which the reconstruction of Ram temple was realised. In the revised textbooks, apart from removing the mention of Babri Masjid, two pages related to the events in Ayodhya were also removed. Professor Saklani said that if the Supreme Court had given the verdict in favour of Ram Mandir, Babri Masjid or Ram Janmabhoomi, shouldn't it be included in the textbooks? What is the problem in this? We have revised the books and added new information to them. If we have constructed a new Parliament House, then it becomes our duty to mention in detail about the old and new Parliament buildings in the books.

It is to be noted that the NCERT had earlier removed several important incidents related to the Mughal period from history books. This apart, a chapter related to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was also removed from these books. The institution had also removed chapters belonging to Mughal Empire from the Class XII textbooks. Later, portions related to the Gujarat riots were removed from the Social Science Class XI books as well.

**Etemaad** (June 17) states that while talking to the correspondent of PTI, director of NCERT, Prof Dinesh Prasad

Saklani said these changes were part of annual review plan. There is no need to create a ruckus over this. Talking about the decision to remove portions related to Gujarat riots from the books, he said that why do we want to teach about riots in school textbooks? We want to bring up positive citizens, not a violent and frustrated generation. Saklani said that should we teach our students that they should be aggressive and create hatred in society? Is this the purpose of education? Should we teach young children about riots? When they grow up, they themselves will get to know about it. They will understand what happened and why it happened.

The newspaper said that Professor Saklani made this comment when the new revised textbooks came to the market. In the Political Science textbook of Class XII, the chapter related to Gujarat riots have been summed up in two pages instead of four pages and its entire details were removed. In the book, the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute case was mentioned in detail. In the NCERT book, it has been stressed that the Supreme Court's decision in favour of Ram Temple was appreciated across the country. Prime Minister Modi had done the pran pratishtha of Ramlala in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.

Professor Saklani said that till today no ruckus of this kind has been created over not including the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 in textbooks. The incidents which have been removed from the books include the BJP's Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya, the communal riots that broke out in the country after the destruction of Babri Masjid, the role of Karsevaks, Presidential rule in BJP-ruled states and the regrets expressed by BJP over the incidents in Ayodhya. Saklani was asked what he has to say about the allegation of saffronisation of textbooks? On this he said that if somethings became unimportant due to changes in circumstances and event, is it not right to change it? I don't see even remotely any saffronisation in the review of

the textbooks. We teach history to students so that they get correct information about the facts. Should we prepare them for war?

**Mumbai Urdu News** (June 20) in its editorial said that the objections raised by the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, over removal of material related to the Babri Masjid and the Gujarat riots from NCERT textbooks is totally justified. Now, one will not find Babri Masjid mentioned in the Political Science textbooks for Class XI and XII. Now, one would find mention of a three-domed structure in its place. The entire sequence of events that throw light into the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya have been removed from the books. Director of NCERT, Dinesh Prasad Saklani has described it as appropriate. According to him, the mention of demolition of Babri Masjid will create a feeling of violence and frustration among the citizens.

When Saklani was asked why so much emphasis was laid on welcoming the verdict of the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, he submits that history presents facts. History is not a battlefield. If Saklani's explanation is accepted as correct, then this question will definitely be asked as to why the harsh criticism made by the then chief justice Ranjan Gogoi on the demolition of Babri Masjid has been removed from the verdict? Gogoi's critical remarks were a fact then and are a fact even today. Not only this, the name Babri Masjid is also a fact and why this fact has been removed from the books? What Owaisi said is correct that the new generation of this country should know why chief justice Ranjan Gogoi described the demolition of Babri Masjid as a 'criminal act'? If Owaisi says that new generation should know that namaz used to take place five times in Babri Masjid from 1949 to 1952, and if the mischievous elements later destroyed it, how can it be called wrong?

The clarification given by Saklani is a childish justification to fix the textbooks as per Hindutva agenda. The Sangh Parivar



that they cannot differentiate between truth and lie. Now, take the example of Mahatma Gandhi. His works and achievements have been removed from these books. Just the name of his murderer Nathuram Godse has been retained. It has been removed from these books who he was and what was his ideology? However, people know that he was a bhakt of Savarkar who has been

and the BJP had never called the Babri Masjid a masjid and instead it was called a Babri structure. By including the name 'structure,' Saklani has implemented the Sanghi agenda. The BJP achieved its political success through the demolition of Babri Masjid, the communal riots broke out after it and on the cost of the people who died in the riots. History can never forget the riots that broke out across the country after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Saklani forgot that how much you try to erase history, it will survive in one way or another and one day it will resurrect from the ashes. Despite erasing the Mughal history, it will never get erased.

described as a veer and was influenced by the ideology of RSS. The aim of Saklani is clear, that is to give a clean chit to Sangh and the BJP and that is why Gujarat riots have been totally removed from the books. One of its aim is to save Prime Minister Modi as well, who is among the main accused in the genocide in Gujarat. Today we have written documents about the Gujarat riots of 2002, which is impossible to be erased. No matter how many restrictions are imposed on the BBC documentary, the truth speaks loudly. Saklani should not just talk about presenting facts, but should also present them in true sense. Otherwise, his claim that the changes in these books were brought on the suggestion of experts and not due to some pressure can never be accepted.

The newspaper said that the purpose of the saffronisation effort which has been initiated in the textbooks of NCERT is to create a fake history and to portray the guilty as the hero. People are not so stupid

## Ban on Muslim League and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat upheld

**Roznama Sahara** (June 23) states that the Central government in December last year had imposed a ban on Muslim League-Jammu Kashmir (Masrat Alam group) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat for a period of five years under UAPA. Now the UAPA tribunal has also stamped its approval on the ban. Let us tell you that in order to review this ban, a tribunal was constituted under the leadership of Justice Sachin Dutta of Delhi High Court. Now this tribunal has described this ban as appropriate. These organisations have been accused of treason and taking part in

separatist activities. Along with this, the bank accounts and financial transactions of these organisations have also been frozen. Earlier, the Central government in January this year had frozen all the properties of Muslim League-Jammu-Kashmir.

From 2018 till now, the Central government has imposed a ban on six Pakistan-supported separatist organisations. Initially, the Central government had declared a Pakistan-supported women's organisation, Dukhtaran-e-Millat, as a terrorist organisation and imposed a five-year ban on it. This ban was imposed under



Section 35 of UAPA. Following this, a ban was imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu-Kashmir and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under Section 3 of UAPA. In October last year, the Central government had imposed a ban on Jammu-Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party as well. That time, the Central government had said that the ban was imposed in view of the anti-India activities of the organisation.

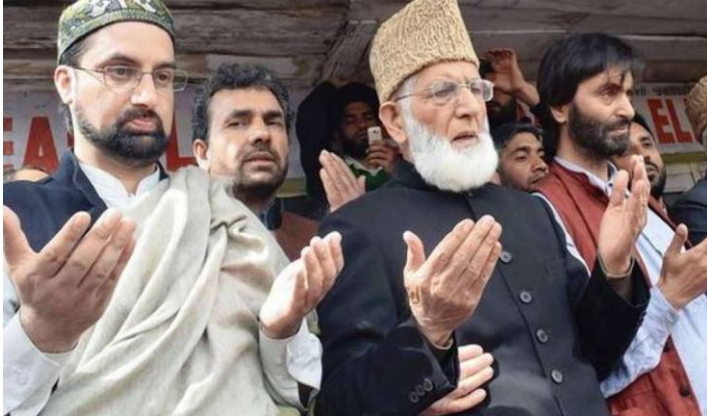
As far as Masrat Alam is concerned, he is a resident of Srinagar. He started taking part in Pakistan-supported terrorist activities in 1990. He was arrested soon. After that he remained behind bars for a period of more than two years. After being released from jail, he established a separatist organisation supported by Pakistan namely Muslim League-Jammu Kashmir. In 2007, Masrat Alam organised a massive rally in support of Pakistan-supported Syed Ali Shah Geelani in Srinagar. He was arrested in 2015 on charges of organising anti-India protests in Kashmir Valley and 27 cases were registered against him. Since then he has been lodged in Tihar jail in Delhi.

If one talks about Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, it was formed by the separatist leader in Jammu Kashmir, Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2004. This separatist organisation is a partner organisation of another separatist organisation All Party Hurriyat Conference.

All Party Hurriyat Conference was founded in July 1993 as a platform for

separatist organisations. It includes 26 separatist organisations supported by Pakistan. Due to the formation of this new organisation, former separatists founded another political platform named Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Kashmir. It was being led by Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom. It comprises ten Pakistan-supported organisations. They include Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Muslim Conference, Islamic Students League, Mahaz-e-Azadi, Muslim Khawateen Markaz, Kashmir Bar Association, Ittehadul Muslimeen, Dukhtaran-e-Millat and Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadis. When this organisation failed to spread its network among Kashmiri people and the head of Jammu-Kashmir Awami Action Committee Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq was killed, then All Parties Hurriyat Conference was constituted. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, son of Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq became the first chief of this organisation. There were seven parties in the executive council of this organisation, which included Jamaat-e-Islami of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Awami Action Committee of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, People's League of Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Ittehadul Muslimeen of Maulvi Abbas Ansari, Muslim Conference of Professor Abdul Ghani Bhatt, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front of Yaseen Malik and People's Conference of Abdul Ghani Lone.

In 2002, the terrorists killed Abdul Ghani Lone. In 2002 itself before the



elections to the Jammu-Kashmir Assembly, differences surfaced between the two groups and the Geelani group removed the then chief of Hurriyat, Abbas Ansari, from his post and appointed Pakistan-supported extremist Masrat Alam as the head of the organisation. Geelani submitted his resignation from Jamaat-e-Islami. Following this, infighting began in All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the organisation split in 2003. Syed Ali Shah Geelani took over the leadership of one group. He demanded that Jammu Kashmir should be declared as a disputed region and a plebiscite be held in Jammu Kashmir under the supervision of United Nations so that Kashmiris can decide on their future. Whereas the leadership of the other group was in the hands of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and in order to find solution to the Kashmir problem, he started holding talks with the then Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani in 2004. Following this, a leader of this group, Yaseen Malik, went to Pakistan and he started holding talks with different leaders of the so-called Azad Kashmir and the Pakistan government in the capital of Pak Occupied Kashmir, Muzaffarabad. It is being said that these talks had the support of Vajpayee government, which wanted to

establish peace in Kashmir. The Geelani group had opposed these talks.

Geelani had formed a new organisation Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir in 2004 itself. In 2014, the Mirwaiz group had split and its four constituents got separated from it. In 2021, after the death of Geelani, the leadership of Hurriyat Conference (Geelani group)

was taken over by Masrat Alam.

The relationship of Pakistan with the leaders of Hurriyat Conference is well-known. In 2001, before the then President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf held the Agra talks with the then Prime Minister of Bharat Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he held a secret meeting with the leaders of Hurriyat Conference in Delhi. Following this, Musharraf once again met these separatist leaders in New Delhi in 2005. In April 2007, when the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz arrived in Delhi, he met these separatist leaders in Pakistan House. In 2011, the then Foreign Affairs Minister of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar also met these leaders in Delhi. In 2013, when Sartaj Aziz, the National Security Advisor of the then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, arrived in Delhi, he also met these separatist leaders. In 2015, a decision was taken to call a meeting of the National Security Advisors of Bharat and Pakistan. Before this meeting, the Pakistan High Commission had called the leaders of the two groups of Hurriyat Conference Yaseen Malik and Shabir Shah to Delhi to hold secret talks with Sartaj Aziz. The Indian government opposed it and announced suspension of the meeting.

## New chapter begins in Bharat-Bangladesh relationship

**Roznama Sahara** (June 23) states that 10 important agreements have been signed between Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Addressing reporters, the Prime Ministers of both the countries said





today we prepared a vision for the future for cooperation in new areas. This includes stress on green partnership, digital partnership and also on increasing mutual cooperation in sectors related to space and ocean. Prime Minister Modi said that Bangladesh lies at the confluence of Neighbourhood First policy, Act East policy, Vision SAGAR and Indo-Pacific vision. In the past one year, India and Bangladesh jointly completed several projects which will have great importance in the history of the two countries.

It also includes the direct rail connectivity with Bangladesh. Now, rail service has been started between Akhaura and Agartala. The Mongla Port in Khulna has started cargo services to send goods to North-Eastern states in India. The Mongla Port has been linked to railway route for the first time. The Maitri Super Thermal Power Plant has started producing electricity. This plant has a capacity to produce 1,320 megawatt electricity. The two countries have also started their trade in Indian rupees. The world's longest river cruise has been successfully completed between Bharat and Bangladesh on Ganga river. The first cross-border Maitri pipeline has been completed between Bharat and Bangladesh. The export of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh through Indian Grid is the first example of mutual cooperation in the energy sector.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that India is Bangladesh's

neighbour and the most trusted friend. For us, the relationship between Bharat and Bangladesh is very important. This relationship started during the Bangladesh Liberation struggle in 1971. India has announced medical e-visa facility for those who come to Bharat from Bangladesh for treatment purposes. For this, the Indian government will open an Assistant High Commission at Rangpur in Bangladesh. This apart, the two countries decided to send a high-level technical team to hold talks on sharing of the water from Teesta river. An agreement has been signed between Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute and India's National Institute of Oceanography. This apart, the two countries also decided to increase the cooperation on military training. The two countries will cooperate with each other in disaster management as well.

Mentioning about the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Bharat, the newspaper said in its editorial that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that the friends may change, but not the neighbour. Bharat had tried to improve relations with China and Pakistan as well, but it was not possible. China's expansionist policy is well-known, and due to it many nations like South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Philippines are facing trouble. Bharat has strong relationship with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives for years. However, now China is trying to

ensure that Bharat's relationship with these countries deteriorate.

When Khalida Zia came to power in Bangladesh, it was feared that the situation would change, but after Sheikh Hasina became the Prime Minister, lot of improvement was seen in the relationship between the two countries. China had tried to trap Sheikh Hasina also into their net, but she knew it very well who was her real sympathizer. After China, Bangladesh's highest import is from Bharat. This is the reason why the situation in Bangladesh never turned like that of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. During the reign of Sheikh Hasina,



Bangladesh never tried to improve friendship with China by ignoring Bharat. Secondly, China is still making efforts to trap Bangladesh in some way or the other. This is the reason why Bharat is ready for economic cooperation under Teesta project.

## Raids in search of terrorists belonging to Hizb ut-Tahrir



**Sahafat** (July 1) states that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided more than two dozen places across the country in search of terrorists belonging to Islamic terrorist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir and took dozens of people into custody. The NIA is holding a detailed investigation into this terrorist organisation so that action could be taken against other terrorist organisations as well who are linked to it. This is the first time that this Islamic terrorist organisation named Hizb ut-Tahrir has come on the radar of NIA. According

to a spokesperson of NIA, raids were conducted simultaneously at 10 places in Tamil Nadu and the action is still on. Earlier, intelligence agencies raided several places in search of terrorists belonging to this organisation.

It is to be noted that in 2021, a man named Mohammad Iqbal belonging to Hizb ut-Tahrir was arrested from Madurai in Tamil Nadu. When a detailed investigation was conducted in this connection, it came to light that this organisation has foreign links and recently they got a large sum

from abroad through hawala transactions. This terrorist organisation has been giving training to Muslim youths to conduct violent activities in the name of jihad. It has come out during the investigation that the youths were lured into terrorist activities and recruited into Hizb ut-



Tahrir. With this aim, secret training camps were also organised in different places. They were given training in making bombs and use of weapons in the camps. It is being said that this organisation has been running a special campaign across the country to lure the followers of other religion into Islam. For this, they used various kinds of baits and were promised jobs in foreign countries on high salary. Last year, 16 people were arrested from Madhya Pradesh in this connection, out of which eight were Hindus. Later they were converted as Muslims. So far more than 50 terrorists belonging to this organisation has been arrested. NIA claims that the network of this organisation is spread across the country.

As per another news, the NIA raided 10 locations across five districts in Tamil Nadu in search of the cadre of this terrorist organisation. In this connection, one Abdul Rahman and Mujibur Rahman were arrested. Both of them belong to Tanjavur district in Tamil Nadu. Investigating agencies claim that these two terrorists were running secret training camps to establish Islamic rule in the country. The Islamic constitution of the founder of Hizb

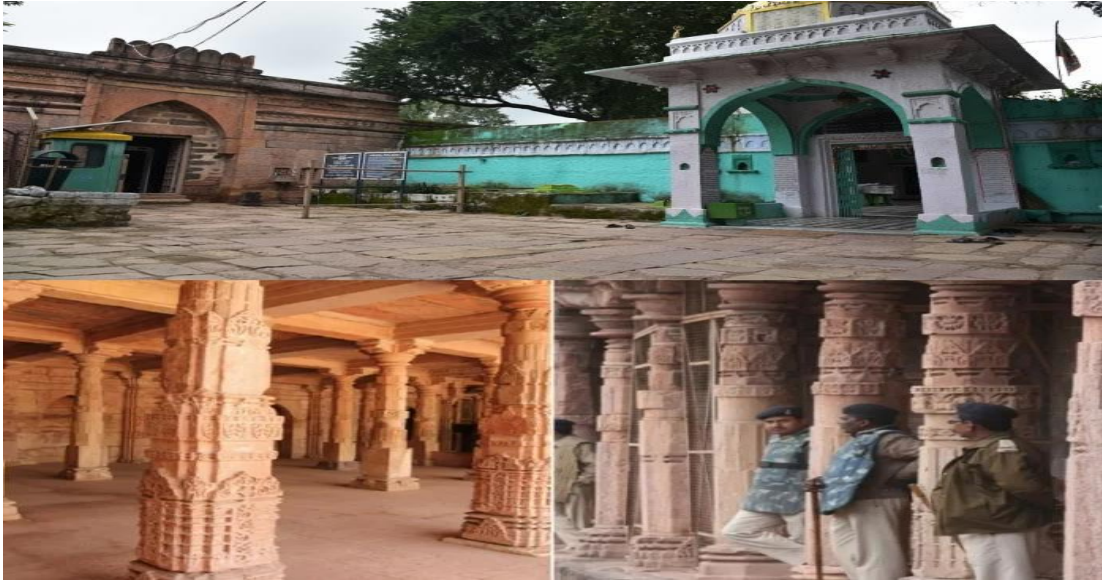
ut-Tahrir, Taqi al-Din al-Nabhani, were also seized from them. In this constitution, it has been stressed that Bharat is even now a Darul Kufr (land of kafirs) and it should be converted as an Islamic nation through jihad and establish an Islamic Caliphate in the country. In this connection, a case has also been registered under UAPA in Madurai district in Tamil Nadu.

According to sources, in October last year, after the attack on Israel by Hamas, this organisation openly held celebrations in Britain and profusely congratulated the terrorists of Hamas. Following this, the British government imposed a ban on this organisation. According to British intelligence agency, this terrorist organisation was founded in 1953 with the aim of establishing an Islamic Caliphate across the world. It is said that the headquarters of this terrorist organisation is in Lebanon. Its network is spread across more than 32 nations in the world. In 2003, a ban was imposed on this organisation in Germany as well. Recently, after the Israeli attack in Gaza, this organisation became active across the world again and in Bharat also they have stepped up their activities to establish an Islamic rule.

## Murtis of several Hindu devi-devatas found on the premises of Bhojshala

**Sahafat** (July 1) states that the Archaeological Survey of India has completed the scientific survey at Bhojshala in Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. It is to be noted that in March, the Indore bench

of the Madhya Pradesh High Court had directed the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey on the premises of the Bhojshala. Earlier, lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain had filed a petition before the high



court seeking to conduct a survey at the Bhojshala, which the high court had accepted. It is being said that more than 1,700 artefacts have been found from the building and its surroundings during the survey, which included 39 broken murtis of Hindu devi-devatas. The murtis included that of Vaghdevi (Saraswati), Maheshwar, Ganesh, Krishna, Brahma and Hanuman. This apart, a number of pillars and other artefacts were also obtained from the premises. The entire work for the survey was conducted in the presence of Hindu and Muslim representatives. However, Muslims have boycotted this survey.

Coordinator of Bhojshala Mukti Yagna, Gopal Sharma, claimed that during this survey, a murti of Bhagwan Krishna made of stone was also found, who rides on the hood of the *nag*. A number of broken murtis of Hindu devi-devatas like Shiv, Saraswati and Hanuman were also found from one part of Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque. The Archaeological Survey of India has securely kept these murtis and artefacts in its custody. President of Kamal Maula Welfare Society, Abdul Samad claimed that these murtis were found in a hut-like structure on the north-eastern part of the masjid and hence it should not be included in the survey.

The Hindu side said that the Bhojshala was constructed by Maharaja

Bhoj as a Sanskrit University which the Muslim invaders had later converted as a dargah and they also built the Kabr of a Sufi Maulana Kamaluddin. The statue of Vaghdevi that the Archaeological department got from the ruins of this building is currently at the British Museum in London. Muslims have the permission to offer namaz on the day of juma (Friday) at the Bhojshala. Whereas the Hindus do the puja there on Tuesday.

Just like Gyanvapi, the dispute over Bhojshala is also more than a century old. The Hindus call it as a temple of Vaghdevi. Whereas Muslims identify it as the masjid of Maulana Kamaluddin. During the occasion of Saraswati puja, tension takes place between the two communities. The Indore bench of the high court had reserved its judgment on February 19, 2024 after listening to the arguments of the Hindu side which was delivered on March 11. Like the Gyanvapi, the court also directed a scientific survey by the ASI in this matter as well. Along with the survey, a carbon dating of the building was also done. The survey was conducted under the leadership of director of the Bhopal range of ASI.

**Comment:** As per the records of the Archaeological department, the construction of Bhojshala, which can also be called Saraswati Sadan, was done by Raja Bhoj of Parmar dynasty in 1034. It is



London. Willis also confirmed that the pillars of this dargah are of some ancient Hindu temple. The floor of this dargah has six Sanskrit inscriptions, which is said to be of 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Two British archaeological experts John Malcolm and William Kincaid had also mentioned about this masjid and the dargah. They said that this building is definitely a Hindu building. Director General of Archaeological Survey of India O. C. Ganguly had inspected the

being said that the reign of Maharaja Bhoj was from 1010 to 1055. It is worth mentioning that this centre of dispute at Dhar is 250 kilometres away from Bhopal. Muslims claim that the mazar of Kamaluddin is on the premises of this masjid. Kamaluddin Chishti was a sufi and he was the Khalifa of Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi. During the rule of Alauddin Khilji, his commander Dilawar Khan had forcefully converted the Bhojshala into a masjid. Archaeological expert of Royal Asiatic Society Michael Willis had confirmed in his research paper that the construction of Bhojshala was done by Maharaja Bhoj of Parmar dynasty. He had also installed a statue of Saraswati, the devi of knowledge on this premises, which is currently at the British Museum in

statue of Vaghdevi of Parmar period at the British Museum in London in 1943. He had claimed that an inscription in Sanskrit language is present on the statue even today. This statue was constructed by Maharaja Bhoj and it was installed at the Saraswati mandir. In the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections held in 2003, the renovation of Bhojshala was the main election issue. Due to this, the power swept off from the hands of the then Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Digvijay Singh and the BJP came to power. The then chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan had announced in Madhya Pradesh Assembly in 2022 that the government has been making efforts to bring back the statue of Vaghdevi from London.



## Muslim country Tajikistan bans *hijab* and *burqa*



**Aurangabad Times** (June 22) reports that the Parliament of Tajikistan, a Muslim-majority nation in Central Asia, has imposed a ban on *hijab* and *burqa* in the country. Those who violate this ban will have to pay a fine of 700 dollars. Whereas, if any government employee or an Islamic leader violates this ban, then he has to pay a fine up to 4,800 dollars. It is to be noted that Tajikistan was once part of the Soviet Union. Its border extends up to Afghanistan where the Taliban had imposed the Shariah law. As per this law, it is mandatory for women to wear burqa or hijab. If any woman steps out of her home without wearing burqa or hijab, then apart from a punishment of 100 cane lashes, she will also be awarded two-year imprisonment. This apart, her father or husband will also get a five-year jail term and 100 lashes as punishment.

The upper house of Tajikistan's Parliament (Majlisi Milli) adopted a resolution banning hijab and burqa on June 19. Earlier on May 8, the lower house of Parliament (Majlisi Namoyandagon) had passed the same law. The law has the provision to stop wearing of foreign dress for children on the occasion of Eid. Those who violate this ban will get a jail term of six months. The interesting thing is that

almost all the members of both the houses of Tajikistan parliament supported this ban. They said that burqa and hijab are not part of the culture and tradition of Tajikistan. It is a foreign dress which has been forcefully imposed on Tajik people. This law also has the provision that if any company or individual makes hijab or burqa, or purchases them from abroad, then the accused will have to pay 10,000 dollars as fine.

It is to be noted that by imposing a ban on burqa and hijab, Tajikistan has joined the group of countries in the world where there is a legal ban on Islamic dress like burqa and hijab. These countries include Switzerland, France, Belgium, Chad, Gabon, Bulgaria, Latvia, Austria, Denmark and Sri Lanka.

**Background:** The population of Tajikistan is nearly one crore and its area is 1,42,600 square kilometres. In Tajikistan, there are mainly five languages spoken by the people and they are Tajik, Russian, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Turkmen. Its capital is Dushanbe. At one point of time, the Buddhists were in majority in this country. The Arabs attacked the country in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and forcibly converted the entire population into Muslims. Later it also became a part of the empire of the Caliphs

of Baghdad. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Genghis Khan conquered Tajikistan and other parts of Central Asia and made it a part of the Mongol empire. Later Taimur captured this territory. In 1860, a part of this territory was seized by the Czar of Russia. Whereas the southern part remained with the Emir of Bukhara.



During the decade of 1920s, following the Russian Revolution, Tajikistan remained a part of Soviet Union. In 1978, the flames of rebellion rose against the Soviet law in this region. In the decade of 1980s, due to the liberalisation policy adopted by President of Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, Tajikistan got separated from Soviet Union. In 1991, Tajikistan declared independence. Following this, a civil war broke out in the country. At least 20,000 people were killed in this civil war. In 1997, the government and rebel organisation United Tajik Opposition (UTO) signed a peace agreement. Following this agreement, President Emomali Rahmon took over the

governance of the country. Ever since he has been functioning as the President of Tajikistan. In 2011, Tajikistan signed a deal with China to resolve the border dispute with that country and it handed over some of its regions to China. Nearly a year later, it signed a deal with Russia to control the rising Islamic terrorism in this region. After Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, Tajikistan was accused of extending help to rebel groups fighting against Taliban in the Panjshir region. Currently, Tajikistan has been involved in a dispute with Kazakhstan as well.

## Tourist burnt alive by huge mob in Pakistan



**Sahafat** (June 22) states that a huge mob of Pathans snatched away from police custody a Punjabi tourist staying in a hotel in Swat region in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan and burnt him alive. District police chief of Swat Dr Zhabidullah Khan said that the

name of the person who was burnt alive was Mohammad Salman. He was a resident of Sialkot in Pakistan. This Muslim man had come to Swat as a tourist. He said that some people had spread this rumour in the town that this Punjabi man staying in a

hotel had insulted Quran. The news spread like wildfire in the locality and an agitated mob surrounded the hotel. The mob demanded the hotel managers to hand over Mohammad Salman to them. Meanwhile, the hotel managers informed police about the incident. The police arrived on the spot and took Salman into their custody and took him to their van. When the police were taking Salman to the police station, the mob attacked the police van and forcefully took him into their custody. Initially, he was badly thrashed. When he fell unconscious, diesel was poured on him and set him on fire.

The chief of Punjab Bachao Abhiyan Zafar Jhala appealed to Punjabis that they avoid travelling to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, because Punjabis are not safe there. He said that the enmity between Punjabis and Pathanis is well-known. Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur sought a detailed report from the Inspector General of Police on this incident and he urged people that they do not take law into their hands. According to Pakistani media, the agitated mob had laid siege to the entire area and the tourists staying in hotels were stranded in their rooms. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rejected the claim that there is any kind of enmity between Punjabis and Pathanis in Pakistan.

Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif admitted in National Assembly that the minorities are not safe in Pakistan. In Pakistan, people are made the target of violence in the name of religion.

He said that the minorities are killed almost every day and we have failed to provide them security. Due to this, Pakistan is getting a bad name across the world. He said that different communities belonging to Islam are also not safe in Pakistan. However, the Constitution of Pakistan has given them guarantee on their security. He said that this problem is not limited to any state, instead it has spread to different parts of the country. In the name of insult to Islam and the Prophet, many innocent people have been killed. The campaign unleashed by fundamentalists against Ahmadiyyas in Pakistan has been taking a dangerous proposition almost every day. Christians are also targeted in a similar manner. The minorities in Pakistan should be protected at any cost. They have as much right to live in the country as the majority Muslims have.

It is to be noted that this was not the sole incident in Pakistan in which a person was burnt alive in the name of insult to Islam and Prophet. Ever since the tenure of Pakistan's former President General Zia ul Haq, when a system was started to give death sentence to those accused of the so-called insult to Quran, Prophet and Islam, violence against minorities has increased in Pakistan. According to Pakistan's Minorities Commission, from 1990 till now, huge mobs have committed more than 80 murders. Last month, a huge mob in Sargodha had accused a Christian man of insulting Quran. Later, his house was set on fire and he was killed.

## Terrorist attack on places of worship of Christians and Jews in Russia

**Sahafat** (June 25) reports that terrorists also attacked police outposts apart from the places of worship of Christians and Jews in Dagestan region in Russia. These terrorists opened fire at two churches and also at the places of worship of Jews. Later these were set on fire. According to Russian news agency TASS, more than 25 people were killed in these attacks. Those who were

killed include a priest of Orthodox Church. The terrorists cut the throat of the priest using a knife. The Orthodox church which was destroyed during this attack was 500 years old and it was included in the heritage list of UNESCO. Nearly 15 policemen and many citizens were also killed in this attack. It has also confirmed that six attackers were killed in the





retaliatory attack by the security forces. According to US news network CNN, the number of those who have been killed are much higher than government statement. As of now it has not been confirmed who were the attackers.

The Russian security agencies have described it as an Islamic terrorist attack. It is being said that this attack took place near the Muslim majority region of North Caucasus. The terrorists also attacked the capital of Dagestan, Makhachkala and Derbent. Russia's National Antiterrorism Committee also described it as a terrorist attack and said that the number of attackers were nearly two dozen, who came in four vehicles. Following the retaliatory attack by police, the rest of the attackers fled from the spot. The attackers were wearing black dress and had *naqab* on their face. It is being said that the attackers fled towards the Muslim-majority Caucasus region and are hiding somewhere there. Efforts are being made to find the terrorists. It is being said that they belong to an international terrorist organisation.

The Dagestan government alleged that the hands of some intelligence agencies of Ukraine and NATO nations were behind this attack. Minister in Dagestan government Abdulkhakim Gadzhiyev said that there is no doubt that these attackers were linked to NATO's

intelligence agencies. Ukraine has not reacted to this attack. Whereas the President of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov said this attack was provocative. This was the second biggest terrorist attack in Russia in a year. Earlier, a gang of terrorists had attacked a crowd gathered at a musical programme in Moscow using bombs, rifles and machine guns in which at least 143 people had died on the spot. The Russian government alleged that the hands of Ukraine were behind this attack. Whereas Ukraine said it has nothing to do with this attack. Later the four attackers caught from the spot were taken into their custody by the Russian security agencies and after their interrogation, the Russian government claimed that the hands of the Khorasan chapter of Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS were behind the attack. A spokesperson of ISIS also confirmed the attack was carried out by its own cadre.

It is to be noted that the name of Khorasan chapter of ISIS is kept as Khorasan Khilafat. In the eighth century, North East Iran, South Turkmenistan and the North Afghanistan regions were under the Khorasan Khilafat. This organisation became active for the first time in East Afghanistan in 2014. That time, several Islamic terrorists from Russia's terrorist groups joined this organisation and went to Syria and they underwent training in the



secret camps located there. The ISIS is against the Russian government. Their allegation is that the government of Vladimir Putin is targeting Muslims in Chechnya and Syria.

As per a report of New York Times, the US embassy located in Russia informed the Russian government on March 7 that there could be a major terrorist attack in the

country. The embassy had claimed that the Islamic terrorist organisations are conspiring to launch an attack on the music programme taking place in Moscow. The Russian government condemned the warning issued about the terrorist attack by the US. Director of Russian security agency 'FSB' Alexander Bortnikov claimed that the hands of the US, Britain and

Ukraine were behind this attack that took place in Moscow. He alleged that the attackers were given the instruction that once they carry out the attack, they flee from there and take refuge within the borders of Ukraine. He also claimed that Ukraine has been giving training to Islamic terrorists in the Middle-East.

## Nicaragua grants recognition to Taliban government

**Roznama Sahara** (June 24) reports that Central American country Nicaragua has appointed its Ambassador to Afghanistan. It is the first country to take the initiative to establish diplomatic relationship with Afghanistan's Taliban government. According to French news agency AFP, the Nicaraguan Ambassador in China Michael Campbell has been directed to take over the charge of Ambassador to Kabul as well. As of now, he will function as Ambassador to both China as well as Afghanistan. According to Afghanistan government, the Vice-President of Nicaragua has made a formal announcement regarding establishment of diplomatic relationship with Afghanistan.

It is to be noted that China has, however, so far not granted recognition to the Taliban government, but despite that it has appointed its Ambassador in Kabul. The Taliban government in December last year had appointed its first Ambassador in China. It is said that the western countries



have refused to grant recognition to Afghanistan government because human rights are being violated there. In Afghanistan, a ban has been imposed on the education and employment of women. This apart, the women in Afghanistan cannot travel unless accompanied by a male relative.

**Hindustan** (June 23) states that it has been claimed in a report of United Nations about the situation in Afghanistan that of late, there has been a huge increase in the attacks launched by armed anti-Taliban groups. Prominent among those

who lead an armed war against the Taliban government include Afghanistan Freedom Front and National Resistance Front. These two armed organisations are related to the erstwhile government of Afghanistan, which was ousted from power by the Taliban. These rebel groups had claimed that they had killed more than 50 administrative and military officials of Afghanistan government in the past two months. These rebels are mostly active in the eastern and north-eastern regions of Afghanistan.



It is to be noted that the Taliban had to face massive resistance in these regions during its first term in power. Both the rebel organisations claimed that their armed cadre are regularly attacking the military bases of Taliban. In the past three months, the National Resistance Front has confirmed launching 29 attacks, out of which 20 were carried out in Kabul and the rest of the attacks in the north Afghanistan region. Similarly, the Afghanistan Freedom Front carried out 14 attacks in and around Kabul during this period. In this report, it has also been claimed that the rebels are using those weapons which were left behind by the US military during its withdrawal from the country. This organisation carried out an attack at the International airport in Kabul on February 26 this year. A few military vehicles were badly damaged in this attack.

In this report, it has also been claimed that internal differences were sharply increasing between the ruling Taliban leaders in Afghanistan. It specifically mentions about the increasing infight between Hibatullah Akhundzada and interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani for power. The head of Taliban's office in Qatar Suhail Shahin has termed this report of the United Nations as baseless and

claimed that the Afghan government is trying to destroy the rebel elements and it has full control on all the 34 provinces in the country. He also said the restrictions imposed on women and girls are in accordance with Shariah and we will not lift these restrictions under any circumstances. The spokesperson claimed that it was an internal matter of Afghanistan government. He said that we were committed to implementing Islamic Shariah on the people of the country.

**Hindustan** (June 22) states that the government of Germany has decided to expel those Afghan citizens who are staying illegally in the country and send them back to Afghanistan. Germany's interior minister Nancy Faeser said these Afghan citizens have become a headache for us and they are spreading violence in Germany. Recently, they carried out a planned attack on German police as well. An official spokesperson of Germany said the difficulty before us is that we do not have any diplomatic relationship with Taliban government. We had shut down our embassy in Kabul in 2021 after the Taliban came to power there. Now we are trying to expel these Afghan citizens from the country and send them back to Afghanistan through the mediation of a friendly country. The spokesperson said that the German government has also decided not to allow any foreign citizen to enter Germany in any illegal manner. ■

## Pakistan's former Army chief accused of overthrowing Imran government



**Hindustan** (June 17) states that the chief of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rashid Ahmad claimed that the hands of Pakistan's former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa were behind the overthrow of Imran government. In an interview to ARY News, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said I was told that the Army wanted to pull down the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) government. The Army had put pressure on me and on the leaders of Muttahida Quami Movement that we support the no-confidence motion being moved in the National Assembly against the Imran government and also vote against them. In this connection, I had also given an indication to Imran Khan that the Army has become active to overthrow his government.

When the correspondents asked Sheikh Rashid who is that official in Pakistan Army who was conspiring to overthrow the Imran government, Sheikh Rashid said it was former chief of Pakistan Army Qamar Javed Bajwa who conspired for the same. He said that he does not see any possibility of any talks being started in order to break the political logjam between PTI and the current government of Pakistan. Sheikh Rashid said that the chief of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz),

Nawaz Sharif is not better than the current Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif. He described the present government of Pakistan as a 'show-off government' and said that the next two months are very important in deciding the future of Pakistan.

As per a report of Dawn, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is lodged in Adiala jail, told a television channel that while being in power he made the biggest mistake of trusting Pakistan army and its chief Qamar Javed Bajwa. He said that it was due to Bajwa only that the administration and the judiciary foisted fake cases against him. I also made the mistake of extending the tenure of Army Chief General Bajwa. He said that today if I am in jail, it is due to the result of the conspiracy hatched by Qamar Bajwa. I will not blame anybody else for this. Imran said that Bajwa deliberately hatched a conspiracy against his government. He created a fake story of the activists of my party attacking military bases and got it publicised through national and international media. I am a supporter of an independent civilian government in Pakistan. I was never prepared to work as a puppet in the hands of Army in the past, neither am I prepared for it now. ■

## Slovenia and Armenia grant recognition to Palestine state



**Avadhnama** (June 22) reports that the foreign affairs ministry of Armenia has announced that in order to establish peace in Middle-East, Armenia has decided to grant recognition to Palestine state. A spokesperson of foreign ministry said that the situation in Gaza is quite serious, hence we all need to work together to establish peace there. Secretary of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hussain Al-Sheikh, welcomed the decision of Armenia and said that this is a victory of law, justice and of the people of Palestine. On the other hand, Israel's foreign affairs ministry said this decision of Armenia is a threat for peace. The Israeli government summoned the Armenian Ambassador to its foreign ministry and handed over a protest letter, in which it has been stated that this decision of Armenia promotes terrorism.

Earlier, **Inquilab** (June 6) stated that the Slovenian Parliament passed a resolution and decided to grant recognition to Palestine state. Out of the 90 MPs in Slovenia, 52 have supported this resolution.

Whereas the rest of the MPs remained absent. It has been stated in the resolution that peace could be established in Middle-East only through the establishment of two independent states. Slovenia's Prime Minister Robert Golob told reporters that the Slovenian government has decided to grant recognition to Palestine as an independent and sovereign state. He said that in order to establish permanent peace in Gaza, it is necessary that an agreement shall be signed between Israel and Hamas and the hostages shall be released immediately. On the Slovenian Parliament, along with the flag of European Union, the flag of Palestine will also be raised. It is being said that before this Spain, Ireland and Norway had also made due announcement to grant recognition to Palestine. Following this, Israel had called back its ambassadors from these countries. Out of the 27 nations of European Union, Sweden, Cyprus, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria had granted recognition to Palestine state earlier itself.

## Uproar in Muslim world over huge number of deaths of Hajjis

There is an uproar in Muslim world following the death of more than 2,000 Haj pilgrims due to the extreme heat in Saudi Arabia this year. Till now, the Saudi government has officially confirmed the death of more than 1,500 Haj pilgrims. Whereas, Al Jazeera states that there is a possibility of the number of dead reaching upto 2,000-2,500 because the Haj ministry of Saudi Arabia has not officially announced the total number of deaths. Now, in order to avoid responsibility, the Saudi government is explaining that majority of those who have died had come to Saudi Arabia on a tourist visa instead of the Haj visa and hence they were unable to utilise the facilities being extended by the Saudi government to Haj pilgrims. It is to be noted that before the beginning of the Haj, the Saudi security wing had claimed that they had expelled more than 3 lakh people from Mecca and kept them at the detention camp as they did not possess the permit issued for Haj pilgrimage.

**Inqilab** (June 23) states that due to the death of Haj pilgrims, Tunisian President Kais Saied has suspended the country's minister for religious affairs Brahim Chaibi. Earlier, the foreign ministry of Tunisia had confirmed the death of 49 Haj pilgrims. The foreign ministry said that those people from Tunisia who died in Saudi Arabia had gone to that country on a tourist visa and they were not part of the official quota of Tunisia. As per the media, the President had held the ministry for religious affairs responsible for it and a high-level inquiry has been launched on the entire issue.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (June 24) states that the highest number of deaths took place among Egyptians during the Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. The Egyptian



government has started a high-level inquiry into this incident. It is being said that 800-900 Hajjis from Egypt died in Saudi Arabia. According to the ministry for Haj affairs, there could be further increase in the number of dead. The Egypt government cancelled the licence of 16 tour companies who take Hajjis to Saudi Arabia and arrested more than 100 people associated with this business. The government has decided to file a case against all these companies and their managers in a special court.

The official spokesperson of Egypt has alleged that these companies had sent the people of Egypt to Mecca on individual travel visa instead of Haj visa. The Saudi government does not provide any kind of facility to those who arrive in Saudi Arabia on personal travel visa. Neither are they admitted to government hospitals, nor are they given accommodation facilities.

**Hindustan** (June 25) states that the health minister of Saudi Arabia, Fahad Al-Jalajel, said that nearly 83 percent of those people who have died during Haj do not have the Haj permit. That is the reason why they could neither utilise the air conditioned accommodation facilities arranged by the government for Haj pilgrims nor the government could provide them with treatment facilities. He said that the government has been trying to identify all those who have died. The bodies of the dead who have been identified will be send

to their respective countries while the bodies which are not identified will be buried in Saudi Arabia itself. He said that this year, more than five lakh people had been extended medical facilities during the Haj. It included open heart surgery.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 22) states that the Saudi government has claimed that among those dead, nearly 1,500 people had arrived in Saudi Arabia on tourist visa and individual travel visa even before the start of the Haj season. Hence they did not get the benefits of accommodation, food and transportation facilities arranged by the government.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 26) states that the interior ministry of Saudi government claimed that those people who died during the Haj were sent to Saudi Arabia by some Haj tour companies in some countries using fake Haj visa. A spokesperson of interior ministry said that a high-level inquiry is being conducted in this connection and a probe is on to find out which companies in Saudi Arabia were in touch with these tour companies located abroad. The ministry for Haj Affairs in Saudi Arabia directed the security agencies in the country to register cases against those making fake Haj visa in special courts.

**Roznama Sahara** (June 24) states that nearly one lakh passengers had registered a complaint against Saudi Airlines. After investigating these complaints, the people concerned in 1,318



complaints were found to be accused. Stringent action is being taken against the accused companies and their managers.

**Sahafat** (June 25) states that the Saudi government has clarified that due to the healthcare strategy that they had developed for Hajis, no pandemic of any kind has spread during the Haj period in the country. The remains of the slaughtered animals were also effectively disposed of by the government so that pandemic should not spread in the country.

**Inquilab** (June 29) states that the Egyptian government has arrested the employees of two tourist companies on charges of sending residents of Egypt to Saudi Arabia on tourist visa on the occasion of Haj. They have been accused of sending people from Egypt in a wrong manner to Saudi Arabia for Haj and they died there. This apart, the employees of these two tourist companies were also accused of not making any arrangements for the accommodation, food and health of those who were sent to Saudi Arabia.

## 18 killed in attack by Islamic terrorists in Nigeria

**Sahafat** (July 1) states that Islamic terrorists carried out suicide attacks in three different places in the north-eastern state of Borno in Nigeria in which at least 18 people were killed and 50 were injured. The terrorists targeted people attending a

marriage function, a hospital and those attending a funeral. It is being claimed that the hands of Islamic terrorist organisation Boko Haram are behind these attacks. According to French news agency AFP, for the past one decade, the Boko Haram has

created a mayhem and this terrorist organisation has so far killed more than 10,000 people. Boko Haram is linked to another Islamic terrorist organisation Al-Shabab and Al-Qaida.

According to news agencies, a woman tied explosive substances to her body and landed at the wedding ceremony where she blew herself up. A spokesperson of police said that this explosion was triggered through IED. This apart, two women suicide attackers also targeted a hospital. At least five people were killed in this attack. In another attack, a woman tied explosives to her body and attended a funeral where she blew herself up. In this attack, seven persons who were taking part in the funeral died. Later, an attack was carried out on a military outpost where



three soldiers were killed. This attack has not been confirmed by the government till now. A spokesperson of the Army said that an investigation into the matter is still on as to whose hands were behind this attack. Till now, the Boko Haram has been using only men for terrorist activities, but now they have started using women also who are part of the suicide cadre. ■

## Domestic violence cases go up in Turkiye



**Siasat** (June 30) states that there is a huge increase in incidents of domestic violence against women in Turkiye. In this connection, a warning has been given several times at the behest of United Nations as well and the government had been urged to take concrete steps to implement the decisions taken at the Istanbul Convention. However, despite

this, the women in Turkiye are becoming victims to the violence unleashed by their husbands. As per government data, 10 women have died due to domestic violence this month. Women's organisations allege that the laws that have been in place in Turkiye for the protection of women are very weak. If a case is registered against the husband on charges of beating up his wife, the courts generally do not award punishment to the accused. In such a situation it is necessary to change the current laws and make them stringent. In order to stop the increasing incidents of torture of women in the country, a new women's organisation has been founded and its name is 'Stop the killing of women.' Recently, this organisation released a detailed list of those women in Turkiye who died due to the violence unleashed by their husbands.



Recently, 19-year-old Sukran Eba was shot dead by her husband Hakim Eba. It is being said that Sukran, after getting tired of her husband's torture, wanted talaq from him. Provoked by it, Hakim killed Sukran. On the same day, in another incident, a 31-year-old woman, Fatma Kahraman, had a fight with her husband Ridwan Kahraman. Following this, Ridwan shot dead his wife Fatma. In another incident in Gaziantep located in Turkiye's southern province, 71-year-old Mehmat Emin Markdagi shot dead his 68-year-old wife Fatma Markdagi in front of her family members. The strange thing is that till now

the police has not registered any case against Mehmat Emin. On the other hand, in Balikesir city, 62-year-old Sewri Gokyldiz shot dead his 55-year-old wife Majjer Gokyldiz due to family dispute. Following this, the murderer husband shot himself. A seriously injured Sewri Gokyldiz is fighting a life and death battle in hospital. The women's organisation has urged the President of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, that changes be brought immediately in the laws and issue an ordinance in this connection to bring a credible system to protect the life and property of women. ■

## Opponent leader of Kuwait Emir gets punishment

**Hindustan** (June 26) states that a criminal court in Kuwait has awarded a four-year jail term to former MP Walid Al Tabtabai in a case of treason. He has been accused of disregarding the rights of the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad through one of his tweets. Whereas, Walid has rejected this allegation of the government. He claimed in the court that the tweet for which the government has jailed him was basically a photoshop post, which was deliberately created by the opponents of the Emir. I had no information about the conspiracy to defame the Emir. Walid is counted among the veteran leaders of Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood). Several Arab countries including Egypt had imposed a ban on Ikhwanul Muslimeen.

It is being said that when the Emir of the Kuwait dissolved the National Assembly and suspended some sections of the Constitution, Walid in one of his tweets had said that this was against the basic rights of the people of Kuwait. We will try to uphold the basic rights of the people of Kuwait and the arrangements being made for them in the Constitution. We do not



accept the decree issued for dissolving the Parliament and we will oppose it. Next day, he made one more tweet in which it had been alleged that some foreign powers are interfering in the issues of Kuwait. It is to be noted that earlier in 2011, a court in Kuwait had awarded a punishment of seven-year jail term to Walid Tabtabai on charges of forcibly entering the Parliament. Later the then Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad had announced pardon to prisoners on the occasion of Eid. Following this, Walid was also released from jail and the rest of his sentence were commuted. In Kuwait's politics, Walid is considered as an opponent of Kuwait Emir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad. ■

