

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

October 1-15, 2020

Court Targeted over Babri Verdict



- Efforts to Form Muslim Morcha Fail
- Saudi Arabia Announces Economic Boycott of Turkey
- Armenia and Azerbaijan Conflict
- Action against Amnesty International Criticised by PFI

Contents

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

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

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

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

Summary	03
National	
Court targeted over Babri verdict	04
Petition filed over Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi dismissed	10
Efforts to ignite passions over arrests of extremists	12
Efforts to form Muslim Morcha fail	13
FIR against former Governor	14
World	
Armenia and Azerbaijan conflict to turn into a world war?	15
Twelve terrorists killed in Afghanistan	18
Muslim girl excluded for wearing hijab	19
Elections cancelled in Kazakhstan	19
West Asia	
Umrah to resume soon	20
Saudi Arabia announces economic boycott of Turkey	21
13 extremists to be hanged in Egypt	22
Kuwait Emir passes away	22
Others	
Indian citizenship after 32 years	23
Sharia Court in Delhi	23
Action against Amnesty International criticised by PFI	24
Dargah Nizamuddin opens	24

Summary

In the chargesheet filed in a court over the riots in Delhi, the police have stated that money had come from outside the country to spread violence. The chargesheet also provides details of the dangerous role of the Popular Front of India and other extremist Muslim organisations in fanning up violence. Recently, when an unfortunate incident took place in Hathras in UP, opposition parties again tried to create division in society and start riots. The Uttar Pradesh police arrested four members of Popular Front over this incident. The accused are in police custody and their interrogation is still on. It is also said that a huge amount of money has been pumped into the country to fan communal violence. However, what is strange is that instead of condemning such anti-national activities, the Urdu newspapers are making wild allegations. They claim that the UP government has been foisting false cases against innocent Muslims to divert the attention from people's anger over governance. Leaders of many extremist Muslim organisations have joined this campaign.

The Muslims organisations have been claiming right from the beginning that they had immense faith in the country's Constitution and its judiciary. However, recently when the special CBI court acquitted all the accused in the case over demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya, the same organisations and Urdu newspapers have unleashed a campaign against the country's judicial system. These newspapers and leaders are now trying their best to provoke Muslims against the government. There is not a single Urdu newspaper which desisted from targeting the judiciary.

The editorial of **Munsif** (October 1) daily, published from Hyderabad, broke all limits and alleged that the ruling dispensation had promised special CBI court judge S K Yadav either a Rajya Sabha nomination or a Governor's post.

On the other hand, differences between various Muslim nations are on the rise in the world. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has targeted Saudi Arabia, following which the latter has announced an economic boycott of Turkey. According to analysts, Saudi Arabia's decision can adversely affect the economic prospects of Turkey since many Saudi nationals have invested hugely in Turkey. This apart, Saudi Arabia is a major market for the goods being manufactured in Turkey. If Saudi stops the sale of such items in their territory, Turkey will fall into financial crisis. Already Turkey's economy is believed to be in a bad shape as its currency Lira is facing massive devaluation in international market.

The prospect of a world war between Muslims and Christians is also increasing day by day. The root of this conflict is Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region that lies at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The region was once a part of the Ottoman Empire. When Soviet Union annexed Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1920, they made the Christian-majority Nagorno-Karabakh an autonomous region and handed it over to Shia majority Azerbaijan. In 1991, when the Soviet Union disintegrated, Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution announcing its separation from Azerbaijan and its union with Armenia. Following this, fighting erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting in the death of nearly 30,000 soldiers on both sides. Later, on the intervention of United Nations, the fighting stopped. Recently, the truce was broken and the war erupted again. While Armenia has the support of Russia and 25 other Christian nations, Azerbaijan is supported by Turkey and Iran.



Court targeted over Babri verdict



Almost all Urdu newspapers have criticised the special CBI court in Lucknow for its verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case. Every newspaper carried it as its main story. Interestingly, even a week after the verdict, the newspapers continued to whip up the passions of Muslim community on some pretext or the other.

Inquilab (October 1) claims that the special CBI judge Surendra Kumar Yadav took only 3 minutes to deliver the verdict in the sensational case. However, the judgment runs over 2300 pages. According to the judge, the masjid might have been demolished but none can be held guilty as the CBI has failed to produce any evidence against the 32 accused in the case. Judge Yadav stated that they cannot be held guilty only because they were present on the spot. The video footage of the incident produced in the court by CBI had been tampered as they were not sealed, the

judge said. Hence no one can be held guilty on the basis of newspaper reports. According to the judge, the pulling down of Babri Masjid was not due to any conspiracy. Instead, it happened due to the emotions of a surging crowd on the spot. Judge Yadav also praised the leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Ashok Singhal, the biggest leader of Ram Janmabhoomi movement, saying he tried to protect the Babri mosque as there were idols inside it. The court had recorded the statements of more than 350 witnesses and examined more than 600 documents. Counsel for CBI, Lalit Singh, said once they get a copy of the judgment, it would be sent to the CBI headquarters after which the experts would decide whether to appeal in the high court or not.

The headlines given by various Urdu newspapers were also interesting. For example, the headline of **Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (October 1) was "No justice for

Babri Masjid.” The headline of **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (October 1) was “Advani, Joshi, Uma, Kalyan Singh and all other accused acquitted.” The headline of **Mumbai Urdu News** (October 1) was “Victory for give-one-push-and-bring-down-the-mosque gang.” **Hamara Samaj** (October 1) has given its headline, “All accused in Babri Masjid demolition case innocent.” **Etemaad** (October 1) said, “All accused in Babri scandal acquitted.”

Verdict of the court in the eyes of Urdu newspapers

Inquilab (October 1) published a special editorial titled, “Two courts, two verdicts.” As per the editorial, the special CBI court in Lucknow has refused to accept the conspiracy theory behind the demolition of Babri Masjid and let off all the accused. Hence that chapter also ended which was already closed by the Supreme Court. Now who will ask the court that if it was not a conspiracy, then how did lakhs of people reach there carrying shovels, spades and axes?

The editor of the newspaper, Shakeel Shamsi, claims that he himself had seen thousands of Karsevaks with shovels, axes and spades on the train when he reached the station to travel from Delhi to Lucknow on December 3, 1992. “When I saw them, I realised that the conspiracy to pull down the masjid has already been hatched. Today, it is intriguing that the court has refused to accept this conspiracy. There are many people who openly declare that they are proud over the demolition of the masjid. If the court starts honouring such people, what will be its effect on them? Already, many among them proudly tell their people that they had sacrificed their lives

for the construction of Ram Temple and hence they should vote for them. In any case, what conspiracy and what coincidence? Even if the court had accepted conspiracy, would it make any difference to the verdict of the Supreme Court?” says Shamsi.

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara (October 1), in its editorial claims that December 6, 1992 was a sad day in the history of secular India. “At least those who had kept their faith in the Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb would not have expected it to happen. Babri Masjid was destroyed on that day. It was a Congress government at the Centre with Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister. In Uttar Pradesh, it was a BJP government and the Chief Minister was Kalyan Singh. The efficiency of both the governments was an open secret. The news of Babri Masjid’s demolition got published, the photos of the celebrations of those leaders who were present on the spot got published and their statements also got published. There is no need to tell us which leaders asked the karsevaks to pull down the masjid in their speeches. However, the ‘lady of justice’ is blindfolded. It is said that the cover on her eyes symbolises impartiality. That is why fairness is expected in the judgments of courts. But if verdicts are based on the belief system, then it is futile to search for fairness in judgments. It is not necessary that the judge look at things through the same prism that the people also look through. That is the reason why the special CBI court hearing the Babri Masjid demolition case acquitted all the 32 accused including Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharati. The verdict has not surprised anybody at all. Through

the verdict in the Babri Masjid land dispute case, the Supreme Court too showed it also delivers justice in the same manner. Now, if anybody says the justice is actually injustice, then it is their problem and they don't understand the justice system in the country. This is new India. Here, one will get only this kind of justice," says the editorial.

"Commenting on the Babri Masjid case, leader of CPI(M), Sitaram Yechury said that the verdict had made a mockery of the justice system. Did the masjid fall on its own? Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali had said that Muslim organisations should sit together and decide whether an appeal should be filed against the verdict or not. Here it is important to identify the Muslim organisations which exist on paper, and their leaders, who are more interested in publicity, and the organisations which are working on the ground and not interested in publicity. The verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case has come nearly one month before the assembly elections in Bihar. It is difficult to say how much effect it will have on the electoral politics," it adds.

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (October 2) has titled its editorial "Verdict a tight slap on the minorities of the country." According to the newspaper, the judge had said that the accused had no intention to destroy Babri Masjid. The judge had also mentioned the reports of intelligence agencies that Pakistani agencies and anti-social elements from Jammu and Kashmir were also present on the spot. The verdict to acquit the accused came after the Supreme Court cleared the path to construct Ram Mandir at the same spot where Babri Masjid stood. It will not be wrong if this

is described as the second victory of Hindutva. The prime accused in the case have welcomed the verdict saying that it had validated their stand that the masjid was demolished not on the basis of some pre-plan. Raising the slogan of 'Jai Sri Ram,' Advani also welcomed the judgment. Murli Manohar Joshi had described it as a historic judgment. Sunni leader Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali said everybody knows that Babri Masjid was destroyed in public and the law was flouted. Asaduddin Owaisi has demanded that the CBI should appeal against the verdict. General Secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Wali Rahmani said that the verdict is a far cry from justice. Justice M S Liberhan has described the verdict as unsatisfactory. He said the verdict was against the findings of his inquiry commission.

Munsif Daily (October 2) in its editorial claimed that the verdict was a black spot in the history of the country. This is a clear message to the Muslims that the buffalo belongs to the one who has the whip. The courts are giving such verdicts that it has become difficult to trust them. Justice has become a mirage for the minorities. If justice is dying at the doors of the courts then what is the hope for the suffering people? The law is blind. If the judge also blinds his eyes with a strip, then only God can save the justice. Earlier, the property of Babri Masjid was arbitrarily given to the majority community. The decision of the court was very painful. The editorial, making a sarcastic comment on judge Yadav, said that his observations point to his ideological leanings. There is no surprise if he gets a Rajya Sabha

nomination or if he is made Governor of a state after his retirement.

Hamara Samaj (October 1) has titled its editorial as 'Acquittal of the guilty.'

The newspaper claims that people are unhappy over the verdict of the special CBI court. One section is terribly hurt. While the other says the acquittal was hardly surprising considering the prevalent belief that the court would acquit all accused. According to the newspaper, it is clear that the accused had committed the crime as per the evidence and testimony presented before the court. Then how did all this become irrelevant in the eyes of the court. Convenor of Babri Masjid Action Committee, Zafaryab Jilani, has hinted that he would appeal against the verdict in the high court. A huge section of the society is frustrated over the judgment. The question is if nobody has provoked the crowd to bring down the masjid, then who pulled it down? And how did it come down? Who were those people who destroyed the national unity? Violence and hatred were unleashed in the country. Shouldn't those be punished who openly carried arms and declared that they pulled down the masjid? The same people who admitted on TV channels that they pulled down the masjid? Is there anybody who doesn't know the people who provoked the Karsevaks to destroy the masjid? What is surprising is that in the eyes of the court, they are all innocent. Wouldn't such verdicts end the faith of people in judiciary?

Siasat (October 1) headlined its editorial as "End of justice in Hindustan." The newspaper claims that Indian Muslims can no longer expect

justice from the country's judicial system. Twenty eight years later, the court today let off all the accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case. The surprising thing is that the CBI court has not found a single accused guilty of pulling down the masjid whereas the Supreme Court had in one of its verdicts stated that it was pulled down illegally. The judiciary has finished off its own impartiality. Though there are governments in power, but they hardly represent the voice of the people and are mere tools in the hands of communal elements. For the Indian Muslims, it is unfortunate that such injustices are happening right in front of them. Those Muslims who are courageous enough to come out on the streets to protest are so busy in making their two ends meet that they are hardly worried about conspiracies, social hatred and legal discrimination they face in the country. In this way, the enemies of Muslims are getting strengthened and united day by day. The Hindustani Muslims have no proper leadership to fight for their rights. They have long lost their life's bet to fight for justice. There are some wealthy Muslims, but they won't show their face in front of those in power. What can be concluded from the verdict in the Babri Masjid case is that in Hindustan, the law itself played a major role in choking justice.

Etemaad (October 1) in its editorial came down heavily on the verdict in the Babri Masjid case claiming that justice is denied and that the entire world has been watching this spectacle for the past six years. A sense of insecurity has cropped up in the minds of Muslims over the way the leaders of Sangh Parivar are let off in every case, from

Gujarat riots to Babri Masjid. The Muslims felt the pain when the Supreme Court snatched away the Babri Masjid's land from them. Today, the bigger pain is that after a 28-year long wait for justice, the verdict that has been delivered as justice has shocked even those who made these laws. The question is why those who abetted the crime are not treated on par with those who committed the crime. From the investigating agencies to the courts, all those who played their role in the name of law and justice won't be able to hide their partiality now. For their political interests, from Nehru government till Narasimha Rao government, all did not leave any chance to convert the Babri Masjid spark to a flame. Even today, the BJP government are abusing the Muslims over this issue. The Congress leadership has become so weak that it is unable to fight the BJP. There is no point in expecting any justice from the present government. However, it doesn't mean that the Muslims should fall into despair and become frustrated. In a democracy, we have the freedom and the right to raise our voice against injustice. We have expressed our displeasure and opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) through democratic means. We have to protest against these things as well in the same manner. Such incidents also bring unity among Muslims and also indicate that difficult days are in store for us.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 1) in its editorial expressed surprise at judge S K Yadav's statement that when the miscreants pulled down Babri Masjid, the members of RSS and related organisations who were present on the spot tried to stop them. This comment is

nothing but aimed at hoodwinking the law abiding citizens of the country. In the eyes of such people, this verdict is not justice but sheer injustice. According to Maulana Muhammad Wali Rahmani, general secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, the verdict has ignored the sacrifices and thereby made a mockery of the law.

The newspaper has expressed surprise that the special CBI court has let off all the accused though photos and videos showing the demolition of masjid are available across the country and there is evidence to identify those who were involved. The court, however, has blinded itself to these evidences. This verdict is a black spot in the country's legal history. Dr Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas of Muslim Personal Law Board has termed the verdict unfortunate and described it as a travesty of justice. This is defeat of justice. The government had constituted Liberhan Commission to inquire into the destruction of Babri Masjid and the report had clearly mentioned who all and which organisations were involved in the crime, Ilyas said. The court, however, ignored this report as well. The more this kind of criminal attitude increases in courts, their after-effects will also be scary. And this will not end with Muslims but will adversely affect the entire society.

The reactions of Muslim organisations

Hamara Samaj (October 1) reported that the chief of Jamaat-e-Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, commenting on the verdict of the special CBI court, said they were shocked. According to him, a five-member Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, while delivering its verdict on the

Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute on November 9, 2019, had accepted that Babri Masjid was not built after destroying any temple and those who placed idols in Babri Masjid are the accused in the case. Another question is since Babri Masjid was destroyed, how come all are innocent in the eyes of CBI? Is this justice or murder of justice? The masjid was destroyed under whose supervision, asked Maulana Madani. How come those who came to power after destroying the masjid got acquitted? Will the people trust the courts after such judgments?

Etemaad (October 1) reported that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, commenting on the verdict of the court, said he still has faith in the judicial system. However, the verdict of the CBI court is a black day in the history of judiciary. The CBI has to go for appeal against this verdict in order to keep its credibility intact. If the CBI doesn't go for appeal, we will request the All India Muslim Personal Law Board to go for appeal in high court against the verdict. It is unfortunate that those who made political fortunes out of the Babri Masjid episode got a clean chit today. One cannot shut the eyes to the role played by Congress party too in this matter. Had Congress taken a justified stand right from the beginning, this day would not have occurred at all. They had said that the masjids in Kashi, Mathura and other places would also be in trouble. Hence Muslims should remain alert and protect their faith, Owaisi said.

Lawyer for Muslim Personal Law Board, Zafaryab Jilani said they would appeal against the verdict in the high court as it is against the law. The

incident took place in front of the eyes of policemen and media persons and they themselves had filed the case. Even people like Lal Krishna Advani openly said to "give it one more push." "We are asking for justice for the Muslims in the country."

General Secretary of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Maulana Mehmood Madani, too expressed regret on the verdict and described it as against justice. The verdict has also put a question mark on the fairness of judiciary, he added. He demanded that the CBI should approach the high court against the verdict. The Liberhan Commission and even the Supreme Court had described the destruction of Babri Masjid a conspiracy.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 5) has published an article written by Suhail Anjum in which the writer had quoted certain findings of Liberhan Commission in which the judicial inquiry commission had arrived at the conclusion that it was a well-planned conspiracy and for that how the organisations of Sangh Parivar collected huge amounts for their agitation.

The newspaper has also carried a statement by former home secretary Madhav Godbole in which he had expressed shock at the judgment of the special CBI court. He stated that when he came to know that the court had let off all the 32 accused and also rejected the conspiracy angle behind the destruction of the masjid, he was surprised. Because all relevant facts of the case were placed before the Supreme Court during UPA government's time. The report of the intelligence wing that describes in detail the conspiracy to demolish Babri Masjid was also placed before the Supreme Court. The Supreme

Court had given permission to conduct karseva on condition that they would do no harm to Babri Masjid. According to him, he had recommended to the then government to dismiss the UP government as it was conspiring to demolish Babri Masjid. However, the Narasimha Rao government did not accept his recommendation following which he resigned from his post in protest. He criticised the government saying that since it knew about the conspiracy to demolish Babri Masjid, why it did not inform the court about the same. Stringent action should be taken

against the CBI officials who were responsible for this lapse, he said. According to Godbole, Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan in his inquiry report had confirmed the conspiracy. In the report he had submitted to the government in 2009, he had mentioned about the role played by senior leaders of RSS and BJP like Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharati. Liberhan had also confirmed about the role of the then UP government in the conspiracy, Godbole said.



Petition filed over Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi dismissed



Inquilab (October 1) reports that a civil court in Mathura has dismissed a petition filed by Sri Krishna Virajman Trust seeking removal of Idgah Mosque situated on Sri Krishna Janmasthan. According to the court, the Parliament had passed a law in 1991 regarding religious sites and thereafter no case seeking a change in the status of a

religious site could be admitted in a court of law. The petition demanded the annulment of an earlier Mathura court ruling of 1968, ratifying a land deal reached between Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan and the Shahi Idgah Management Committee on the mosque. The petition was filed by a few lawyers including Ranjana Agnihotri,

Vishnu Shankar Jain and Harishankar Jain. The petitioners said that the temple that existed at the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi during Aurangzeb's time was razed and an Idgah was built in its place. The Sri Krishna Janmasthan stands buried below the present Idgah. Hence the Archaeological Survey of India should excavate the place to find out whether an ancient temple existed at the spot or not.

Asaduddin Owaisi, Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, has alleged that the communal elements are now targeting Mathura and Kashi and after Ayodhya. They are now planning to seize these two Muslim places of worship. Hence Muslims need to be aware of their rights.

Chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani welcomed the dismissal of the petition and said that some miscreants are trying to create a dispute at Mathura on the lines of Ram Janmabhoomi but the court foiled their attempts. He said the Parliament has already passed a law in this respect which states that whatever be the status of a religious site on August 15, 1947, it will continue to remain so and it cannot be questioned in a court of law.

Commenting on the issue, **Inquilab** (October 1) in its editorial expressed satisfaction that the court in Mathura had dismissed the petition. The petition had demanded that the Idgah there should be surrendered to the Hindus as it was built on Sri Krishna Janmasthan. However, Additional District Judge Chhaya Sharma has refused to accept the plea that the Idgah was built on Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi. It is being said that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had demolished one of the

temples on Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi and built an Idgah on its place. However, Muslims claim that the Idgah existed there earlier.

The editorial states that looking at the audacity of the claims being made by Hinduvaadis nowadays, it is not clear whether they would abide by any decision of the court and leave their claims on the temple. It is possible that they would adopt the same strategy that they used at Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. However, for this also they have might have to do a lot of preparations.

Comment: If one takes a look at the historical facts, the issue at Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura is a clear one. According to Al-Biruni, the biographer of Mahmud of Ghazni, when Mahmud attacked Mathura, he was surprised to see the beautiful and imposing structure of the temple. The Sultan was informed that it took more than 25 years to build the temple and nearly one crore dirham was spent for it. On the orders of the Sultan, the idols of the temple were broken and sent to Ghazni. There the idols were used in the construction of the steps of the masjid. Many idols made of gold and diamonds were melted and carted away. Al-Biruni had written that since Sultan failed to destroy the temple, he poured inflammable oil around the temple and set fire to it. The fire continued to rage for several months and then the temple was razed. Later Hindus rebuilt the temple many times over but it was repeatedly destroyed by successive Muslim rulers. One can find mentions of several such incidents in medieval history.

Foreign traveller and historian Niccolao Manucci had written that Mughal Emperor Jahangir had a close

relationship with Raja Vir Singh Deo of Orchha. It is believed that the murder of one of the Navaratnas of Akbar's court, AbulFazal, was committed by Vir Singh Deo at the behest of Prince Nuruddhin Muhammad Jahangir. Later when Jahangir became the Mughal Emperor, he asked his friend Vir Singh Deo for any reward. Then Vir Singh sought permission from Emperor Jahangir to construct a grand temple at Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi as the reward. The Emperor granted him permission to build a grand temple for KeshavDev at Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi. According to Mughal historians, the temple was built by Vir Singh Deo by spending Rs 81 lakh. It was a seven-storied temple and the light lit on top of the temple could be seen several kilometres away at Shahi Mahal in Agra. Later Aurangzeb came to power, and in 1676 he issued a royal

decree ordering the demolition of this grand temple of Keshav Dev and construction of an Idgah in its place, which stands still today. Years later, the British East India Company auctioned a portion of the land of Keshav Dev, which was purchased by Rai Krishna Das of Benaras. On the efforts of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a decision was taken to construct a temple on this piece of land. It is also believed that the Birla family wanted to buy the above land from Rai Krishna Das and construct a Krishna temple on it. However, Rai Krishna Das refused to sell the land and instead donated it to Krishna Janmabhoomi Nyas Trust to construct a temple. A temple was later built on this portion of Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi. It is widely recognised that the Idgah built by Aurangzeb still stands on the birthplace of Bhagwan Shri Krishna.

Efforts to ignite passions over the arrests of extremists

The Uttar Pradesh police arrested four persons linked to Popular Front of India and soon some Urdu newspapers tried to whip up the sentiments of people over the issue.

Inquilab (October 7), headlined the lead story as "Community enraged over the arrest of four innocent Muslim youths." There were six sub-titles for the story. However, there was another report in the same newspaper about the arrest of these people in which it was stated that the Uttar Pradesh police had arrested four suspicious persons for conspiring to organise communal riots in

the state over the Hathras incident. According to Additional Director General of Police, Prashant Kumar, incriminating documents and laptop related to Popular Front of India were seized from their car. The general secretary of Kerala Union of Working Journalists, E S Subhash, in a letter to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, claimed that one of the arrested persons namely Siddique Kappan was a journalist with a newspaper in Kerala and he was its representative in Delhi. He was arrested while on his way to Hathras to enquire about the incident.



According to Uttar Pradesh police, the other three arrested are Atiq-ur-Rahman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmed from Bahraich and Aalam from Rampur. The police stated that the arrested people had admitted to their relationship with extremist organisation Popular Front of India. Masood Ahmed is a student of LLB and he is a member of Campus Front, the student wing of PFI, police said. The newspaper has given wide coverage to the statements of

chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema Maulana Arshad Madani, Shahi Imam Ahmad Bukhari, General Secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Wali Rahmani, Imam of Fatehpur Mosque Mufti Mukarram, chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi and BSP MP Danish Ali in which they all stated that innocent people were arrested to divert the attention of public from the Hathras incident. The government is targeting Muslims to cover up its failures, they claimed.



Efforts to form Muslim Morcha fail



Inquilab (October 7) reports that the efforts of some Muslim leaders to form a united front of Muslims have

collapsed. Chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi had announced that he would form an alliance with Upendra

Kushwaha of Rashtriya Lok Samata Party. According to sources, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Jan Adhikar Party (Loktantrik) are already part of this alliance.

Inquilab (September 30) reported that Indian Union Muslim League has joined Pragatisheel Democratic Alliance (PDA) for Bihar polls. The Bihar unit president of IUML, Nayeem Akhtar, had announced his party's decision to join the alliance. He alleged that in the past 30 years, the ruling parties had been messing around with Muslims and that they were not given their rights.

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (September 28) reports that the Popular Front of India has decided to join the alliance led by Pappu Yadav in Bihar. The political wing of Popular Front, namely Social Democratic Party of India, (SDPI) has joined the alliance. Earlier, the party led

by Dalit leader Chandrashekar Azad (Ravan) too had joined the alliance.

Inquilab (October 4), analysing the Bihar polls, complained that the representation of Muslims in Bihar Assembly is decreasing consistently. In the seven decades from 1952 till 2015, there were 15 elections in Bihar in which a total of 4593 legislators were elected. Among them, the number of Muslims was just 343. If one compares it to the population of Muslims, their number should have been at least 700. The main reason for this is that Muslims are not united. The maximum number of Muslims got elected to the assembly were in 1985 and 2000 in which 29 members each were elected. In the 2009 elections, only 17 Muslims got elected. In 2010, 19 Muslim MLAs got elected. In 2015, the number of Muslim MLAs increased to 24.

FIR against former Governor

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara (October 5), states that Moradabad police had filed an FIR against former Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Mizoram, Aziz Qureshi, for making a speech against the Citizenship Amendment Act. It is claimed that Qureshi had addressed a meeting in Moradabad nearly six months ago. The police filed an FIR against him under IPC sections 145, 143 and 188. The police also filed a case against 12 others as well



for organising the meeting. Qureshi, however, said he did not break any law and his speech was well within the rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

Armenia and Azerbaijan conflict to turn into a world war?



Inquilab (October 6) claims that the Azerbaijan army is making triumphant advances in Armenia's territory. Azerbaijan President IlhamAliyev had announced that the country's forces would continue their victory march until they regain their lost territories. The President claimed his forces were continuing their advances through the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and in order to stop them, Armenia had started pounding Azerbaijan's civilian areas with missiles and rockets. Till now, thousands of people have been killed in the war between the two countries. The President claimed that his country had been requesting the world for the past 30 years to return their land but nobody had taken note of it. He said the statements of UN Security Council were of no importance to his country. Armenia should understand that Nagorno-Karabakh can never be part of that country. He said his country had

been requesting for sanctions on Armenia right from the beginning. However, the European Union never listened to Azerbaijan. Recently his country had captured several territories because of which they are now capable of monitoring several regions in Armenia. As per a radio report, lot of residents in Xankandi (Khankendi or Stepanakert) had fled and took refuge in Armenian capital Yerevan.

In the past, both Armenia and Azerbaijan used to be a part of Soviet Union. Following the collapse of Soviet Union, both the countries became independent. As war broke out between the two countries, in 1994, on the mediation of France, Russia and US, a ceasefire was declared. In 2010, the peace treaty got expired. While Muslim countries extended support to Azerbaijan, Christian-majority nations supported Armenia. Turkey and Russia started provoking respective sides. Turkey announced that it would extend



full support to Turk land Azerbaijan and said the war would continue till Azerbaijan gets back all its lost territories. On the other hand, France had announced that it would extend all help to Armenia. According to sources in United Nations, Turkey and France are helping both sides with soldiers and military equipment.

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara (September 30) said the United Nations held a discussion to end the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan and asked both the countries to end their animosity and solve their issues through talks.

Siasat (October 1) pointed out that the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh is more than 40 years old. Turkey, Russia and Iran play a major role in the dispute. Turkey supports Azerbaijan for it being ethnically Turkish, while Russia has a defence agreement with Armenia. If a war breaks out between these two nations, Russia and Turkey getting involved in it is always a possibility.

Hence it can turn into a war between Christians and Muslims. For centuries, the Nagorno-Karabakh region had been at the centre of fight in the war between Christians and Muslims. The Soviet Union annexed these two countries in 1920. The ethnic Armenians are the majority in Nagorno-Karabakh. However, Soviet Union handed over this piece of land to Azerbaijan, an ethnically Turkish majority country. The residents of Nagorno-Karabakh have been requesting since then that they should be given permission to be part of Armenia. But the Soviet Union never listened to them. In the 1980s, when the Soviet Union collapsed, the National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution demanding that they want to join Armenia. The Muslim-majority Azerbaijan tried to suppress this demand for separatism even as the Armenians extended support to the separatists. The two countries were once part of Soviet Union but now they are fighting each other in which thousands of people have already been killed.

Christians have forced a large number of ethnic Turks to flee from the region. This resulted in a fight between Christians and Turks in both countries. The Christians of Armenia forced out ethnic Turks from that country and announced ending of all relationships with Azerbaijan. In 1994, the Russia brokered a peace deal between the two countries and tried to make Nagorno-Karabakh a part of Azerbaijan. However, the local government in Nagorno-Karabakh refused to accept the deal.

Siasat (October 1), throwing some more light on the issue, said the dispute between the two countries is decades old. Armenia and Azerbaijan are among the countries that broke away from Russia, soon after the collapse of Soviet Union. Before that, the region was part of the Ottoman Empire. After the First World War, when the Ottoman Empire collapsed, Armenia and Azerbaijan became a part of Soviet Union. Russia, meanwhile, handed over the Nagorno-Karabakh region to Azerbaijan. It was also declared that the region will remain autonomous as far as its internal affairs are concerned. In the 1980s, after the collapse of Soviet Russia, the demand to merge the region with Armenia became shriller. In 1988, Azerbaijan ended the autonomous nature of the region. Soon, war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the issue, which continued for the next five years. Later when the ceasefire was enforced, Armenia gained control of Nagorno-Karabakh and the insurgents came to power. However, not a single nation recognised them. The world still identifies the region as part of Azerbaijan. One week ago, the two nations blamed each other for attacking them. The Armenian government

alleged that it was Azerbaijan who started the attack on their region.

It is believed that Azerbaijan has huge oil reserves and other nations have their eyes on these reserves. Turkey and Europe get their gas and oil supply from Azerbaijan. The United Nations is worried that if oil pipelines catch fire due to the war between the two countries, then the oil and natural gas supply to Europe will be disturbed. Turkey, on the other hand, believes that the people of Azerbaijan are ethnically Turkish and hence they deserve Turkey's open support. There is no diplomatic relationship between Turkey and Armenia. Currently, Azerbaijan is under the dictatorship of a family. The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has extended full military support to Azerbaijan in this war.

Comment: The Nagorno-Karabakh region was a border territory of Armenia and Azerbaijan some time ago. In 1920, when the Soviet Union captured the entire region, it declared Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous territory. Interestingly, 95% of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are Christians of Armenian origin. However, this land was handed over to Muslim-majority Azerbaijan. As long as Soviet Russia remained a strong nation, this was a part of that country. In 1988, when Soviet Union disintegrated, the National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution announcing its decision to become part of Armenia. However, their region is landlocked from all sides by Muslim-majority Azerbaijan. In 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence. Soon a war broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan over

control of Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1993, Armenia captured the territory. However, in April 2016, a full scale war erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan to gain control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Later, under the aegis of Russia, the Minsk Group created by Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was tasked to make peace efforts. On behalf of this organisation, US, France and Russia held talks with leaders of the two countries in an effort to end the conflict. Later the two countries ended their war. However, the conflict continued to rage at the local level. Though talks between the two countries resumed at Geneva on behalf of the Minsk Group, nothing has come out of it so far. Now Russia has extended support to Armenia while Iran has put its weight behind Azerbaijan. The reason is that Azerbaijan's population is mostly Shia.

Armenia is a Christian-majority country. Its population is nearly 31 lakh while its army strength is of nearly 45,000 soldiers. It has a defence pact with Russia. The country's entire arms and ammunition are of Russian origin. In the case of Azerbaijan, the name itself means "Protected by the (Holy) Fire." It was a Parsi country at one point of time. In the

seventh century, the Arabians attacked them and turned them into an Islamic nation. The country has a population of over one crore and it is a Shia-majority nation. It has huge reserves of oil and natural gas, making it a centre of attraction. Nearly 95% of its territory is in Asia while the rest 5% is in Europe. Hence it is also known as a Eurasian country. The total strength of the country's armed forces is approximately 1.5 lakh. The people are ethnically Azeri Turks and they have both Turkish and Iranian blood in their veins. The country's currency is Manat. One Manat is approximately equal to India's Rs 20. The interesting thing is that though Azerbaijanis have become Muslims centuries ago, the influence of Parsi culture is still visible. Their main festival is 'Navroz', which is celebrated over seven weeks. The majority of their arms and ammunition are of Israel and European origin. Iran has a special relationship with Azerbaijan because 30% of Iran's population are Azeri Shias. Even the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, is also an Azeri Shia. India has so far maintained a neutral stand on this issue. Recently, Iran has deployed its 200 tanks and air defence system on Azerbaijan-Armenian border.

12 terrorists killed in Afghanistan

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara (September 28) has reported that at least 12 terrorists were killed and five others injured in a military operation in the two eastern provinces of Afghanistan. According to police spokesperson Shahpur Ahamadzai, the Afghanistan Air Force has bombed a Taliban camp in

the region. The camp was functioning as a command centre of a senior Taliban leader, Shafiullah. Six members of Al Qaida were killed in this operation. The counter military operation also saw the death of six other Taliban members while five were injured.

Muslim girl excluded for wearing hijab

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (September 29) has claimed that a Muslim girl studying in a high school in US has been dropped from a volleyball team as she wore a hijab during a match. The 15-year-old girl, Najah Aqeel, is a student of a college and she had sought permission to participate in the match with a hijab on. However, the college management refused to grant her permission and dropped her from the team. Najah later told CNN channel that hijab is a part of her religious requirements. The college



management has interfered in her religious requirements which is an open violation of US Constitution, she alleged. The Muslim Council of America has also criticised the incident.



Elections cancelled in Kazakhstan



Inqilab (October 7) reports that the parliamentary elections held recently in Kazakhstan were cancelled following a nation-wide protest. Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that the protesters entered the parliament and when they tried to enter the President's House, a fight broke out with the security forces resulting in the death of

several protesters. Later, the protesters set fire to the Presidential House.

Elections were held in Kazakhstan in October and the ruling party emerged victorious. However, the opposition alleged massive rigging in the elections. When the results of the elections were announced, the opposition parties held nationwide protests which later become violent in nature.



Umrah to resume soon



Etemaad (October 5) reports that Saudi Arabia has decided to relax the norms to visit Mecca and Medina for which restrictions have been imposed six months ago due to Corona pandemic. According to a statement issued by the Saudi government, 6,000 people will be allowed daily in groups for the pilgrimage in Mecca. In the first phase, only the citizens of Saudi Arabia and people of foreign origin who have become permanent residents of Saudi would be allowed to enter Mecca. Every individual has to complete the Umrah within 3 hours. The Mecca Sharif will be sanitised several times in a day. Those interested in undertaking the pilgrimage have to seek permission online. The pilgrims have to maintain a social distance of five feet from each other. The second phase of the pilgrimage will begin on October 18. Then nearly 50,000

people will be allowed to offer namaz on a single day. According to the external affairs ministry of Saudi Arabia, the government is planning to allow pilgrims from other countries to visit Mecca from next month. Before the Corona pandemic, every year, over 20 lakh pilgrims used to visit Mecca from different parts of world. This year, only 1,000 people had been allowed so far for the pilgrimage. In Saudi Arabia, nearly 3.36 lakh people tested positive for Corona out of which more than 5000 people succumbed to the virus.

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara (October 4) said that nearly 1,000 people have been given duty to sanitise Mecca. Before each group enters Mecca, all buildings will be sanitised and when one group leaves, it will again be sanitised. The carpets at Masjid Al Haram will also be sanitised. Special arrangements have been made to sanitise the water outlets

of Aab-e-Zamzam. The steps will also be sanitised. Nearly 40,000 people will be on duty at a time to sanitise Mecca and the bottles at Aab-e-Zamzam will be

given to pilgrims only after sanitising them. Nearly 6,000 people in a group of 100 each are given permission at a time to complete the pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia announces economic boycott of Turkey

Inquilab (October 7) states that the differences between Saudi Arabia and Turkey are increasing day by day. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has openly criticised the increasing relationship between Arab countries and Israel and alleged that Saudi Arabia was behind the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. In return, the Saudi Arabia had announced an economic boycott of Turkey. The chairman of Saudi Chamber of Commerce Al Jalan said that in the wake of Turkey's aggressive attitude towards Saudi, his country has decided not to purchase any item made in Turkey and that Saudi citizens will not make any investments in Turkey nor anybody will go there even as a tourist. "We have decided a complete boycott of Turkey," he said. Communications director of Turkey Fahrettin Altun claimed that everybody knows the identity of the murderers of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and that he was killed in Turkey by the assailants who came from Saudi. These murderers were helped to escape by the Saudi government because the order to kill the journalist came from some people sitting at top positions in Saudi government, he alleged.

The decision of Saudi government to boycott Turkey will have an adverse



effect on the economy of Turkey because its currency Lira is witnessing continuous depreciation. In the past few years, the value of Lira plummeted by nearly 80%.

President of Syria, Bashar al-Assad has alleged that the active jihadi elements in his country are getting support from Saudi Arabia. Since 2014, Saudi Arabia with the help of Qatar, US, Britain and France are extending support to terrorists in Syria. These same countries are also behind ISIS, he alleged.

The BBC, broadcasting a special programme on the increasing tensions between Turkey and Saudi Arabia, said that nearly 1000 Saudi companies have invested in Turkey and every year nearly 40 lakh Saudi citizens visit Turkey. If Saudi Arabia withdraws its investments in Turkey, then the latter's economy will falter.

13 extremists to be hanged in Egypt

Inquilab (October 7) states that the Egyptian government has decided to execute 13 leaders of extremist organisation Muslim Brotherhood. They have been accused of staging protests against the government. As per the report of a TV channel, all the accused will be hanged to death. It is being said that last week, nearly 28 people linked to Muslim Brotherhood had been awarded life term in prison. They were accused of the murder of four government officials during a protest in September 2015.

However, the spokesperson of Muslim Brotherhood alleged that the el-Sisi government has been trapping the leaders of the Brotherhood in false cases for the past few years. Recently, a court in the Egyptian city of Port Said handed over life term for nine accused while 57 others were given only three years in jail.

In 2013, the current President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, overthrew the elected government of Muslim Brotherhood through a military coup and captured power.

Kuwait Emir passes away

Inquilab (September 30) has reported the passing away of the ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabar al-Sabah, at the age of 91. He was ill for a long time and had been undergoing treatment in a hospital in US. He was born in 1929. He is described as the father of Kuwait's foreign policy. He was the foreign affairs minister of Kuwait from 1963 till 2003. Later he became the Prime Minister. He fell ill in 2019. He was admitted to a hospital in US for a



surgery in July this year. As per the rule, the new Emir will be Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. Kuwait is under the grip of Corona pandemic at this point of time.

Indian citizenship after 32 years

Inquilab

(September 28) reports that a Pakistani woman who married an Indian man got Indian citizenship after 32 years. Fakhra Naureen, daughter of Aftab Alam, a resident of Jhelum district in Pakistan, married Nazim, a resident of Mamun Chowk in Bulandshahr in 1998 and ever since she has been staying in India on an extended visa. She has been trying to get Indian citizenship for a long time. Now, after 32 long years, she got Indian citizenship.



When she got married she was only 23 years old and now she is a grandmother of 55 years.

According to her, when she arrived in India soon after her marriage, she had given an application for citizenship. However, the file got disappeared. Then she went back to Pakistan, brought her papers and again applied for Indian citizenship. Senior Superintendent of Police, Bulandshahr, Santhosh Kumar Singh confirmed that Fakhra has been granted Indian citizenship.



Sharia Court in Delhi

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara

(October 6) reports that a Sharia court has been set up in South Delhi and a former professor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, has been nominated as its chairperson. The Sharia court, during its sitting, mourned the death of its former chairperson Hafiz Musharif Ali. Presenting a report, the general secretary of Sharia court, Musharif Hussain said its office was closed on March 20 in the wake of Lockdown and it reopened on July 22.

Till now, it has received 16 complaints out of which seven has been settled. The rest nine are under consideration. There is a huge population of Muslims in South Delhi and most of them have no idea about Sharia courts, the general secretary said. It is necessary to make the Muslims aware of the Sharia legal system so that people need not go to civil courts, he said. The Sharia court will hear complaints related to marriage, talaq, khula (divorce initiated by wife), habba, inheritance and Will, he said.



Action against Amnesty International criticised by PFI

Inquilab (October 1) said the chairman of Popular Front of India, OMA Salam, criticised the action of government of India against Amnesty International. According to Salam, the government is not willing to tolerate any organisation that opposes its policies. The organisation was forced to close its operations in India after the government froze its bank accounts for allegedly receiving illegal funds from abroad. This international organisation has exposed the anti-human rights policies of the



government and hence the government was not willing to tolerate it, he alleged. The organisation has recently exposed the atrocities of police during the recent communal rights in Delhi and had also criticised the lockdown imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in the past one year. Hence the government got annoyed and took action against Amnesty International. Popular Front has requested all supporters of democracy to oppose the decision of Indian government, he said.

Nizamuddin Dargah reopens

Inquilab (September 30) reports that the Nizamuddin Dargah in Delhi has been reopened for the worshippers after a gap of six months. However, the visitors have to obey the restrictions imposed due to Corona pandemic. Only a limited number of people will be allowed to enter the dargah each day. They have to wear masks and also maintain social distancing.

This 700-year old dargah is popular both within the country and outside. This apart, many other dargahs functioning in Delhi have also reopened for worshippers. The mosques that



remained closed in Uttar Pradesh in the past six months have also reopened for limited number of namazis. Only 20 people are allowed to enter the mosques at one time.