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Popular Front and its Affiliated Organisations Banned for Five Years



- Sabbhavana campaign of RSS chief in the eyes of Urdu press
- Nationwide protest against hijab in Iran
- Japanese consulate general held on spying charges
- Demand to award Bharat Ratna to Nizam

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Summary

For the past two years, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, is making efforts to create a goodwill between different communities and religions. Recently, in this connection, Mohan Bhagwat visited a masjid and a madrasa as well. One of his colleagues said that such a thing never happened in the history of Sangh. He also had quite a lengthy conversation with the chief of All India Imam Organisation, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi. Sangh has old relationships with Ilyasi family. Following the meeting, Maulana Ilyasi described Mohan Bhagwat as 'Rashtra Pita' and 'Rashtra Rishi' during an interview. Soon after, a debate started in the media across the country over the goodwill efforts of the Sarsanghchalak. Before this, the Sangh chief had held talks with five Muslim intellectuals as well. Later the Sarsanghchalak set up a committee that would help the Sangh to continue with its goodwill efforts with Muslim leaders and institutions in future. The Sarsanghchalak had started the goodwill efforts with Muslim community during a function organized in Ghaziabad. Later he continued with these efforts in Mumbai. The Sangh chief held a meeting with Maulana Arshad Madani, the chief of the country's strongest Muslim organisation, Jamiat Ulema, at the Sangh office in Jhandewalan. While ordinary Muslims have appreciated these efforts of Sangh, some fundamentalist organisations and their leaders did not like these efforts. However, their voices are not loud unlike in the past.

Finally, the Central government has imposed a ban on controversial Islamic organisation Popular Front of India and its eight affiliated organisations for five years. The National Investigation Agency had recommended a ban on Popular Front in 2019 itself after an inquiry into their activities. Earlier, when the Kerala government imposed a ban on this organisation, the state government could not produce any concrete evidence against this organisation in the Kerala High Court. The Central government did not want to repeat this mistake. Hence it took special interest in collecting concrete evidence against this organisation. Following this, a raid was conducted on Popular Front and the offices of its affiliated organisations and their cadre across the country. After this, nearly 1,000 people linked to this organisation were taken into custody. The Front called for a public hartal against the raid in Kerala, which took a violent turn. Since no prior permission was taken for the hartal, the Kerala High Court directed the state government to immediately arrest the people linked to this organisation and extract fine for damages done to public property from the leaders of the organisation. The headquarters of the Popular Front, which was launched in 2006, used to be in Kerala. Now it is located in Shaheen Bagh in Delhi. The government claims that this organisation is linked to dreaded Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS and Al Qaida and it gets financial aid from foreign sources to conduct terror activities in India. This organisation has spread its network to 20 states in the country.

The nationwide protest against hijab in Iran is assuming huge proportions day by day. The protests started following the death of a 22-year-old woman in the custody of Iran's moral police, who was beaten up by them on charges of not properly wearing the hijab. It is being said that she died in hospital following the beating by the police. So far, more than 100 people have been killed in this connection and hundreds arrested. The Iranian government has stopped internet services and imposed restrictions on social media and also imposed a ban on foreign media as well. The foreign minister of Iran has blamed the US for the protests in the country.



Popular Front and its affiliated organisations banned for five years



Finally, the Central government has banned Islamic organisation Popular Front of India and its eight associated organisations for five years. The affiliated organisations which have been banned include Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imam Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation (Kerala).

Siasat (September 23) states that the National Investigation Agency and the Enforcement Directorate, with the cooperation of local police, raided the offices of Popular Front and the organisations linked to it in 11 states. As per the government statement, the raid has been conducted on allegations of taking part in terrorist activities and receiving money from foreign sources. On the first day, after conducting raid at 100 places, 106 people were arrested including the national president of Popular Front of India, O. M. A. Salam, and the Delhi state president Pervez Ahmad. The police are questioning them in detail. The raids

started from different places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Etemaad (September 19) states that the National Investigation Agency raided two dozen places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and arrested three persons. Mobile, laptop, two swords and Rs 8.21 lakh cash were seized from them. Those arrested by Telangana police include Abdul Khader, Sheikh Abdullah, Mohammad Imran and Mohammad Abdul Momin. The National Investigation Agency, after searching different banks in Nizamabad, traced various accounts of Popular Front of India. Abdul Khader was arrested from Auto Nagar in Nizamabad. He has been accused of organizing a camp and giving training to 400 people. The investigating agencies searched one dozen houses in Jagtial for nearly 12 hours and seized a CD from the house of a man named Irfan and an application for passport from the house of one Salim. Both Salim and Mohammad Irfan were taken to Hyderabad after their arrest.

Siasat (September 19) states that the central investigating agency had raided 38 places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



In Hyderabad also a few people were arrested after raiding nearly a dozen places. Similarly, some people were arrested from Kurnool as well. The government sources had refused to give a count of the number of people arrested and said that discussions are still on.

Avadhnama (September 23) states that the highest number of people were arrested from Kerala and their number is 22. After this, 20 people each were arrested from Maharashtra and Karnataka, five from Andhra Pradesh, nine from Assam, three each from Delhi and Puducherry, four from Madhya Pradesh, 10 from Tamil Nadu, eight from Uttar Pradesh and two from Rajasthan. This apart, some people were caught from Shaheen Bagh and Ghazipur in Delhi. Nearly two dozen people were reportedly nabbed from Varanasi, Bahraich, Barabanki and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. Huge protests were held in Mangaluru and Bengaluru against these arrests. In Mangaluru, a few activists of Social Democratic Party were arrested who were taking part in protests. In a press statement, the Popular Front said that the fascist government is trapping them in fake cases in order to crush the voice of its opponents. The newspaper said that Popular Front is an Islamic organisation and the government has accused them of taking part in terrorist activities from time time. The Popular Front has been functioning in the name of National Development Front till 2006. The newspaper claimed that the raids were

conducted under the supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Aurangabad Times (September 24) states that huge protests took place in different places in Kerala against the raids conducted on Popular Front of India and a bandh was also organised in Kerala. The activists of PFI attacked government buses in Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam and damaged them.

In Mattannur, petrol bomb was thrown at the office of RSS. In Kollam, the policemen were also attacked. The Kerala Police arrested 500 people in connection with the violence. The Kerala High Court had directed in the past itself that no party or organisation shall call for a bandh or hartal without prior permission. Describing this hartal as illegal, the high court directed the state government to take stringent action against the Popular Front and those who organised the hartal.

Aurangabad Times (September 23) states that nearly 100 offices of Popular Front were raided and more than 200 people were arrested on charges of organising secret training camps, giving training for violence and arranging funds for terror activities. Sources in the government expressed the inability in giving the number of people arrested. The National Investigation Agency has claimed that the Popular Front is linked to terrorist organisations ISIS and Al Qaida.

Siasat (September 19) reports that there is widespread resentment and concern in Muslim majority areas following the indiscriminate raid. Due to the hartal of Popular Front, normal life was disrupted in several places in Kerala.

Aurangabad Times (September 28) states that a raid was conducted at Shaheen Bagh also at midnight and many people were arrested and the Popular Front's office there has been sealed. In order to maintain peace, Section 144 has been imposed in Shaheen Bagh and Jamia Milia.



The administration of Jamia Milia Islamia has warned students against taking part in any kind of protests and said that action would be taken against them if they violated it.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (September 25) states that in a joint operation, the police and intelligence agencies conducted a raid in Delhi at 3 am and it was personally supervised by Home Minister Amit Shah. Uttar Pradesh Additional Director General of Police Prashant Kumar said that 577 people were arrested in a raid conducted in 26 districts in the state and they were being interrogated. Many documents were seized from them which confirms receipt of money from foreign sources to promote terrorism in the country. The Central agencies are studying these documents. According to Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr Narottam Mishra, the ATS has arrested more than 50 people belonging to Popular Front of India from four districts in the state. Their laptop and mobile phones are still being examined.

Aurangabad Times (September 29) states that Lalu Prasad Yadav and CPM have demanded that along with Popular Front, a ban should be imposed on RSS as well. The newspaper has claimed that in Shaheen Bagh in Delhi, Jamia Milia and a few other Muslim majority areas, police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in huge strength. The police are monitoring the situation using drones. In Kerala, Muslim League leader M K Muneer, while

condemning the violent activities of Popular Front of India, supported the decision to impose a ban on the organisation. On the other hand, while Jamaat-e-Islami, while condemning the decision of the government to impose a ban on Popular Front, described it as against the Constitution and the democracy. The Jamaat-e-Islami also said that the government is deliberately harassing Muslims and false cases are being filed against them. The Jamaat-e-Islami also alleged that the government is working in a partisan manner. While the majoritarian organisation is openly spreading hatred and violence, the government is not taking any action against them. He demanded the government to immediately lift the restrictions.

Avadhnama (September 23) states that Muslim organisations have appealed to the Muslims in the country not to get provoked by the Hitler-like actions of the government and remain patient. The chief of All India Tanzim Ulema-e-Islam Mufti Ashfaq Hussain Qadri, chief of All India Markazi Imam Council Syed Mohammad Rizvi and chief of Muslim Students Organisation of India Dr Sujat Ali Qadri condemned the action of the government and said these people have been arrested on fake charges due to political pressure. Hence it will be difficult for the government to prove these charges in the court. These organisations, while expressing faith in the judicial system of



the country, hoped that it will deliver justice.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 24) reports that the Sajjadanashin of Ajmer Sharif Dargah has supported the ban.

Aurangabad Times (September 30) states that the Kerala High Court has imposed a fine of Rs 5 crore on Popular Front for setting fire to buses during a hartal called by the organisation and for damaging public property and said that the Popular Front is fully responsible for damages that occurred during the protests. The government has frozen the accounts of Popular Front and its office-bearers and also imposed a ban on social media accounts of the organisation and its office-bearers. The Popular Front has decided to dissolve all its units following the ban imposed on it. The National Investigation Agency has claimed that a module of the Popular Front has conspired to attack the judges of the high court, police officers, leaders of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Ahmadi Muslims. This module has been functioning as Ansar-ul-Khilafah, Kerala.

Etemaad (September 29) states that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi said in a press conference that though they are opposed to the fundamentalist policies of Popular Front, they are against the decision to ban the activities of the organisation. He said that a majority organisation has been

found involved in Ajmer bomb blast, but so far no ban has been imposed on it. He said that like the black law of UAPA, this fake ban is also dangerous. This is because it stops every Muslim from expressing himself and only Muslims have become the target of this black law.

The political wing of Popular Front of India namely the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), while condemning the ban, said that it is part of the Central government's undeclared Emergency and it is a threat for the democracy and is against the Constitution. President of the organisation, M A Faizi, said the government wants to shut up those who raise their voice against the anti-people policies of BJP and demanded upholding of democratic rights. He said the ban will be questioned in the court.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 27) states that the National Investigation Agency has claimed that it has found documentary evidence showing the links of arrested persons with Ghazwa-e-Hind, ISIS and Kashmiri terrorists. Seven secret files, 11 videos, 180 photos of anti-national nature from pen drives and literature related to Islamic organisation ISIS were seized from the general secretary of SDPI, Shahdab Aziz Qasmi, who was arrested from Meerut.

Salat (September 29) has claimed that the Modi government at the Centre held consultations with many Muslim

organisations before imposing a ban on Popular Front of India. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with leaders of Deobandi, Barelvi and Sufi sects in this connection. All of them have supported a ban on Popular Front.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 26) reports that different agencies of the Central government have been maintaining a close watch on the activities of Popular Front for a long time. The Enforcement Directorate has claimed that Rs 7 crore has recently been credited to the account of Popular Front from Gulf nations through hawala transactions. This money has been sent to the Popular Front through some workers employed in Gulf countries. Before this, in a report sent to the Central government in 2017, the National Investigation Agency had recommended a ban on Popular Front.

Hindustan Express (September 24) reports that a bomb was thrown at the office of BJP in Tamil Nadu. Till now, the police have not been able to arrest the attackers.

Ban on Popular Front in the eyes of Urdu newspapers

Mumbai Urdu News (September 24) stated that the Central government had to impose a ban on Popular Front as it suffered a setback in Supreme Court on the issue of journalist Siddique Kappan. When the government said in the court that Kappan was linked to Popular Front, then the court asked whether the Popular Front was a banned organisation or not? On what basis is people linked to the organisation are being arrested? From this, the government understood that though it may be easy to frame somebody in fake charges, things will not be easy in the court.

In an article in **Hamara Samaj** (September 25), Ehsas Nayab has condemned the ban on Popular Front and said that this is the reason why Muslims held a protest in different parts of the country where slogans like 'Amit Shah, your dictatorship will not work,' and 'NIA go back' were raised. Kerala remained shut on a call by the Popular Front. The claim of

National Investigation Agency is baseless and its only aim was to create fear in the minds of people by sensationalising the issue. Hence Popular Front said that will not get scared by such scaremongering by a government which uses the Central agencies like its puppets. We will keep alive our fight to uphold the democracy and Constitution in the country. The writer said elections will be held in the country soon. The BJP has no issue to contest the elections. The people are angry over increasing price rise and unemployment. Hence, in order to mislead the people and divert their attention from the basic issues, the Popular Front is being targeted. Nayab also wrote that today of course the Popular Front has become the target but every soon every other organisation in the country and every human being will become the target who has the courage to call the victim a victim and the tyrant a tyrant. Only time can tell how much of the allegations being raised by the National Investigation Agency are true. But as of now, the role played by Popular Front is commendable.

Siasat (September 30) in its editorial has condemned the ban imposed on Popular Front and other organisations and said the government has claimed that this organisation is promoting terrorist activities. But the organisation has dared the government to prove its claim. As far as the issue of terrorist activities are concerned, if any organisation is involved in it, then it has no right to function in this country. As far as Popular Front is concerned, no evidence or material could be presented to prove the claims made by the investigating agencies. The government has claimed that it has taken this decision after holding discussions with Muslim organisations. The question is the government held talks with which all Muslim organisations? Their names should be revealed to the public so that whatever doubts are there in the minds of ordinary people, those could be cleared. The newspaper said that the organisations linked to majority community have been found involved in bomb blasts, but the



government has no courage to ban them till now.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 29) in its editorial said that when a ban was imposed on Popular Front and other organisations, why no such ban was imposed on RSS? Knowledgeable sources say that the first step taken by the Modi government after assuming power in 2014 was to ban all non-governmental organisations capable of stopping the RSS and BJP from implementing their agenda. These organisations, which fight for human rights, work for the welfare of minorities, dalits and adivasis. Ever since till date the RSS and its affiliated organisations are spreading hatred and openly working to disturb communal harmony. However, instead of taking action against them, the Modi government is making every effort to save them from the clutches of law.

Hamara Samaj (September 29) in its editorial, while talking about the ban on Popular Front, said that the government has claimed that it has to impose a ban on this organisation because it is linked to Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS which is active in Syria and Iraq. This apart, it has also been found that it is linked to Bangladeshi terrorist organisation Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen. Some people have supported the ban and said that such fundamentalist ideology, irrespective of whichever religion or faith they belong to, should be banned. Whereas common people think that this ban has been imposed due to the forthcoming elections in Karnataka and

Gujarat so that this could be utilized for the polarisation of votes. The question here is will the government take any action against the fundamentalist organisations linked to majority community?

Etemaad (September 30) in its editorial said the government has imposed a ban on the alleged Muslim fundamentalist organisation Popular Front for five years and hundreds of people

associated with the organisation have been arrested. The government claimed that this organisation is linked to proscribed organisation SIMI, terrorist organisation in Bangladesh Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and ISIS and it is getting funds from abroad to flare up terrorism. On the other hand, this organisation, which was formed in 2006, claims that their aim is to work for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden in the country and to stop them from getting weakened. The Popular Front was formed after the merger of National Development Front, founded in Kerala after the destruction of Babri Masjid in 1992, with two other organisations. Later a number of new organisations merged with the organisation. Currently, Popular Front is very strong in Kerala and Karnataka. Whereas its branches are spread in 20 states of the country. This organisation claims that its activities are not limited to Muslims and instead it is actively involved in protecting the rights of Dalits, Adivasis and weaker sections. More than 1,300 cases have been registered against the activists of this organisation in different states under UAPA and various other sections of Anti-Terrorism Act. Apart from BJP and Sangh, many Muslim organisations have also supported a ban on this organisation. This included All India Sufi Council and All India Muslim Jamaat, an organisation belonging to the Barelvi ideology. The newspaper claimed that the government has targeted this organisation in order to get the votes. On the other hand, the government



has given a free hand to organisations like Bajrang Dal, Sriram Sena and Vishwa Hindu Parishad and to people like Nupur Sharma and Raja Singh. On the other hand, strong unilateral action is taken against Muslim organisations and Muslims merely on the basis of suspicion. Due to this, there is dissatisfaction among the Muslims in the country.

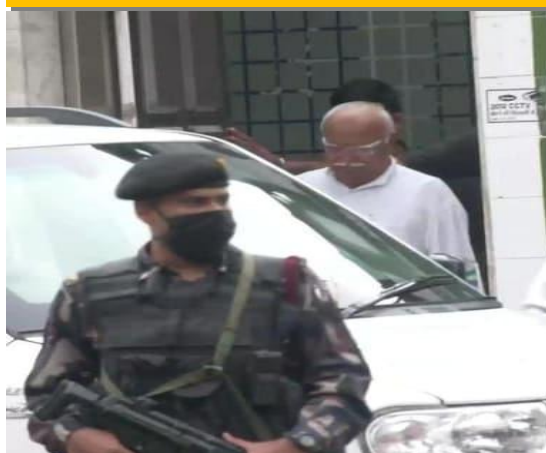
Avadhnama (September 24) in its editorial has condemned the raids on Popular Front and said that the government did not produce any concrete evidence against the organisation before imposing a ban on it. It can also be said that those who speak against the government will have to bear the consequences of police action.

Now the government has to present the reality before the court whether the arrested are anti-nationals or mere opponents of government.

In an article in **Avadhnama** (September 24), Dr Salim Khan said the charges made by the government against Popular Front are baseless. Till now, the government has not

established any wrongdoing in any court. Journalist Siddique Kappan has been accused of inciting riots after taking Rs 45,000. However, the government could not prove this in court. Kappan's lawyer said it was his monthly salary. As far the issue of organising training camps is concerned, there is no ban on it till now. Which banned organisations were being promoted in these camps? In 2012, the Kerala government had imposed a ban on Popular Front, but the high court had cancelled it. Now the Central government has also done the same mistake. This baseless allegation cannot sustain in the Supreme Court and the government will have to face defeat.

Sadbhavana campaign of RSS chief in the eyes of Urdu Press



For the past two years, the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, has been making efforts to create a goodwill between different



communities and religions in the country. As part of this effort, for the first time in the history of Sangh, a Sarsanghchalak visited a masjid and held open talks with

the imam. This apart, for the first time, the Sangh chief visited an Islamic madrasa and talked to the students and teachers there. Before this, the Sangh chief held discussions with five intellectuals of Muslim community. The Urdu Press has given wide coverage for his efforts. Urdu newspapers and Muslim leaders have given their verdict on these efforts depending on their viewpoint.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 23) has published this news as its main story which was titled 'Mohan Bhagwat in a masjid for the first time,' 'Held discussions with Umer Ilyasi,' 'Visits the mazar of Jameel Ilyasi' 'Talked to students of madrasa,' 'Chief of All India Imam Organisation describes Bhagwat as Rashtra Pita and Rashtra Rishi,' 'Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat holds talks with chief of All India Imam Organisation, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi.' 'Krishna Gopal and Indresh Kumar also with him on the occasion.'

The newspaper said that after a meeting at the masjid, Bhagwat went to a madrasa in Azad Market and interacted with students. He asked them about their studies in madrasa. This was the first time he was visiting a madrasa. This apart, he visited the mazar of the father of Umer Ilyasi, Jameel Ilyasi and also interacted with his family members. Before this, the RSS chief also held talks with some Muslim Ulema and Muslim intellectuals. This was not the first occasion when Mohan Bhagwat was meeting a Muslim leader. In the past also, he had held several meetings with Muslim Ulema. It is another thing that there is no outcome from these meetings. There are a good majority of Muslims who consider such meetings as a good step but the number of Muslims who oppose this are also not few, who say that the RSS never wanted the Muslims in the country to be happy. The RSS view about Muslims will not change. Everyone has his own point of view. As far as the meetings of RSS leaders with Muslims are concerned, this effort should not be stopped. The Muslims should also hold meetings on a regular basis with the

responsible people in power regarding their problems. The door for negotiations should never be closed and never think what benefit we get. There are many issues before the Muslims. There is no need to write a lot about them and if anybody is responsible for this misery, then it is the political parties who describe themselves as secular and mislead Muslims in some way or the other by creating a fear about BJP. When they were in power, they sold many dreams to Muslims. Today they are not in power, and Muslims are suffering due to this as well. Every Muslim knows what kind of image these parties have created about Muslims in the eyes of BJP. It is these political parties which are responsible for weakening Muslims in every respect, starting from politics. They reach their aim with the help of Muslims and when the time comes, sideline them. In such a situation, Muslims should not close the doors for discussion with those in power in order to mitigate their problems and should keep making efforts to strengthen their own political leadership.

Roznama Sahara (September 23) has published this news as its main story on its front page and had headlined it as 'Bhagawat reached out to Muslims' 'Visited madrasa and masjid' 'Second talks with Muslims within a month' 'After talks with five intellectuals, talks with Umer Ilyasi', 'Ilyasi describes Bhagwat as Rashtra Rishi.'

It is being mentioned in the news that at a time when the hijab case is being heard in the Supreme Court and the Gyanvapi masjid case in Varanasi is also in the court, orders have been issued for a survey of madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Raids are being conducted across the country in the name of Popular Front. In such a situation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, taking his mission to the Muslim community further, visited a masjid and a madrasa on the Juma night and turned the focus towards him and the media started a debate on it. Everyone has got surprised. An office-bearer of RSS who was with Mohan Bhagwat during the visit,



said it was the first time a Sarsanghchalak had visited a madrasa. After the meeting in the masjid, the chief of the All India Imam Organisation Umer Ilyasi described Mohan Bhagwat as Rashtrapita. For the first time, RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat visited a masjid located in Kasturba Gandhi Marg after which he also visited a madrasa located in Azad Market. Later, the brother of Dr Umer Ilyasi and the son of Maulana Jameel Ilyasi, Suhaib Ilyasi, told journalists that today was the anniversary of his father Maulana Jameel Ilyasi. On this occasion, the RSS chief was invited. Later he came to the office of Umer Ilyasi and met him and went to the mazar as well. This meeting was totally at personal level and no political talks were held during this time. His father was an Islamic scholar. Hence people belonging to all religions looked at him with lot of respect. Mohan Bhagwat and the other office-bearers of Sangh offered flowers at the grave of his father. Later Bhagwat visited the 70-year-old madrasa located at Masjid Takia Wali. The manager of madrasa, Maulana Mahmoud Hasan, welcomed Mohan Bhagwat. He listened to the Quran recital by children and talked to the students, especially those who were memorizing Quran. It is also being said that for the first time in the history of Sangh a Sarsanghchalak had visited the masjid and later visited a madrasa also and interacted with children. Senior office-bearers of the Sangh were also present along with Mohan Bhagwat including Dr Krishna Gopal, Ramlal and

the patron of Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Indresh Kumar.

Following the discussions with Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of All India Imam Organisation, Umer Ilyasi described Mohan Bhagwat as 'Rashtrapita' and 'Rashtrarishi.' Ilyasi said that the DNA of all of us is same. Only mode of worship is different. We do worship in different ways. But we stay in Hindustan and we are Hindustanis. Ilyasi said that Hindustan is on the path of

becoming Vishwaguru and we need to work together for this effort. After this visit, the Prachar Pramukh of Sangh Sunil Ambedkar said the Sarsanghchalak meets people belonging to all communities. These discussions were part of it. The Sangh chief is also holding talks with Muslim intellectuals in order to strengthen communal harmony. In this connection, he also held talks with former Lt Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung, former Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi, former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Lt Gen Zameeruddin Shah, former MP Shahid Siddiqui and businessman Saeed Shervani. In this meeting, Bhagwat raised the issue of Muslims using the term 'Kafir' to refer to Hindus and said that it is not sending the right message. Along with this, Muslim intellectuals raised their objections to some right wing organisations labelling Muslims as jihadis and Pakistanis. In this meeting, the Muslim intellectuals told Mohan Bhagwat that the word 'Kafir' has a different meaning. But some people are presenting it in a different context. The Sangh chief has taken note of the concern expressed by Muslim intellectuals and said that the DNA of all Hindus and Muslims is same.

In the past, on August 30, 2019, Maulana Syed Arshad Madani, chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, an organisation of Muslims, had met the Sarsanghchalak at the Sangh headquarters in Jhandewalan. Interestingly, lot of debate took place about the meeting which was organised at the

initiative of Muslim Rashtriya Manch leader Indresh Kumar. This meeting, which took place between the two leaders after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Mandir case, has been considered as an important step towards Hindu-Muslim unity. Meanwhile, speculations are also on that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will hold talks with some Muslim leaders of Kashmir also in the coming days. These Muslim leaders could play a major role in stopping Kashmiri separatists from becoming active again in the Valley and also help connect Kashmiri Muslims with the new Bharat. It is being said that the leaders of RSS and BJP have been making consistent efforts to take Muslims into confidence.

Mohan Bhagwat had said that Bharat is incomplete without Muslims and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced at the national executive meeting of BJP that the mission of the party should be to reach out to Muslims. The decision to send a Gurjar leader in Kashmir, Ghulam Ali Khatana, to Rajya Sabha was also a part of this policy, so that Muslims could be brought closer to BJP. After the formation of BJP, many Muslim leaders had played major roles in it. This included people like Sikander Bakht. The RSS has made it clear on several occasions that it has no problem with those Muslims who consider Bharat as their Mathrubhoomi and those who accept its culture. It was Guru Golwalkar who first said this. Later Mohan Bhagwat also said that Hindustan is incomplete without Muslims. The DNA of both are the same. Both are the original residents of this country and it is the responsibility of both to protect the culture of this nation.

Commenting sarcastically about the Muslim intellectuals' meeting with Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi said the Muslim leaders who met the RSS chief are elites and they have nothing to do with ordinary Muslims of the country and neither do any Muslim gives any kind of importance to them.

Siasat (September 24) reports that the chief of Bahujan Samaj Party,

Mayawati, while commenting sarcastically on the meeting between Umer Ilyasi and Mohan Bhagwat, asked whether the BJP and its government will change their negative view of Muslims, their masjids and madrasas if Mohan Bhagwat meets the Ulema in a masjid and madrasa in Delhi and then he is called a 'Rashtrapita' and 'Rashtrarishi'. The Uttar Pradesh government is not willing to give permission to Muslims to offer namaz in open places and is interfering in madrasas. However, the RSS chief is keeping mum.

Quami Tanzeem (September 24) has published a speech by Mohan Bhagwat, in which he had said that everyone speaks about international market, but India is the only country which believes in the concept of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' and works for the same. He said that right from ancient times, our country was a nation of diversity. Our land is such that it gives something to everyone. That is why it is called Bharat Mata. We are not its owner, but its sons. This is our holy land. All those who stay in this nation are related to each other from the cultural point of view. That is what our ancestors had taught us. Our identity is through our common culture, through Rashtravaad. He said that there cannot be a Hitler in this nation. If somebody tries to become Hitler, then the people of the country will remove him.

Salar (September 22) states that the BJP has handed over the job of strengthening the network with Muslim organisations to former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. This is the reason why he visited Uttar Pradesh many times in the past few months. The purpose of his visit is to attract the Muslims of Uttar Pradesh to the BJP.

As per a report published in **Akbar-e-Mashriq** (September 30), there is a possibility of the five intellectuals who met Mohan Bhagwat meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming days in the presence of Mohan Bhagwat. After meeting the five intellectuals, Mohan Bhagwat has taken an important step and formed a committee to keep the discussions going,



which includes RSS office-bearer Indresh Kumar, Ramlal and Dr Krishna Gopal. They have been directed to maintain relationship with the Muslim intellectuals so that in order to change the atmosphere in the country it is necessary to remove the differences between people and the misunderstandings. Today, such misunderstandings can be removed through mutual talks. These intellectuals also said that though the RSS doesn't need Muslim intellectuals, the Muslims need RSS, because it represents the majority.

Akbar-e-Mashriq in its edition on September 24, has carried a statement of Mohan Bhagwat, in which he had stated that just because a meeting was held with Umer Ilyasi doesn't mean that the BJP has changed its view on Muslims. He said that we are firm on Hindutva and Hindutva doesn't mean that one should maintain enmity or keep a grudge against any individual. We are all inhabitants of one nation and our DNA is one. In Bharat, there is always a tradition of maintaining unity in diversity.

Senior prachark of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Indresh Kumar said that Mohan Bhagwat's meeting with the chief of the organisation of imams is not a deviation from the ideology of RSS.

Earlier, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara had said that it is due to the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of Rahul Gandhi that Mohan Bhagwat had to go to a mosque. Indresh Kumar said that there is no change in the view of the Sangh. Our view remains the same. The Congressmen understood it in a false manner and they are creating falsehood on it. The meetings with minority communities started nearly 20 years ago and it was started by the then Sarsanghchalak K S Sudarshan.

Siasat (September 22) states that during the closed door talks held with Muslim intellectuals, the issues of Gyanvapi masjid and hijab were also discussed. However, no discussion was held on any controversial issue.

Hamara Samaj (September 24) in its editorial has said that for the past some time the Muslims in the country are upset with Sangh. The hijab issue is being heard by the Supreme Court and the court in Varanasi has started hearing the Gyanvapi masjid issue. The survey of madrasas is going on in several states. The Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has announced a survey of Waqf land as well. The arrests of Popular Front activists are still on. In such a situation, a surprise is being expressed over the RSS chief's

outreach to Muslims and different meanings are being churn out of it. However, despite this, there is no doubt that this nation's progress depends on Hindu-Muslim unity. Muslims have many complaints against the government. The country's intellectuals, senior judges and secular bureaucrats had expressed concern over the disquiet spread among Muslims. Some leaders of BJP have made derogatory comments on the Prophet of Islam. But still now, no action has been taken against them. The BJP has washed off its responsibility by suspending them from the party. Amid the issue of increasing inflation and unemployment, elections are scheduled in many states. May be this is the reason why Mohan Bhagwat came up to Muslims. The general feeling is that the stand of the Sarsanghchalak and the BJP is a major step towards capturing power.

In a special editorial in **Mumbai Urdu News** (September 25), Sayeed Hamid said the first thing is that what was Mohan Bhagwat talking to the so-called Muslim intellectuals and representatives behind closed doors? What secret agenda was being discussed in such a meeting which can't be revealed in front of the media? The media was not invited to the meeting because the secret should remain a secret. Why no joint press conference was held after the meeting? Later some selected people spoke to the media saying that Mohan Bhagwat said this and that. But Mohan Bhagwat and RSS have neither confirmed nor refuted any of these things. All these things are kept in such a manner that looks like lot of things happened at these meetings but at the same time nothing much has happened.

The meetings being held by Mohan Bhagwat with Muslims behind closed doors for the past some time have created lot of noise, but in reality nothing has happened. The only fact that can be said about these meetings is that it is a publicity campaign and the life of Muslims at the ground level is not going to change. For example, last year Mohan Bhagwat held a closed-door meeting in Mumbai in which

Muslims were selectively invited from different parts of the country. It is being said that Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui was also there. His photo with the RSS chief had gone viral. But for Muslims where did the ground reality change? After this meeting, there is no need to mention about what happened to Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui and his institution. Hence this question is still being asked, what is the purpose of these meetings if the situation has not changed even after such closed-door meetings? Is there any trap being laid on the pretext of such talks? This is why there should be an open debate on the talks being held with RSS in the name of Muslims. This is not an issue of five persons. It is of crores of people. That is why even if five or six people sit inside a closed door and hold discussions, it is not acceptable in a democratic system.

Five Muslim representatives took part in these meetings. They are Najeed Jung, S Y Quraishi, Lt General Zameeruddin Shah, Shahid Siddiqui and Saeed Shervani. Can they be called the representatives of 20 crore Muslims in the country? What was the RSS chief negotiating with them assuming that they represent the Muslims? Did the Muslims in the country select these five persons? Or whether the RSS chief selected them for talks just because they are Muslims? It is clear that these people were selected by the RSS and Mohan Bhagwat. Now newspaper reports say that these five Muslims wanted to hold talks with Prime Minister Modi. If these five have held a meeting with Mohan Bhagwat, did they hold any official position? If we hold any talks on the issues concerning Muslims in the country, will it be a governmental one? Because Modi is not just of RSS, but is the Prime Minister of Bharat. His government is answerable to the Parliament. The parliamentary democracy demands that the Prime Minister shall hold meetings with MPs of all parties or with Muslim MPs with an open agenda and the media should be kept in the loop about such a meeting. Then there could be some hope about such

meetings and discussions. However, one cannot trust the talks being held in closed door with a handful of people and neither can there be any hope about them. What is understood is that after the meeting of Mohan Bhagwat with Muslims in Mumbai, action has been taken against Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui and his organisation. Now, after a meeting with five Muslims, action has been taken against Popular Front. Now, what should we make out of this?

In **Salar** (September 27), renowned Urdu journalist Zafar Agha has strongly criticised the meeting of Mohan Bhagwat with chief imam Umer Ilyasi and five intellectuals. Zafar Agha said, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in a masjid! Would you have believed such a news a few days ago? Obviously not. The people would have said the person is more interested in razing the masjid and how can he go to the masjid? However, Mohan Bhagwat himself removed this illusion and he along with his colleagues visited a masjid in Delhi and there he held a meeting with the imam for almost an hour. After that he went to the madrasa also. After this, discussions started over his step and speculations started whether the policy of RSS towards Muslims have changed?

However, the fact is that the visit of Mohan Bhagwat to a masjid and a madrasa was a well-thought out plan. The Sangh too has given huge publicity for it. Before visiting the madrasa, a news was also leaked that the RSS chief had held a meeting with five prominent Muslim intellectuals in Delhi itself nearly a month ago. Was the objective of this initiative is to change the policy of Sangh with regard to Muslims? The Sangh was founded with the aim of making Hindustan a Hindu Rashtra. This purpose could be achieved only by making Hindustani Muslims second-class citizens. It is with this aim that first Jan Sangh was founded and later the BJP. The fact is that Narendra Modi government has succeeded in making Muslims second-class citizens. In such a

situation, where is the need for the Sangh to change its policy?

The truth is that the Sangh has not changed and neither will it change. If this fundamentalist Hindu organisation changes itself, then its identity will be lost. If Bhagwat softens his stand towards Muslims, then there will be open rebellion against him in the Sangh. Even Bhagwat knows this thing very well. But still he went to the madrasa and the masjid. They did not go to where they were supposed to go. However, it was still a very important initiative and it has many political implications. In fact, the Sangh and BJP are worried about two things. The first thing is that following the recent statement by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma against the Prophet, huge protests took place in all Islamic nations against the statement. This has not only resulted in a huge setback to the image of the country, but there also occurred a situation where the country could face a huge crisis from the financial point of view. This is because lakhs of Hindustanis are employed in Arab nations. They send crores of dollars to Hindustan every year. Majority of them are Hindus. Hence it became necessary to take any step that would cool down Muslim nations. What is better is for the RSS chief himself to go to a masjid and madrasa. The world knows that in the entire Muslim world, these two are seen with lot of respect. By visiting them, Mohan Bhagwat is giving this message to Islamic nations that the Sangh has no enmity with Islam. Only time can tell how much of his intentions has become successful. But his travel to masjid has given the foreign ministry an opportunity to improve the country's image among Muslim nations under this pretext.

The other difficulty of Sangh and BJP is that in the past few weeks, the possibility of mutual understanding between anti-BJP Opposition parties has gone up. This situation is not only dangerous for Modi and BJP but also for the Sangh as well. Hence it is necessary that the votes that go for the Opposition parties should get divided. Everybody

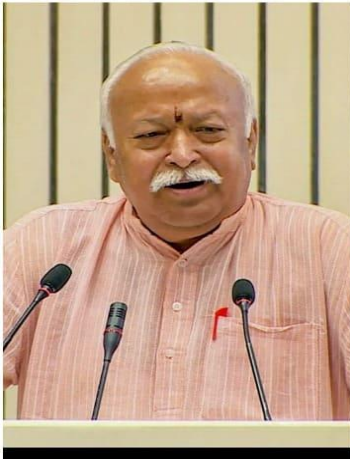
knows this truth that the Muslim votes can influence the results in more than 100 Lok Sabha seats. Hence it is necessary that the Muslim votes should get divided. Everybody knows that the imams in masjids and the teachers in madrasas are two such groups who can influence the Muslim vote bank. Hence by using money, the two are being used to divide the Muslim community voters. It is with this aim that Mohan Bhagwat went to the masjid and the madrasa. The masjid where he went, its imam had given him the certificate of 'Rashtrapita.' In fact, the government should have been ashamed of the problems being faced by Muslims in the past few years, but nothing of that sort happened.

Salar (September 26) has published an article by Aadil Akhtar, in which it has been said that Mohan Bhagwat held secret talks with some prominent Muslims. The question here is how do we analyse this meeting. This is not the first meeting of Bhagwat with Muslims. In fact, from last year onwards Mohan Bhagat has been trying to woo Muslim community. He started this effort during an event in Ghaziabad. Then last year, some Muslims were invited to a hotel in Mumbai including Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui. He was arrested soon after this meeting and now he is spending time in jail.

The elderly chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, was also called to RSS headquarters and given an opportunity to hold discussions. Addressing Muslims at the function in Ghaziabad, Mohan Bhagwat said that the DNA of Hindus and Muslims is same and Muslims should admit that their ancestors are Hindus. Hence all those who stay in this country are Hindus. Later he has given this statement that the Sanatan culture itself is Hindu culture. Being a Bharatiya means being a Hindu. In Mumbai, Mohan Bhagwat said that you need to admit that Islam came to Bharat through Muslim invaders. Now, during the fresh meeting with intellectuals, he stressed that Muslims need to get rid of describing Hindus as 'Kafir.'

In the past few days, Bhagwat's colleague Ram Madhav also said in a statement that Muslims can live peacefully in the country if they stop using the word 'Kafir' and keep themselves away from the concept of 'jihad'. It is clear that the RSS wants Muslims to get rid of their separate identity and the core value of their principles. The Sangh wants to transform Muslims into 'Mohammaden Hindus.' But they will have to forget about the 'Islamic Ummat' and keep Quran and Sunnat away from them. It is with this aim that the RSS was founded and it has been working with this aim for the past 100 years. It has captured power by spreading the flames of hatred. Now since there is an indirect government run by the RSS is in power, Muslims are living with an insecurity feeling. RSS and its allied organisations are involved in a campaign to pressurise, crush and humiliate ordinary Muslims. In such a situation, this campaign of Mohan Bhagwat is increasing the fear and danger for Muslims.

Etemaad (September 23) in its editorial, while mentioning about the meeting of Mohan Bhagwat with chief imam Umer Ilyasi, said it has increased the concern of Muslims. Before this, the Sangh chief has held secret talks with some Muslims. Later, the incidents of destroying madrasas in Assam and Uttar Pradesh have gone up. Also, hundreds of Muslims were arrested after declaring them as terrorists. Ever since Narendra Modi government came to power in the country, in order to keep the majority community happy, the saffron party has increased the hate campaign against Muslims. In the past eight years, Muslims have been marginalized both from the political and financial point of view. They have been deprived of education by raiding the madrasas. Efforts have been made to get rid of Waqf properties. In such a situation, instead of protecting the rights of Muslims, the Sangh chief is holding talks with Muslim intellectuals which is very unfortunate.



The surprising thing is that in the meeting with the intellectuals no discussion took place over the Gyanvapi masjid or about the statement of Nupur Sharma. Before this, when the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, met Mohan Bhagwat he said in a statement that Mohan Bhagwat has a strong organisation like the RSS with him. Hence we also need to soften our policy with regard to Sangh. But the opinion of ordinary Muslims is that there will not be any results from such talks unless the RSS takes this issue seriously. It doesn't look like that those who are involved in talks now are serious about it or they are prepared in this connection.

During the time of the then RSS chief K S Sudarshan, such efforts had been made but nothing much had come out of it. It doesn't look like that those currently involved in talks with RSS are fully aware of the history of RSS or its views. If any talks are being held with RSS, then those who fully understand the RSS shall be included so that they can talk to them at same level.

Avadhnama (September 24) has published an article by Dr Syed Fazil Hussain Parvez titled, 'Can RSS provide justice to Muslims?' As far as the issue of discussions with RSS and Muslim intellectuals are concerned, nobody should be worried about it. This is because until the doors for talks are not open, the misunderstandings cannot be removed. Jan Sangh and RSS are anti-Muslim right from the beginning. But during the Emergency

period, its leaders came close to the leaders of Muslim organisations. Muslims also played an important role in bringing Janata Party to power. When hardcore Jan Sanghi Atal Behari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister, he made efforts to improve relationship with Pakistan. In the same manner, the present Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatreya, when he was the MP from Secunderabad, he had freed

lot of properties of Muslims from illegal occupation.

Recently, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani of Muslim Personal Law Board in one of his articles claimed that the RSS has got the services of several Muslim scholars who produce evidence against Muslims and Islam. Muslim Rashtriya Manch is a branch of RSS which is making efforts to bring Muslims closer to RSS. Whatever be the policy of the RSS and BJP, they will not let any opportunity go out of their hand to bring Muslims closer to the Sangh. Recently, Ajit Doval had called a meeting of Sufis. The RSS chief holding talks with Muslims is a good beginning. But the talks should be with those Muslims who are the real representatives of Muslims. The RSS and its allied organisations need to understand that the talks should be held with the real representatives of Muslims so that some positive results come out of it.

In an article published in **Avadhnama** (September 26), Shakeel Rashid has criticised the meeting of RSS Sarsanghchalak with Umer Ilyasi and five Muslim intellectuals and said that the aim of this meetings is to take forward the interests of the Sangh. Now, those Muslims who are meeting Mohan Bhagwat are deliberately becoming pawns at the hands of the Sangh. After the meeting of Maulana Arshad Madani, a hope had generated that some strong steps will be taken to find a solution for the problems of Muslims. But no progress has been made in this direction.

The problems of Muslims are getting worse with every passing day. Mohan Bhagwat again and again throws the ball in the court of Muslims and he never keeps the ball in his court. The RSS has not said anything till now on the reckless arrests in the name of mob lynching, love jihad and conversion. Everybody knows what

happens to the people who open their mouth against Modi government. The surprising thing is that every Muslim leader has maintained silence on the issue of Safoora Zargar. In such a situation, it is not possible to say whether there will be any outcome from the initiative of Mohan Bhagwat.

Arrest of Azam Khan and son stayed



Aurangabad Times

(September 22) reports that the Samajwadi Party has raised the issue of injustice being done to Azam Khan in both the houses of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly namely Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad due to which the proceedings in both the houses got disrupted for two hours. The proceedings in the house had to be suspended several times. As soon as

Inquilab (October 1) states that the Kotwali police in Rampur has registered a case against seven persons including Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam over the seizure of a cleaning machine hidden on the premises of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. Hearing the petition of the accused, the Allahabad High Court stayed their arrest and issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government in this connection. In fact, the lawyer of the accused, Imran Ullah, has filed a petition seeking to cancel the FIR. On this petition, the court has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government. Samajwadi Party president in Rampur, Virendra Goyal, said police claimed that Azam Khan had stolen the cleaning machine of the municipality. He said that the police reached the Rampur municipal office and examined the records related to the stealing of this machine. Till now it is not known what is the outcome of this investigation.

the Vidhan Sabha session started, the legislators of Samajwadi Party alleged that the Yogi government is trapping Azam Khan in fake cases. Akhilesh Yadav said that if a legislator himself is not getting justice, how will common people get justice. Another leader of Samajwadi Party, Mata Prasad Pandey, said that action has been taken against Azam Khan and his family due to political enmity. He has been kept in jail for two years on a fake case and despite he being released on bail, the government is foisting a fake case against him. By digging the land of Jauhar University and by seizing the cleaning machine of the municipality from it, a fake case for stealing has been filed against him. He demanded the Vidhan Sabha Speaker to intervene in order to protect the rights of a legislator. On this the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Suresh Kumar Khanna said the allegation that fake cases have been foisted against Azam Khan and his family as a revenge is totally false.

However, the fact is that the people whose properties Azam Khan had forcibly seized, had filed the case. This issue was raised in Vidhan Parishad as well and it was raised by Samajwadi Party member Naresh Uttam Patel. Another member of the party, Lal Bihari Yadav, said that despite being an elected representative of people Azam Khan is treated like a criminal.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 21) states that the Rampur administration has done digging inside Jauhar University belonging to Azam Khan. After the

digging, a machine belonging to the municipality was seized. Before this, some people had made this allegation that due to the largesse of the chairperson of municipality, Azam Khan and his son have sold the machine of Nagarpalika at arbitrary prices. When the government changed, the machines were hidden in the land. The police also claimed that a large collection of books stolen from a library in Rampur has been seized from the university. The police have registered a case in this connection.

Delhi Waqf Board chairman released on bail



Inquilab (September 29) states that the court has released the chairman of Delhi Waqf Board and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan on bail who was arrested on charges of corruption. According to the lawyer for Amanatullah Khan, Dilshad Ali, the allegations that has been raised against Amanatullah has been proved baseless and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) did not present any document in this connection. One of the important issues is regarding the appointments in Waqf Board, on which the ACB has alleged that these appointments are illegal and criminal. It is to be noted that the ACB kept Amanatullah in custody for nine days. Later he was sent to jail for two days. The lawyer claimed that the charges of leasing out Waqf property in an illegal manner and the alleged scam on the

funds collected after Delhi riots could not be proved. Hence the court released him on bail.

Siasat (September 22) states that the special court has extended the remand of Amanatullah Khan by another five days on the demand of ACB. The ACB told the court that due to the illness of Amanatullah Khan, he could not be questioned properly. It is necessary to

question him with regard to the property that he has amassed in Uttarakhand. The ACB also said they have evidence to prove how a school has been converted into a shop and made huge profit out of it. Amanatullah's lawyer said in the court that another accused in the case, Hamid Ali, has been given bail by another court. Hence Amanatullah shall also be given bail. The ACB claimed that some money has been given to a political party, using which posters were printed.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 17) states that the Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested Amanatullah Khan on charges of corruption at Delhi Waqf Board. Earlier, raids were conducted at several places belonging to Amanatullah Khan from where cash and other documents were

seized in large quantity. Amanatullah Khan said that he is being harassed due to political reasons. The newspaper claimed that the ACB said that Rs 12 lakh cash and a non-licensed pistol have been seized from the house of Amanatullah's business partner Hamid Ali. Earlier, the ACB raided five places in Jamia Nagar, Okhla, and Gafoor Nagar. Amanatullah also claimed that due to pressure from above, the CEO of Waqf Board has filed a complaint, on the basis of which this action has been taken. In this complaint, it has been claimed that there was a scam in the recruitment of employees in Waqf Board. Amanatullah claimed that the 24 people who were appointed by him were recruited on the basis of their qualification.

According to government sources, Amanatullah Khan has been accused of financial irregularity, scam in the purchase of vehicles and appointing 33 employees in Waqf Board in an illegal manner. In this connection, the ACB had registered a case against Amanatullah Khan in January 2022. After interrogating Amanatullah Khan, he was taken into custody. This apart, a raid was conducted on the house of the business partner of Amanatullah Khan, Hamid Ali.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 18) states that Amanatullah Khan was produced before the court of the special judge. The ACB sought his 14 days' remand but the court has given only four days' remand. The Delhi Police had also arrested Hamid Ali, the business partner of Amanatullah Khan. The ACB claimed that

a non-licensed pistol and Rs 12 lakh were seized from his house. A case has been registered against another colleague of Amanatullah Khan and Hamid Ali, Kausar Imam Siddiqui, on charges of keeping illegal weapons. The police claimed that one pistol and three cartridges were seized from the house of Kausar Imam Siddiqui. The raiding team also alleged that the colleagues and friends of Amanatullah Khan attacked them during the raid and also tried to stop the investigation. The ACB also alleged that during the raid on Amanatullah and his colleagues, cash worth nearly Rs 24 lakh were seized. Before this, in a letter to the Lt Governor of Delhi, the ACB urged him to remove Amanatullah Khan from the chairmanship of Waqf Board because he is interfering in the investigation. The spokesperson of Aam Aadmi Party said that after the failure of 'Operation Lotus' in Delhi, the BJP has become furious and hence they are trapping the legislators of Aam Aadmi Party in fake cases. In his tweet, Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal targeted the BJP without taking the name of Amanatullah Khan and said that initially they arrested Satyendra Jain and despite repeated orders from the court, the police could not present any evidence in the court. Later, an effort was made to trap Manish Sisodia also. After a search in his house and bank locker, they did not get anything. Now another legislator is being targeted. All these are happening due to political enmity and due to revenge motive.

Survey of Waqf property in Uttar Pradesh

Etemaad (September 22) reports that the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has decided to inquire into the registration of all the properties that come under the Waqf Board. In this connection, all officials in the districts have been asked to conduct a survey of all the properties related to the Waqf and submit a report within a month. In this connection, it has been directed to inquire into all the

properties that have been registered as Waqf land after the Waqf Act came into existence in 1995 or in 1989 when a government order was issued regarding the Waqf land or registering barren land or other land as Waqf property.

Deputy Secretary Shakeel Ahmad has directed all the directors in minorities welfare department, Survey Commissioner, the chief executive officer of Shia and



Sunni Waqf boards and the revenue department to send a circular and directed them to conduct the survey and submit a report. The government claimed that an inspection of the lands registered as Waqf property during the Samajwadi Party regime will be done through this survey and necessary action will be taken against those if any irregularity and fraud is detected and the government land will be freed.

Describing the order to conduct a survey of Waqf properties as correct, Minister for Minorities Welfare Dharmpal Singh said this decision to conduct the survey is a commendable one and its aim is to liberate the Waqf property from illegal occupation and stop their sale. Waqf property is the property of God and nobody has the right to seize the property.

Salar (September 25) reports that the Telangana state Waqf board is the richest philanthropist institution in the country and its properties are worth approximately Rs 5 lakh crore, but majority of these properties are under illegal occupation. The newspaper claimed that nearly 75% of the Waqf property in Telangana is under illegal occupation. Many officials of Waqf board are involved in this looting in the form of illegal occupation and they are silently watching this loot for a long time. Muslim Waqf institutions do not have the record of many of the properties. On the Waqf properties on which there is an illegal occupation, they do not have the right to free them nor they have got the power to increase the rent.

There is illegal occupation on properties worth billions of rupees in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas. In

this connection, news about them used to appear in newspapers regularly, but no worthwhile action has been taken against those who illegally occupy the properties. In Telangana, there are 33,929 Waqf properties and they have 77,838 acres of land. However, three-fourth of these properties are in illegal hands. In fact, those who have created the Waqf property, their aim was to extend help to the poor, orphans and widows in the society. The surprising thing is that the government has also occupied a lot of Waqf properties.

Currently, there are only 20,000 acre land with Waqf, from which it gets an annual income of Rs 5 crore and it is lesser than the expenses of Waqf board. Hence, it has to depend on the government for things like paying wages to the employees etc. What is surprising is that those who have taken the Waqf property on rent are not paying the rent annually and neither are they willing to increase the rent amount which were decided decades ago. The Waqf board has no power to take action against them. After the partition of Andhra Pradesh, lot of records of Waqf property have disappeared. The interesting thing is that a section of the employees of Waqf board are openly supporting the people who have illegally occupied the Waqf property. Both the state governments had several times announced a CBI and CID inquiry into the illegal occupation of Waqf property. However, no action has been taken in this connection.

Etemaad (September 18) states that Shia religious leader Maulana Kalbe Jawad Naqvi has announced an agitation against illegal occupation of Shia Waqf properties. He alleged that illegal seizing of Waqf property is taking place in Uttar Pradesh under the nose of the district officials which cannot be tolerated. Kalbe Jawad said that the close confidante of former chief minister Mayawati, Satish Chandra Mishra, has illegally occupied 27 bigha land of Waqf. In this connection, the Shia Waqf Board has sent all the necessary

documents to the district magistrate but he has not taken any action. It looks like the government officials is hand-in-glove with land mafia. We have given a memorandum to the district magistrate to remove the illegal encroachment on property of Karbala Abbas Bagh, but no action was taken. He said the way the district officials have occupied the Waqf property of Hussainabad, looks like they want to seize all the Shia Waqf property. We will not allow this arbitrariness of the government.

Etemaad (September 22) states that the chairman of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government wants to seize the Waqf properties worth billions of rupees which will not be tolerated by Muslims. If the Uttar Pradesh government is serious about a survey of Waqf properties and other philanthropic property, then why they are doing a survey of the Waqf properties of only Muslims. Why it is not doing a survey of Hindu, Sikh and Christian Waqf properties? He said that this decision of Uttar Pradesh government is unconstitutional and illegal. It should be immediately withdrawn. This is a major conspiracy against Muslims. Masjids, Idgah and Kabristan are Waqf properties. How can they be taken away from Muslims? If there is any illegal occupation of this Waqf properties, what were the employees of Sunni-Shia Waqf boards doing? He said that the survey will not affect the legal status of the Waqf properties. It is the property of Muslims.

Hamara Samaj (September 18) reports that the chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani, has decided to question the petition filed in the high court by BJP leader Ashwani Upadhyaya over the Waqf Act 1995. Jamiat Ulema in its petition said that the petition filed by Ashwani Upadhyaya is unnecessary and it shall be rejected forthwith.

In **Mumbai Urdu News** (September 26), Syed Anjum Ali Rizvi has written an article in which it has been alleged that the open loot of Waqf properties in

Maharashtra still continues. In Waqf board, some people are elected while there are also some nominated members like MLAs and MPs. However, despite this, the loot of Waqf property is still on. He demanded that the chairman of Maharashtra Waqf Board, Wajahat Mirza, although he is a Congressman, should stop the loot of Waqf properties by taking action under the Waqf Board Act so that the income from the Waqf Board could be used for the welfare of poor Muslims.

Quami Tanzeem (September 23) in its editorial, while discussing about the decision of the Uttar Pradesh government to conduct a survey of the Waqf properties, said that a huge section of Muslims has opposed this. However, despite this, there is a fact that in the entire country, especially in Hindi-speaking areas, which includes Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the mafia have occupied land worth trillions of rupees. The surprising thing is that many governments are among those who have illegally occupied Waqf land. This includes the Central government as well. The Muslim Waqf Act 1960 has been overlooked. Later the Samajwadi Party had directed some category of government land to be registered under the Waqf Board. Now the state government, after cancelling the 1989 order, has ordered a survey of the entire property.

According to a report, after the military and railways, the largest number of properties is with the Waqf Board. There are more than 8.5 lakh Waqf properties in the country, including 8 lakh acre land. What is required is to free this Waqf properties from the hands of mafia gangs and illegal occupants so that the income from them could be used to extend help to poor, widows and orphans. The newspaper said that if the provisions of the survey is properly implemented, then there would be a ban on loot of the corrupt officials of the Waqf board and the government will also benefit from it. Muslims should support this survey. This is because it is in the interest of Muslims.

Japanese consulate general arrested on charges of spying

Inquilab (September 28) reports that Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Japanese Consul General Motoki Tatsunori at the pacific port city of Vladivostok. Russia has claimed that its security agencies have foiled a spying effort by the Japanese Consul General. The government also claimed that this Japanese diplomat was caught red-handed. It is being said that he was planning to hand over the information to an Asian country. The information was related to Russia's secret talks with an Asian nation and about the restrictions imposed in Pacific Ocean.



In this connection, Russia has also registered its protest with Japan and the person who has been caught has been declared as persona non-grata. Earlier, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary had announced that Japan had decided to impose restrictions on sending raw material to Russia needed for the manufacture of chemical weapons so that Moscow could be prevented from using them against Ukraine. The Japanese official expressed the apprehension that Russia will soon use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Japan also imposed restrictions on 21 Russian organisations from sending any kind of goods. As per a government announcement, at the 'G-7' meeting, Japan had given due notice about these restrictions, for which the meeting had given the approval. Japan had also claimed that it was seriously concerned about the developments in Ukraine and it extends support to Ukraine and will cooperate with

other nations in the world over the sanctions imposed on Russia.

As per another news, Russia has decided to grant its citizenship to a spy of US origin. He was an intelligence agent in US earlier and his name is said to be Edward Snowden. He was missing for a long time and the US has long been searching for him for leaking secret information. It is being said that he fled to Russia in 2013 in order to escape from arrest and has been staying in Russia since then. The secret information that he had provided to Russia includes the details of the action taken by the US against Al Qaida. The US effort was to bring him back to the country at any cost and take legal action against him. The lawyer of Edward Snowden said this former US citizen is staying with his wife in Russia. The Russian President has granted Russian citizenship to 75 other foreigners along with him.

Russia signs deal with Taliban



Etemaad (September 29) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has signed a deal with Russia as per which the former will buy gasoline and oil in order to meet the requirements of foodgrains and fuel. Russia has decided to supply gasoline and oil at cheap price to Afghanistan. This decision by Russia will help Afghanistan government overcome the country's food and energy crisis. This apart, there could be a new beginning in trade relations as well. Spokesperson of Taliban's commercial and industry ministry, Abdul Salam Jawad Akhundzada said that under this agreement, Afghanistan will purchase gas and diesel from Russia on a discounted price. This is Taliban's biggest ever trade agreement with any nation so far. It is being said that as per this agreement, 10 lakh tonnes of petrol and diesel will be purchased. Also, five lakh tonnes of petroleum gas will also be bought from Russia. He said that Russia will supply 20 lakh tonnes wheat every year. This agreement over wheat is for an indefinite period.

In June, the Taliban government had signed an agreement with Iran to purchase 3.5 lakh tonnes of petroleum products. It is to be noted that no nation has any regular commercial relationship with Taliban. But Russia is among a few nations which have not closed their embassy in Kabul. Afghanistan purchases the petrol for its consumption from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. The Taliban government has taken a fresh step by signing a deal with Russia. In this connection, an agreement has been reached for temporary settlement. As per this agreement, Russia will supply Afghanistan 10 lakh tonnes petrol, 10 lakh tonnes diesel, 5 lakh tonnes gas and 20 lakh tonnes wheat. Afghanistan's minister for trade Haji Nooruddin Azizi said that later this agreement will be converted as a long-term agreement. On seeing the financial crisis in Afghanistan, Russia has decided to supply wheat and petrol to the country on a discounted price.

USA to admit 1.25 lakh refugees every year



are permanently staying in the US is only 20,000.

As per a notification issued by the White House, a quota of 40,000 for Africa, 35,000 for South East Asia, 15,000 for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been decided. Meanwhile, a quota of 5,000 has been kept reserved.

In the 2023

Etemaad (September 30) states that the US President Joe Biden has fixed the quota to admit the refugees to the country next year at 1.25 lakh. However, there has been pressure on him to increase the number. Under Trump administration, a huge reduction has been made in the number of refugees to be admitted to the US and their number had been reduced to just 15,000 which was the smallest number in the history of United States. After taking over as the US President in 2021, Biden had increased the number of refugees to be admitted during the rest of the year by four times. Later during the 2022 financial year, he had fixed the number at 1.25 lakh per year. However, this year till now, less than 20,000 refugees have managed to take refuge in the US. This does not include the 1,60,000 refugees who had arrived from Ukraine and Afghanistan, who had landed in US on humanitarian grounds. However, as per this law, the refugees who have taken refuge in the US is entitled to stay there only for two years. Whereas as per another law, the number of refugees who

financial year, Biden has given permission for a quota of more than 5,000 for people from Europe and Central Asia so that the refugees who flee from Ukraine due to Russia-Ukraine war could take refuge in the US. This apart, he has started a pilot project as per which the US citizens will have the permission to register themselves to shelter the refugees belonging to their community in order to rehabilitate them all. This is the same way in which the US citizens have themselves registered the refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

In US, the rehabilitation of refugees is done by nine agencies. The quota for their entry to the US is decided by the President and the fund for their rehabilitation is provided by the government. The President said the quota of 1.25 lakh has been decided on the basis of humanitarian consideration. However, whether it's the Republican Party or the Democrats in power, only 95,000 people on an average have been admitted as refugees so far.

Indiscriminate firing in Russian school



Salar (September 27) states that at least 13 people were killed, including seven students, when an armed man opened indiscriminate firing in a school in the

Central Russian city of Izhevsk. Later, the man shot himself dead. As per media reports, Russia has formed a high-level committee to probe this incident. The Russian security agencies are trying to identify the attacker. It is being said that the suspected man was

wearing a mask as well as a black T-shirt on which he had printed the Nazi party's symbol.

Maryam Nawaz and her husband released

Inquilab (September 30) states that the daughter of former prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and the vice-president of Muslim League (Nawaz) Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain Muhammad Safdar Awan have been absolved of charges of corruption. The high court has quashed the decision of the anti-corruption court. The high court said that the anti-corruption department has totally failed to establish the charges of corruption against the two. It is to be noted that in 2018, an anti-corruption court had awarded 10 years in jail to Nawaz Sharif and seven years in jail to Maryam Nawaz and one-year jail term to her husband in connection with the Avenfield Apartment scam. However, later the Islamabad High Court had separated Maryam Nawaz and her husband from the case of Mian Nawaz Sharif. After this decision, while talking to journalists, Maryam Nawaz said that in the history of Pakistan a ruling party had never filed such a fake case against any leader that has been filed against the family of



Nawaz Sharif. She said that from today's verdict, it has been proved that Imran Khan had deliberately made us a target of conspiracy. Meanwhile, a leader of Tehreek-e-Insaf, Dr Shahbaz Gill, while criticising this verdict, said that the decision has pushed the country backwards by 30 years. He said that the way the current government has set up a nexus with the family of Nawaz Sharif, it is clear that the Nawaz Sharif family will soon be cleared off all the charges.

Nationwide protest against hijab in Iran



After the death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, who died in police custody after she suffered injuries as the police thrashed her for not wearing the hijab properly, a wave of protests has erupted in entire Iran against hijab and upholding human rights. According to government sources, at least 70 protesters have been killed so far in clashes between the protesters and police or military. Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has alleged that foreign powers are behind these protests.

Inqilab (September 25) states that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has announced to crush with an iron hand the protests that broke out in favour of Mahsa Amini, who died in police custody. He admitted that so far more than 700 protesters have been arrested. In many cities in Iran, government supporters took out counter protests. The military has declared that it will strongly crush the enemies who spread violence. According to government media, Ebrahim Raisi said that Iran has to firmly deal with those people who are trying to put the country's unity and peace in trouble. Ebrahim Raisi was talking over phone to the family members of a man who was killed in clashes with

protesters in Mashhad city. The President said that it is necessary to end the people's protests and the deliberate attempts to create a threat to the unity of the country. He said that riots are being spread on the pretext of protests. The protests in Iran started during the funeral procession of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, in north-western Iran.

It is to be noted that there is a special police in Iran, which takes action against those who wear non-Islamic dress and those who spread obscenity in the society. Mahsa Amini had reached Tehran to meet her brother and she was arrested for not wearing the hijab properly and was brutally beaten up. She went into a coma in police custody and she died four days later. It is being said that she died due to police brutality and beating. Following the death of Amini, public anger erupted over restrictions on 'personal liberty' and imposition of forceful 'religious practice' on women, in which women took active part. They publicly tore off hijab and started setting fire to them. Many women even cut their hair. The protesters raised slogans against the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. The police and the military tried to crush the protesters.



As per another news, the government sources confirmed that more than 50 people were killed in these protests including five policemen. The protests are raging for 10 days and it has assumed nationwide proportions now. The police and military started taking strong action against the protesters. Internet services were snapped across Iran and military has been sent in strength to violence-hit places. A spokesperson of Iranian police rejected the allegation that Amini died due to the beating up of police. The police spokesperson claimed that she died due to heart attack and when her health deteriorated, she was admitted to hospital, where she died three days later. On seeing the public anger, President Raisi announced an investigation into her killing, but even then the protests did not look like subsiding and instead took massive proportions.

Etemaad (September 24) states that protests took place in front of several Iranian embassies across the world. According to the newspaper, the police arrested Amini because she refused to wear a scarf. The newspaper also said that there is an 'undeclared censorship' on the foreign media. Iran had imposed a ban on Facebook, Telegram, Twitter and YouTube right from the beginning itself. Now due to the restrictions imposed on internet and on

foreign media, Iran has become totally cut off from the world. Iran's communications minister Issa Zarepour said that in order to stop the rumours, restrictions have been imposed on communication medium.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 27) reports that all schools and colleges in Iran have been closed. The Coordination Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations in a statement said that in order to suppress public anger, students and girl students have been arrested en masse. The protesters have openly shouted slogans against the government and the religious administration system. The slogans that the protesters raised include 'Don't need fundamentalist government', 'Let dictatorship die.' According to non-governmental institution, Iran Human Rights, till now at least 70 people have died in these protests.

Hindustan Express (September 24) reports that a large number of protesters have attacked police headquarters in 36 places in the provinces of Iran and set fire to them. Iran's intelligence ministry has warned that foreign hands are behind these protesters and the protests are illegal. Hence stringent action will be taken against those who take part in these protests. Iran's government organisation Pasdaran-e-Inqilab demanded the judiciary to register



cases in special courts against those who spread fake news and rumours.

Etemaad (September 27) states that Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has described the current protests as the 'handiwork of troublemakers' and said that the US and its agencies were behind these protests. He warned the US to stop supporting the anti-government protests in Iran. He also said that it is an evidence of US's anti-Iran policy. He alleged that these riots are being engineered in order to stop the development that Iran is undertaking in the nuclear field and also to keep it away from achieving the nuclear power status.

Meanwhile, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that the people of Iran want to live a life of dignity amid an atmosphere of democratic rights. Hence the people of Iran are protesting for their democratic rights. He said that we are just trying to ensure that the voice of Iranians is heard abroad. He said that our talks with Iranian government over Iran's nuclear power are still on. It will not stop us from supporting the rights of people of Iran and women's independence. The two are not related in any manner.

Etemaad (September 26) in its editorial said that the restrictions imposed on women in Iran were a point of criticism in Western media right from the beginning itself. Whether its Afghanistan or Iran, the Western media has been criticising the way Shariah has been implemented there right

from the beginning. On the pretext of democratic rights, the Muslim social structure, culture and laws made on the basis of Shariah have been made the target of criticism. Following the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, hijab has been imposed apart from a ban on all 'immoral activities' of women. On the pretext of this, the Western media is making misleading propaganda against Islam and Shariah. Recently, following the murder of a 22-year-old woman in Iranian police custody, violent protests erupted across the country. In Iran, the 'Gasht-e-Ershad' police have got a special unit and their duty is to strictly implement the Islamic Shariah and if any woman is not keeping her hair properly inside the hijab, and if wear any such dress that reveals any portion of her body, the moral police will take strong action against her. Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini had refused to properly cover her head with a hijab, following which the police arrested her. The protesters allege that the police thrashed Amini in custody resulting in her death.

Iran's President has decided to decisively crush the protests that have erupted in the country. Currently, the protests have spread to 31 provinces in Iran. The women are actively taking part in these protests. They also have the support of men. Following the protests by lakhs of people, the government has imposed a ban on internet. One could see viral videos on social media where young women could be

seen taking off their hijab and setting fire to it. The police are being attacked. The Iran government claimed that foreign powers and those Iranians residing in foreign countries were behind these protests. In many places, police could be seen opening fire on protesters. It is to be noted that earlier in 2019, there were nationwide protests against the Islamic



government, which was strongly crushed by the military. At least 1,500 people were killed in these protests. The protesters claimed that after moral police took Mahsa Amini into custody, she was rained blows on her head with a stick and her head was banged against a police vehicle several times. On the other hand, police claim that no violence took place with her and she suffered a heart attack all of a sudden. President Raisi said that an investigation will be conducted into Amini's death. Meanwhile, Iran's interior minister Ahmad Wahidi said that as per the reports he received, it is clear that no violence took place with regard to Amini. The father of Amini, while describing the government claim as a bundle of lies, said his daughter never had any heart problem.

The newspaper said that the moral police in Iran have been facing criticism for their stringent actions. It has been strictly implementing the Shariah law. The current President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi is considered as a fundamentalist. Last year, after being elected as President, he had directed setting up of cameras that can monitor the entire country so that women who do not wear hijab and wear indecent dress could be identified and action could

be taken against them. As per the Iranian law, if any Iranian woman questions the hijab law in any online platform or posts anything on social media against the Shariah law, there is a provision to take stringent action against her and it includes jail-term and a fine. The people of Iran have erupted in anger especially against these restrictions and there is a huge increase in the number of incidents of women posting photos on social media without hijab and by wearing western dress.

Comment: During the regime of exiled King of Iran, Reza Shah Pahlavi, the Iranian society was considered as the most open society among Muslim nations. Iranian women used to wear dress like the ones being worn by women in Western countries and they never used to wear any kind of purdah. Following the Islamic revolution in 1979, a stringent ban has been imposed on Western dress and on living like Western women. Women wearing Western dress were arrested on a mass scale. Like Saudi Arabia, a special branch of police named 'moral police' was formed to strictly implement Shariah and they were given extensive powers to tackle women who behave in an anti-Islam manner.

Preparations for fifth election in as many as four years in Israel



Roznama Sahara (September 17) states that preparations are on to conduct elections in November this year in Israel. Due to political instability, the election is taking place for the fifth time in the country. All the right wing Jewish parties have got united behind former prime minister and Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Whereas, in the opposition, the different parties of Arabs could not form a united front against Netanyahu so far. Different political parties have announced the names of their candidates. From this it

has been concluded that an alliance 'Joint List' of Arab-supported four parties have ended and now they will contest elections separately. These parties include Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) National Democratic Alliance (Balad) United Arab List (Ra'am) and Arab Movement for Renewal (Ta'al).

Following the dissolution of Arab-supported alliance, there is a possibility that the Arab representation in the future Israeli parliament will be relatively low. Whereas the strength of Jewish parties will increase. Due to the division among Arab supporters, there is a likelihood of 40% of candidates of Arab parties losing their surety amount. Also, whichever new government comes to power in Israel, its policy will likely be pro-Jewish and their stance towards Arabs will be very stringent.

Kuwait Prime Minister visits Saudi Arabia



Inquilab (September 16) states that the Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman, at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. The two Arab leaders expressed the hope

of the two countries improving their cooperation in different sectors of industry and tourism. During the talks, Saudi Arabian Minister Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd and the Saudi Ambassador in Kuwait, Prince Sultan bin Saad and Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhad were also present.

Whereas on behalf of Kuwait, Kuwait Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Secretary of the Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid Talal and Director at Prime Minister's office Hamad Badr Al Amer took part in the talks.

High-speed train between Mecca and Medina

Roznama Sahara (September 17) reports that in order to facilitate the pilgrims who visit Saudi Arabia, a high-speed train service has been started between Mecca and Medina. This train runs at a speed of 300 kilometre per hour. More than 400 passengers can travel in this modern train. The ticket price has been kept between 40 and 150 Saudi Riyals. This train will stop at stations in Jeddah and King Abdullah Economic City. Recently, the Haj ministry of Saudi Arabia has given permission to people across the world to do Umrah throughout the year under a special plan. In order to attract the pilgrims, a huge Markaz Entertainment Premises is being constructed in the capital city of Riyadh where there will be facility for live display of a number of films, games area and restaurants that serve food from different countries. The premises will be of one lakh square area. This is expected to benefit five lakh people and 22,000 people will get employment. It is expected that Saudi



Arabia will get an income of eight billion Riyals from this premises. Under Vision 2030, the Saudi government had announced that those who display special achievement will be given citizenship. This apart, a modern city is being constructed at an estimated cost of 500 billion dollars. This city will have the facility to house 10 lakh people and it will be spread over 170 kilometre. For the construction of the city, 180 billion Saudi Riyals will be spent. Whereas 3.8 lakh people will get employment from it.

Attack on masjid in Nigeria



Inquilab (September 26) reports that nearly a dozen people entered a masjid in Nigeria and opened indiscriminate firing in which more than two dozen namazis offering the namaz were killed and dozens of others were injured. It is being said that

armed assailants riding motorcycles attacked the Jama Masjid in Zamfara state. It is being said the attackers were robbers. Whereas some people claim that the attackers were linked to Al Shabab, an organisation linked to Al Qaida. According to the media, the attackers were hand-in-glove with police and that is why they kept shedding the blood for over two hours. The masjid's imam had handed over the information regarding the attack to the police immediately. The police claimed that since the military is on a campaign against anti-social elements, the robbers have carried out this attack as a revenge.

Others

No permission to raise slogans in Ka'aba

Siasat (September 16) states that the imam of Ka'aba, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, said that anyone visiting Ka'aba need to take special care about the sacredness of Ka'aba and Masjid-e-Nabwi. These two sacred places are only for prayers, not for any political activities. Nobody will be permitted to raise any kind of political slogans or carry placards against Islam in



these two places. If anybody does this kind of activity, the person will be given life-term in jail. It is to be noted that recently, during Umrah, some foreign citizens displayed a banner, which had anti-government slogans written on it. They were arrested on this issue. In the past also, the government had announced stringent action against those who commit sacrilege of Ka'aba.

Demand to give Bharat Ratna to Nizam

Siasat (September 19) reports that in a function organised in Bidar in Karnataka, it has been demanded that the seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, should be given Bharat Ratna. In a public meeting held under the chairmanship of Abdul Mannan Sait, it has been claimed that when China attacked India, Prime Minister Lalbahadur Shastri has appealed to the people of the country



seeking help. Following this appeal, the Nizam donated five tonnes of gold to the National Gold Treasury. The value of this gold was Rs 1,500 crore at that time. In the Jan Sabha it has been alleged that the services of Nizam to the nation has been deliberately ignored and he has been presented before the people in a wrong manner.

House of Love Jihad accused razed



Siasat (September 22) reports that a drive has been launched against the alleged

accused in Love Jihad cases in Jharkhand as well. In Bokaro in Jharkhand, the administration ran bulldozer over the house of an accused named Aarzoo Malik and destroyed it completely. The allegation is that Aarzoo hid his religion and married a Hindu girl and later handed her over to his friends who gang-raped her. The administration had filed cases against five persons in this connection. The bulldozer was run over the house of Aarzoo Malik

under the supervision of police and SDM. The victim had filed a case against accused Aarzoo Malik at Chas police station, in which she had alleged that she had met Aarzoo Malik in 2021. He had introduced himself as a Hindu. Later he invited her to

his house on some pretext. There he had already invited a pandit. Aarzoo forcefully applied the sindoor on her head and also made a video of the same. Later he started blackmailing her and handed her over to his friends who gang-raped her.

Demand for 12% reservation for Muslims

Siasat (September 24) reports that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has demanded the Telangana chief minister that the Muslims of Telangana should be given 12% reservation. The current 4% reservation being given to Muslims in Telangana is not enough, he said. On the pressure of Majlis, the Telangana government had constituted Sudhir Committee in 2016 to study the academic, financial and social backwardness of Muslims. In its report, the committee said that the Telangana Muslim



is more backward than the Dalits and hence they shall be given 12% reservation. In this connection, the Telangana government had sought the opinion

of the Backward Classes Commission which had supported the demand to give 12% reservation to Muslims. However, despite this, the committee's report was not implemented. He said that in this connection he will knock at the doors of the Supreme Court as well.

Anti-Conversion bill passed in Karnataka

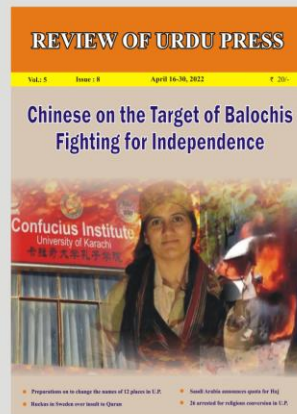
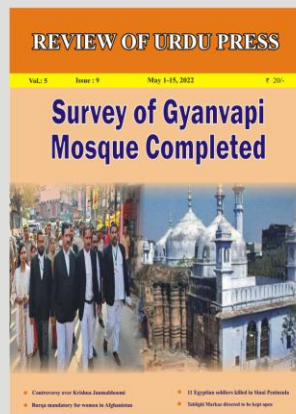
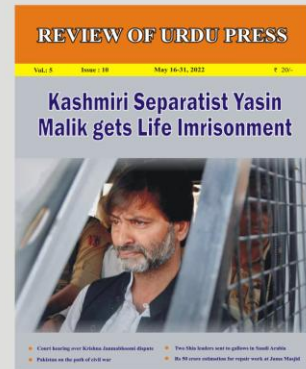
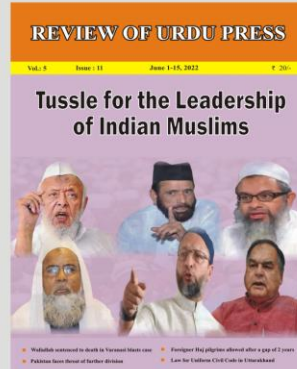
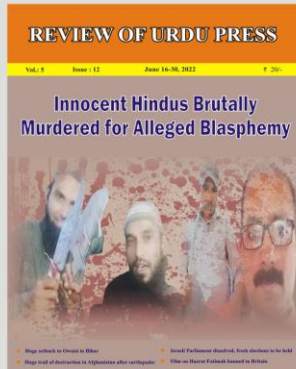
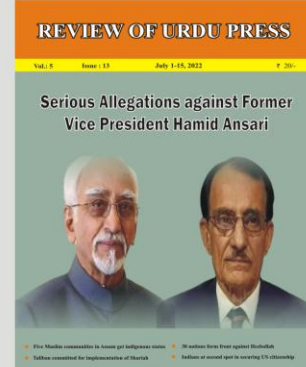
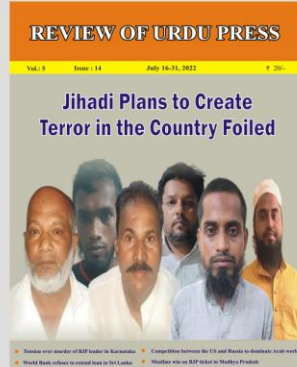
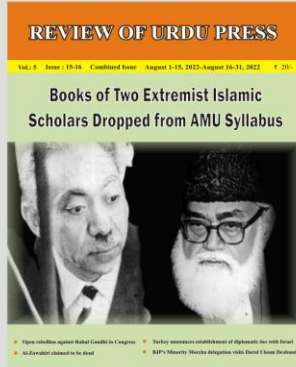


Siasat (September 17) reports that despite the Opposition protest in the Vidhan Parishad in Karnataka, the anti-conversion bill has been passed in the House. The Congress and JD (S) have opposed the bill

and argument that such type of a law is against Indian Constitution. Whereas the government has argued that this law will help stop forceful conversion. The Vidhan Sabha had passed the bill earlier. As per the new law, conversion using deceit, force or allurement has been declared as an offence and a provision has been made to award jail term ranging from 3 years to 5 years and a fine of

25,000 to those who violate this law. Those who convert minors will be given 10 years in jail and a fine of 50,000. If anyone found guilty of mass conversion, he will be fined upto Rs 1 lakh.

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