Twitter Thread by DisInfo Lab

DisInfo Lab
@DisinfoLab

A social media trend #BoycottIndianProducts was pushed by #MuslimBrotherhood, a radical Islamist front using multiple fake news. It was supported by Qatar-Turkey-Pak nexus.

Objective was to hit India's image. But the bigger target was Saudi.

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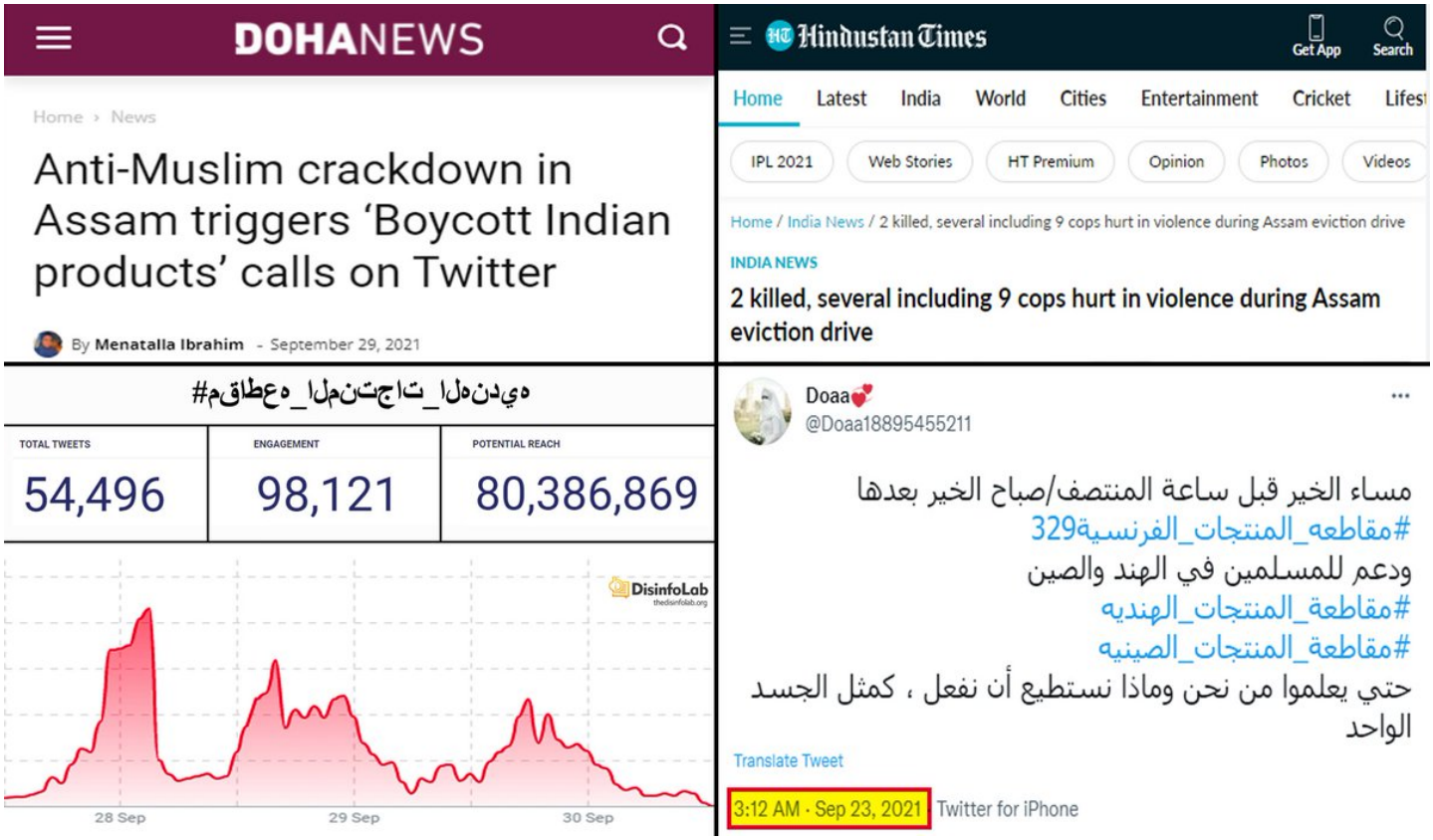
A trend #[redacted] started on Sept 23 protesting tragic event in Assam. It was also widely portrayed by many Arab media, claiming anger in Arab world about atrocities on Muslims in India.

(2/n)



However what Arab media did not tell:

The trend was artificially pushed by MB influencers form Cairo, Doha, and Istanbul.

That the ‘news media’ were also affiliated with MB
And that the main target was Saudi Arabia.

(3/n)

Key influencers all belonged to Muslim Brotherhood:

Al Sagheer of IUMS, a major MB front. Two former Al Jazeera journalist Muzaffar Zaidan & Abu Hilalah, both MB affiliates pushed the trend. Also, Sami Kamal El Din a designated terrorist by Egypt was a key influencer.

(4/n)













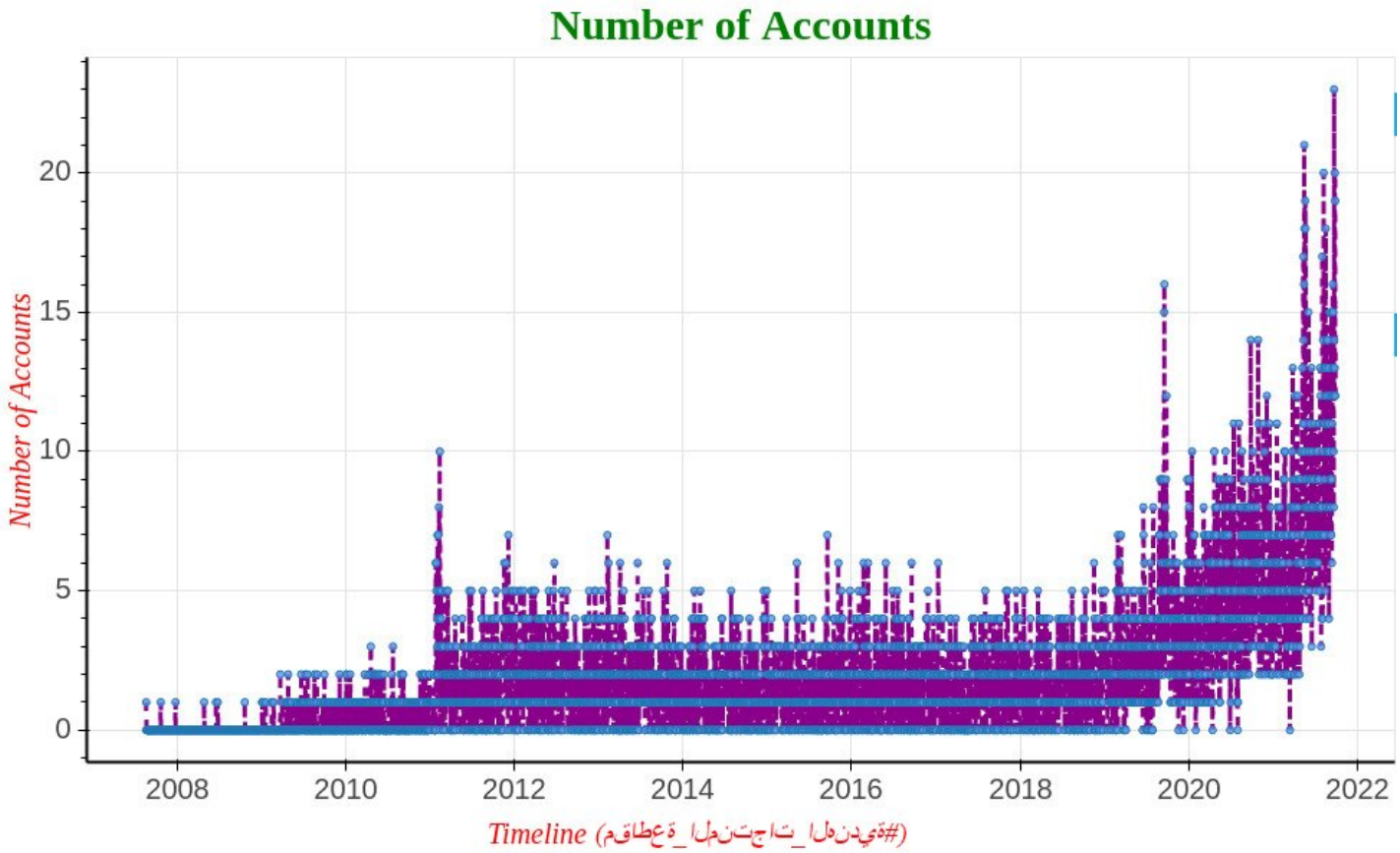




Trend was orchestrated was also evident from data:

large number of newly created trolls retweeting a small set of posts to make it trending. 80% non-description handles were created recently, many just for the trend – and part of a close network.

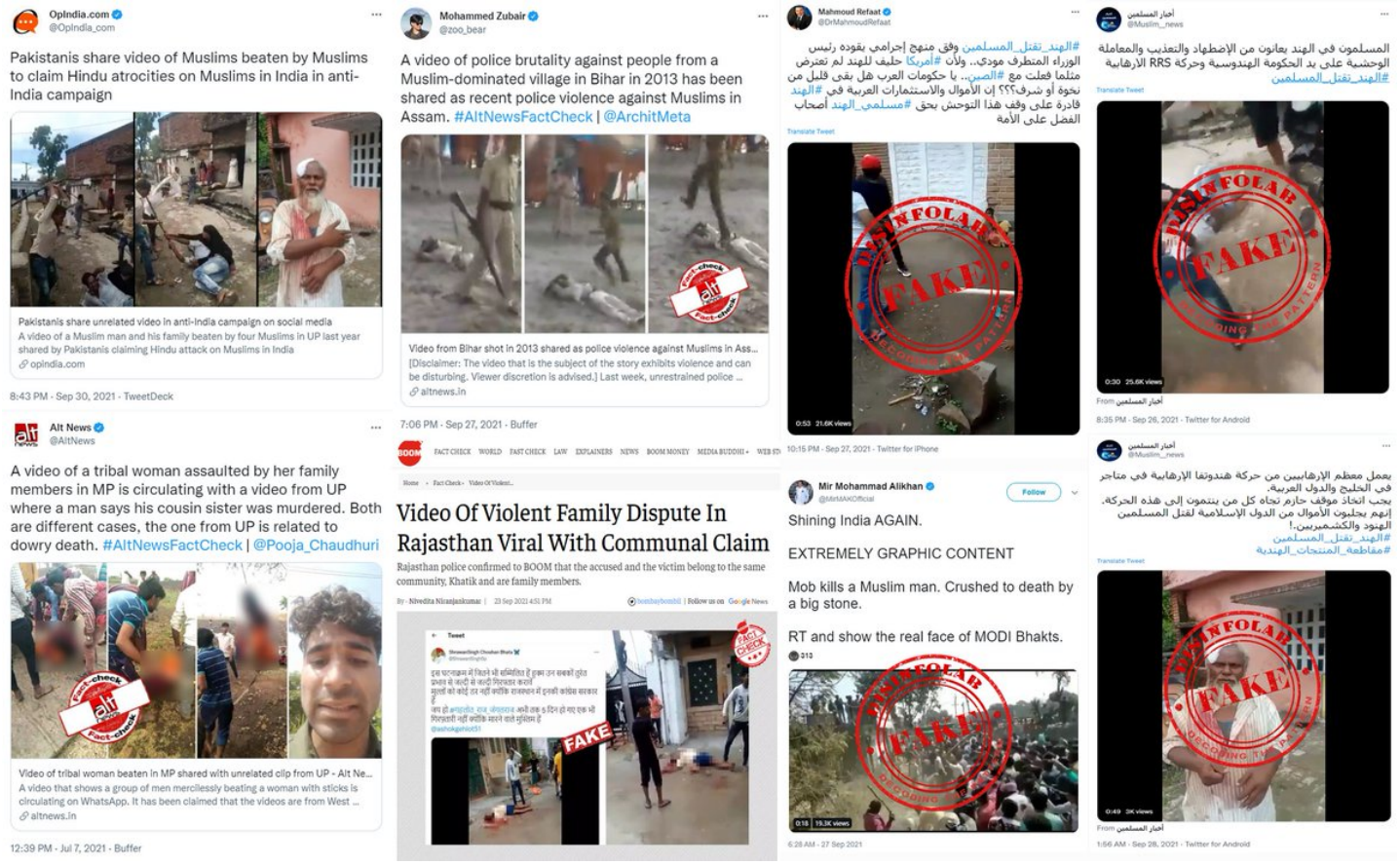
(5/n)



Fake news to push agenda:

The backbone of the trend was fake news, any video of violence from India was pushed as violence against Muslim, to create a sense of crisis amongst the audience. In desperation, old debunked fake news were also used.

(6/n)



They ran out of fake news also

So they started using the hashtag with totally unrelated posts – just to push the trend up so that media could report – they used them on models to cosmetics to Jordanian border issue!

(7/n)



The question was who wanted this trend to grow, and this became clear when some state sponsored media like TRT world, Al-Jazeera & Arabi21 pitched in. They tried to protect the Twitter trend as popular anger of the Arab World - not telling about the MB link and fake news.

(8/n)

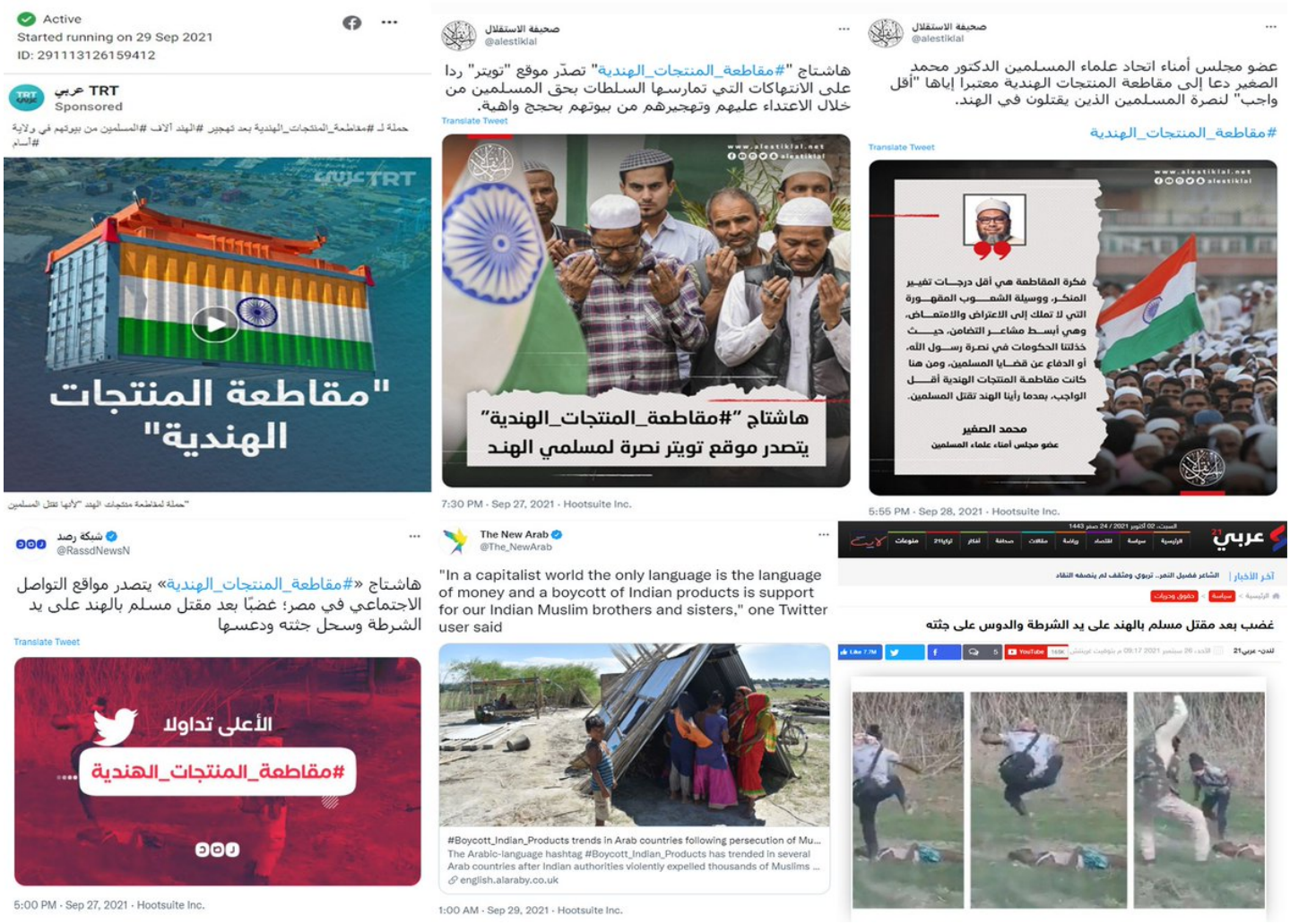


Turns out, the ‘news media’ were also Muslim Brotherhood afflicted:

This included Rassd News, Arabi21, Al-Araby, Watan-Serb apart former Al Jazeera journalists. Turkish state media TRT

World even ran paid promotion of the story on Facebook!

(9/n)



Kahi pe Nigahe kahi pe Nishana?

Surprisingly, we found that an anti-India trend had excessive number of anti-Saudi posts, targeting Saudi Prince #MBS (Md Bin Salman) & UAE. A Turkish Media Al Estiklal was having a field day hitting MBS!

(10/n)



These platforms have run anti-Saudi campaign in the past as well, including paid promotions through Facebook targeting Morocco and Algeria, both having good relationships with Saudi.

(11/n)



Saudi and the QTP nexus are not on good terms, and one of the tools used by the nexus to target Saudi is ‘news media’. Not a coincidence that these news media were also in the list of ‘news media’ that Saudi govt had asked the Qatar to stop patronizing.

(12/n)

The 13 demands in full

Curb diplomatic ties with Iran and close its diplomatic missions there. Expel members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and cut off any joint military cooperation with Iran. Only trade and commerce with Iran that complies with US and international sanctions will be permitted.
Sever all ties to "terrorist organisations", specifically the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State, al-Qaida and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Formally declare those entities as terrorist groups.
Shut down al-Jazeera and its affiliate stations.
Shut down news outlets that Qatar funds, directly and indirectly, including Arabi21, Rassd, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed and Middle East Eye.
Immediately **terminate the Turkish military presence** in Qatar and end any joint military cooperation with Turkey inside Qatar.
Stop all means of funding for individuals, groups or organisations that have been designated as terrorists by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, the US and other countries.
Hand over "terrorist figures" and wanted individuals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain to their countries of origin. Freeze their assets, and provide any desired information about their residency, movements and finances.
End interference in sovereign countries' internal affairs. Stop granting citizenship to wanted nationals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Revoke Qatari citizenship for existing nationals where such citizenship violates those countries' laws.
Stop all contacts with the political opposition in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Hand over all files detailing Qatar's prior contacts with and support for those opposition groups.
Pay reparations and **compensation for loss of life and other, financial losses caused by Qatar's policies** in recent years. The sum will be determined in coordination with Qatar.
Consent to monthly audits for the first year after agreeing to the demands, then once per quarter during the second year. For the following 10 years, Qatar would be monitored annually for compliance.
Align itself with the other Gulf and Arab countries militarily, politically, socially and economically, as well as on economic matters, in line with an agreement reached with Saudi Arabia in 2014.
Agree to all the demands within 10 days of it being submitted to Qatar, or the list becomes invalid.

But why Saudi and MBS?

The fight for leadership of #Ummah

Turkey is projected as new leader of Islamic world replacing Saudi – done through TV series Ertugrul Ghazi to reclaiming mosque Hagia Sophia.

& Erdogan as new leader.

(13/n)

the shift is visible in Pakistan

From tracing ancestry to 'Arabs', the Pak 'narrative - shapers' have started tracing ancestry to Turkey. Ertugrul was promoted right up to by Pak PM Imran Khan, and Pak media has replaced Saudi with Turkey as an object of eulogy.

(14/n)

Why India should be concerned?

We noted in our previous report that Turkey is becoming the new hub of anti-India radical Islamists. A new nexus patronized by MB is emerging between Qatar, Turkey & Pakistan. This poses a unique challenge – from geo-politics to economy.

(15/n)

Chapter 33: The New Masters: from Saudi to Turkey

During the phase starting 1970s, the epicenter of material and logistic support to the Kashmir agenda of Pakistan was from Saudi. From Ayyub Thakur to Fai, all moved to Saudi before moving on to UK/US. It is also documented that Fai got Saudi patronage with the blessings of Jamaat, whose life-long member Fai was. However, owing to a shift in geo-politics as well as the dynamics between Islamic countries, Turkey is now projecting itself as the new 'center' of Islam. For the history of students this may not be a completely new phenomenon. This cycle of shifting of Islam's political center has remained for centuries.

Turkey's claim as new savior of Islamic world is part of image building exercise for Turkish President Erdoğan for domestic purposes. The rift between Saudi and Qatar beginning 2017 provided a suitable impetus to this initiative. Saudi led Gulf block was so upset with Turkey's influence with Qatar that one of the demands it had imposed on Qatar for normalization of relations was cutting military ties with Turkey. Not surprisingly, the rift instead brought relations between Turkey and Qatar to a new level. Qatar is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural gas reserve, and it would have wanted to have its space. Moreover, both Qatar and Turkey also share a common agenda with Muslim Brotherhood, which is a radical stream of Islam, and is banned by many countries including by Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The influence MB enjoys in these countries could be gauzed from the fact that it is one of the key factors for Egypt to normalise its relations with Turkey and Qatar.

Flushed with resources and being the center of Muslim Brotherhood, it provided an apt backdrop for Turkey to 're-claim' its 'rightful' place in the Islamic world, being the successor of the Ottoman Empire, the largest Muslim empire in history, so far.

Tukey came prepared.

In order to bring synergies amongst various Muslim organizations and also between MB and Jamaat, Turkey has established an umbrella organization Union of the NGOs of the Islamic World (UNIW). The UNIW is also known as İslam Dünyası Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları Birliği, (iDSB), having association with 340 NGOs across 65 countries. iDSB/UNIW aim is to create an 'Ummah Consciousness' between NGOs and members and leave behind a solid bridge to our generation as a charity by connecting with Muslims all over the World.[219]

SADAT Inc. (International Defense Consultancy), founded in 2012, is a private Turkish security contractor headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. It is the country's first domestic military consultancy firm, founded in 2012 by former Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) Brigadier General, Adnan Tanrıverdi. It is also responsible for security of President Erdoğan. UNIW/iDSB is a front outfit of SADAT.

Associated Members/ Organization in South Asia:

- **Pakistan:** Al-Khidmat Foundation, charity wing of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI). Muhammad Abdus Shakoor, the President of Al-Khidmat is also Council Member of UNIW, apart from Fai. (For details on Al-Khidmat, please refer Covid Aid Scam part-1)
- **Nepal:** Islamic Sangh Nepal (ISN), a Kathmandu based NGO which is under watch of Indian agencies for providing sanctuary to fugitive Indian terrorists.
- **Maldives:** Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), is banned for its connection with Al-Qaeda & ISIS.[220]

The economic logic:

Most of these countries could not compete with India for global market share in a free and fair competition. And therefore, by damaging India's image in the Muslim world, they plan to capture the market.

(16/n)

The Third Wheel:

While the Qatar and Turkey might be playing long game, the third wheel – Pakistan saw an opportunity to target India and hone its info-war skills.

So major troll battalions WeareISPIANS, Team Emerging, Team Green Blood and Team VOIK etc. jumped in.

(17/n)



Making hay while sun shines

Smelling opportunities in boycotting Indian products, Pak influencers along with the troll army decide to promote their own rice & give a scant boost to Pak economy.

Till date most productive use of 5th Gen warfare in the history of infowars!

(18/n)





Conclusion:

This was not the first or last targeted campaign against India. But the focus and intensity on the topic, & the amount of misinformation circulated was enormous.

Our inability to see through this is a wake-up call especially for Indian social media users.

(19/n)



Awareness is only antidote...

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Telegram: https://t.co/etcsiNRqhi

(20/20)