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Supreme Court Delivers Split Verdict on Hijab



- Stress on formulating new policy for population balance
- Discussion over the condition of Chinese Muslims postponed in the UN
- Over 200 killed in anti-hijab protests in Iran
- 1,000 dollars fine for wearing burqa in Switzerland

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Summary

The controversy over hijab has not been resolved so far. The ban upheld by the Karnataka High Court on the entry of students wearing hijab in educational institutions was challenged in the Supreme Court. However, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, which heard the arguments in the case, delivered a split verdict. This has made the matter more complicated. Now the Chief Justice has to constitute a larger bench to conduct hearing in this case. A section of Muslims is still stuck in the argument that hijab is an integral part of Islam which is clearly mentioned in seven verses in Quran and it has been confirmed in the Hadis. However, majority of European nations have imposed a ban on hijab and burqa. As far as Muslim nations are concerned, Saudi Arabia is the only country where it is mandatory to wear a burqa or hijab. However, even in Saudi Arabia, due to the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, the situation is changing. In Iran, considered as the most fundamentalist Islamic country, the young generation has launched an open rebellion against hijab and burqa. According to government sources, nearly 200 women have sacrificed their life during their protests against hijab so far. The public sentiment across the world has awakened in support of Iranian women.

The Chinese persecution of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China has become a topic of heated debate in world media. It is being said that nearly 10 lakh Chinese Muslims are kept in illegal custody. The Chinese rulers are holding forced sterilisation programmes in order to curb their increasing population. The Chinese rulers are keen to ensure that the Chinese Muslims get rid of their separate identity and merge themselves with Chinese society. The weird thing is that when a proposal to condemn this issue was presented in the United Nations Human Rights Council, majority of the Muslim nations opposed it, which includes Pakistan. Due to this opposition, no discussion took place on the proposal to condemn the persecution of Uyghur Muslims and it has been put in cold storage. The Western nations allege that the Muslim countries have succumbed to the pressure of China and stabbed the Chinese Muslim victims in the back.

In Afghanistan, the series of bomb explosions is not ebbing. Recently, in a blast that took place in a school in Kabul, at least 100 innocent boys and girls were killed. Those who were killed belonged to either the Shia sect or the Hazara tribe. It is being said that Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS is behind the blasts. It is clear from this that the Islamic Khilafat is not willing to accept the existence of Al Qaida. This is the reason why it is playing with blood in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Politics is taking a fresh turn in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia and the US are in a deadlock on the issue of reducing the production of oil. When the US President Joe Biden visited Saudi Arabia three months ago, he had put pressure on the Saudi rulers not to reduce the production of oil. The original reason for this is that mid-term elections are scheduled in the US and if oil production is reduced, then the prices of oil will increase in international market. This will adversely affect the vote bank of Biden in the US. However, Saudi Arabia has rejected this demand of the US. Following this, the relationship between the two old allies got strained. President Biden had even threatened Saudi Arabia of serious consequences. The US charge is that Saudi Arabia took this decision due to pressure from Russia. The US thought that its old ally Saudi Arabia would support it on the Ukraine war. However, Saudi Arabia remained neutral on the issue. The recent visit of leaders of Saudi Arabia to Russia has also increased the worries of the US.

Supreme Court delivers split verdict on hijab



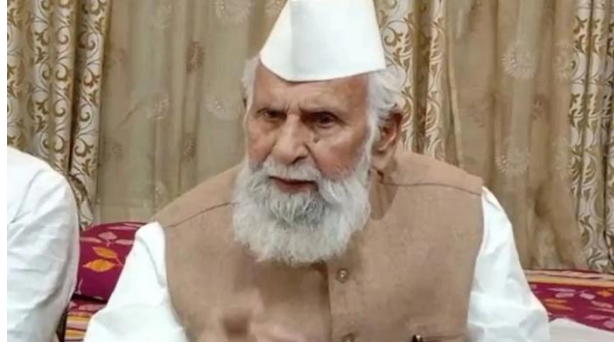
The controversy that has been on for the past several months following the ban on wearing hijab in schools in Karnataka, has now taken a new turn. The order of Karnataka High Court, which had upheld the ban imposed on hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka, has been questioned in the Supreme Court. After an argument which continued for two months, the two judges of the bench delivered their own separate judgments, both contradicting each other and thereby creating a fresh crisis. Now the Chief Justice has to constitute a full bench to resolve the issue. What is interesting is that, in a reply to the Islamic Ulema and the leaders who are hell-bent on keeping the hijab, a massive protest is taking place in Iran in which more than 200 people have been killed so far.

Inqilab (October 14) states that the two judges of Supreme Court had given contradictory verdict on the issue of ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka. Justice Hemant Gupta has upheld the Karnataka High Court verdict imposing a ban on wearing hijab. On the other hand, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, while squashing the same verdict of the

high court, issued an order to lift the ban imposed on hijab. The Urdu newspapers have published especially the judgment of Justice Dhulia in detail, while supporting the same. Meanwhile, Justice Hemant Gupta has upheld the verdict of the Karnataka High Court. He said he had raised 11 questions in his verdict and in his opinion the answers to all these questions go against the petitioner and hence he has rejected the appeal. Now this issue has come up before the Chief Justice. There is a possibility that a full bench will be constituted to hear the case.

Inqilab in this edition has said that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, has supported the viewpoint of Justice Dhulia and described it as in accordance with the Indian Constitution and the provisions regarding personal liberty mentioned in it. Madani expressed hope that a full bench will hear the matter and will give relief to the Muslim girls who want to protect their religious identity by wearing hijab in schools and colleges and still receive education. General Secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani also supported the decision of Justice Dhulia. He said we

don't know why Justice Hemant Gupta did not look into the issues which have been raised by Justice Dhulia. He urged the Karnataka government to withdraw its decision on the hijab and thereby end the controversy so that Muslim girls get education while practising their religion.



Roznama Sahara (October 14) has published the Supreme Court verdict in the hijab case as its main news and said that Maulana Arshad Madani had said that hijab is an integral and original part of Islam. Whereas the chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said the BJP has unnecessarily raised the hijab issue and by imposing a ban on hijab, it has disturbed the peace in the society. In my opinion, the decision of the Karnataka high court is not correct from the legal point of view and Quran has been interpreted in a wrong manner. Karnataka's minister for education B C Nagesh welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and said they, however, expected a better decision from the Supreme Court, because world over Muslim women are holding protests demanding to get rid of burqa and hijab. Following this decision of the court, security arrangements were tightened across Karnataka.

Hindustan Express (October 15) states that Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq had said that immorality will increase if women do not remain in purdah. Hence the Holy Quran has directed that girls should remain in hijab so that they could keep themselves away from the evil eyes of people.

Avadhnama (October 14) reports that the imam of Shahi Idgah in Lucknow, Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali, said that purdah is a fundamental right in Islam and as per the Indian Constitution, every individual has the right to practise and profess his or her own choice of religion. Hence nobody can be forced to wear or not to wear the hijab. Nobody has the right to take away our religious freedom. Muslim women throughout the

world are receiving higher education wearing the burqa and hijab and it has not created any trouble to anyone. What is regrettable is that some communal elements are creating a controversy over hijab because they do not want Muslim women to get educated.

Roznama Sahara (October 14) in its editorial, while criticising Justice Hemant Gupta, said this verdict of Justice Gupta, who is set to retire in another two or three days, is not shocking. It could be gauged from the way he raised questions during the hearing that he is an obedient of former Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi. In the recent years, many judges have given such verdicts just before their retirement, whose implications will be felt for several decades. This judgment is also like that. As far as the issue of hijab is concerned, it is a part of fundamental rights as per various sections of Indian Constitution and nobody can interfere in this freedom. Neither the society nor the Supreme Court can impose their decisions on the people. Even among Hindus, there is a tradition of purdah system. Till some time ago, Hindus used to proudly send widows to do the Sati. Even today the Hindu society is against the non-purdah system. However, in their eagerness to make Hindustan a Hindu Rashtra, a fundamentalist section is opposing the hijab and they enjoy the indirect support of the government.

Etemaad (October 15) in its editorial said that a controversy had been created in the beginning of this year in the educational institutions in Karnataka on the issue of wearing hijab. Muslims students

had opposed this. However, the Karnataka government issued an ordinance and imposed a ban on hijab. The high court was approached against this decision. The high court, however, imposed a ban on the hijab by saying that hijab is not mandatory in Islam. In this verdict, the high court had quoted the verses in Quran and the opinion of Islamic scholars. Later this verdict of the Karnataka high court was questioned in the Supreme Court. Muslim students had opposed this verdict of the high court and said that no court has any power to interfere in religious matters and neither the court can interpret the Quran. This matter is beyond the power of the court. They also said that the government has imposed a ban on hijab but no such ban has been imposed on the religious symbols of other religions like ghunghat, pallu, chudi, bindi, the turban and bracelet of Sikhs.

The newspaper said that every citizen has been given fundamental rights as per the Indian Constitution but under Article 29 and 30 only minorities are given the right to protect their own language and culture. Hijab is an integral part of Muslim culture and hence there cannot be dispute over it. In the same manner, the court had confused the triple talaq issue as well. The way the BJP has been taking credit for stopping triple talaq, it will take credit for the ban on hijab as well so that it could reap its benefits in the Karnataka Assembly elections. The truth is that the present government want to end the separate identity of Muslims. That is why it is raising such issues every now and then, which are related to the faith of Muslims.

Hindustan Express (October 15) in its editorial has criticised the verdict of the Supreme Court on the hijab issue and said that it is clear that people have different opinions on hijab. Some people have taken hijab positively. But some others are against it. The differences of opinion in the verdict delivered by the two judges of the Supreme Court on this issue is not something unique in a country like India. It would have been better had the two judges got same opinion on the issue. There is no

doubt that hijab is a controversial issue. Everybody has his or her own opinion on it. There is also this question that how much difference is there between a burqa and a hijab. Every educational institution has its own set of rules as per which boy and girl students need to wear a unique set of uniform. The country is awaiting the verdict of the full bench in this case.

Avadhnama (October 15) in its editorial has said that the two judges in the Supreme Court differing in their verdict is nothing new. However, the way discussions were being held in the Supreme Court and the arguments put forward, it could be assumed that Muslim girls will get the right to go to schools and colleges wearing the hijab. However, this decision has left the people surprised. Even in the high court, the way the Quranic verses and its interpretations are presented, these are not as per the fundamental rights of a religious minority. The hijab issue has deliberately been blown out of proportion. In case if any decision has come favourable to Muslims, will those people who had blown up this issue remain silent? If any issue is given a religious colour, then it will not be easy to find a solution to the problem. Now the Muslims should be ready to establish their viewpoint before the full bench of the Supreme Court on whether the directions given in Islam over hijab is an integral part of Islam or not?

Salar (October 15) in its editorial has strongly supported hijab and burqa and described them as an integral part of Islam. The newspaper said that nowadays some spoiled girls of upper class Muslims do not use hijab and burqa in the name of fashion, due to which the entire community has to hang its head in shame. Today, not only in Hindustan, even across the world the Muslims are fighting to maintain their separate identity. In India, the present time is a testing period for the Muslims. They need to remain prepared for the fight to maintain their identity. It is being said time and again that we have been ruling this country for the past 1,000 years. The question then is how the power has slipped

out of the hands of the Muslims? For 1,000 years, no Muslim ruler has propagated Islam. Instead, they harassed those who have been propagating Islam. Muslim rulers have built palaces. But they did not make any effort to guide the Muslim community on the path of Shariah. If we fail to overcome the situation that we are facing today, then we will be wiped out and our separate identity will cease to exist.

Salar (October 14) in its editorial has strongly advocated hijab and said that hijab is the only such system that ensures security to women and help them stay away from evil eyes. That is why there is lot of stress on veil in Islam. Seven verses in

Quran are about the veil for women and more than 90 Hadiths have given stress on the veil. Islamic hijab doesn't mean that Islam has imprisoned women in their houses, as some people are propagating today. Instead, in Islam women have been permitted to go out whenever it is necessary by wearing a purdah. It is being said in Quran, "Hey Prophet, You tell your wives and Muslim women to use their purdah. So that they could be identified, and no one bothers them." It is clear from this Aayat that women have been directed that in case they step out of their house, they wear a burqa or a long chadar and then step out. This is the direction in Islam.

Stress on formulating new policy for population balance



Salar (October 6) states that whatever the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Dr Mohan Bhagwat, said in his address on the occasion of Dussehra is the dream of his organisation for several years and the Modi government of BJP is working on its basis. Speaking about population control, Mohan Bhagwat said that it is very important for India to have such a law. Hence it is possible that the Modi government will soon present a law on population control in the Parliament. Mohan Bhagwat has also stressed that

population balance is very important from the religious point of view as well and it cannot be overlooked. For an increasing population, it is necessary to have more resources but if population increases without a proportionate increase in resources, then it becomes a problem. But if this population is properly utilised, it will be beneficial. There is no other country in the world where there are 57 crore youths. Our neighbouring country China has become a nation of old people. We need to be aware of this.

Bhagwat said that Hindustan had to suffer a lot in history due to population imbalance. Hence it is necessary to formulate a comprehensive policy to deal with increasing population, which every community in the society needs to implement properly. He said that due to conversion and infiltration of foreigners, the population balance in the country has got disturbed which is a very serious issue. Due to population imbalance, many nations got divided. East Timor, South Sudan and Kosovo are examples for this. Bhagwat demanded that the government formulate a comprehensive law to control the population. It has to be prepared with all seriousness and it should be implemented in an equal manner in the entire society. No community should be exempted from this policy. This year, the special guest for the event was Padma Shri Santhosh Yadav, a mountaineer.



Siasat (October 6) reports that the chief of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mohan Bhagwat, has rejected the claim that the Hindu society or the Sangh poses any kind of threat to Muslims. He alleged that this kind of propaganda is being spread in order to create fear among the minorities. Sangh believes in brotherhood and peaceful existence. We are not a danger to anyone and this kind of campaign is baseless. He also stressed on bringing harmony in society and ensuring equal treatment to Dalits and said that questions like who can ride a horse and who can't, should be done away with. Everyone in the society should have same mandir, water source and cremation place. Swayamsevaks should try to bring equality in society so that differences on the basis of caste and creed could be removed. Such differences are against the basic spirit of Hindu society.

Roznama Sahara (October 7) in its editorial has criticised the statement of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief

Mohan Bhagwat and said that the way Bhagwat has been issuing statements on the issue of population for the past few months, it looks like it would be the main issue in the next elections. This will also become BJP's election agenda and a polarisation would be created on the issue of population imbalance. In any case, after the destruction of Babri Masjid and the construction of Ram Mandir, there is no such issue in sight which would help in the polarisation of Hindu votes. May be this is the reason why the population issue is raised in one way or another in the speeches of Mohan Bhagwat. Addressing the Vijayadashami function in Nagpur, he specially mentioned about the increasing population. However, he also raised many issues like women empowerment, unemployment and harassment of Dalits during his speech. He also mentioned about giving equal treatment to women and honouring the Constitution. However, he stressed on the population issue and said that a population stabilisation policy shall be brought for the entire country after discussing all the issues related to population growth. Then only it will help. A religion-based population imbalance shall not be ignored. He said that geographical boundaries can change due to population imbalance. Bharat had to face serious consequences due to such changes.



The Partition of Bharat in 1947 and the creation of Pakistan took place due to this imbalance. Many new countries were created due to population imbalance, he said. Apart from population growth, he also mentioned about forceful conversion and foreign infiltration. He said that the more the population, the more will be the pressure on natural resources of the country.

The newspaper said that in the past also, while advocating for population control, Mohan Bhagwat had expressed the need to balance it from the religious point of view. Sangh and its supporters have been arguing that the population of Muslims is increasing speedily compared to that of Hindus. However, the government has denied it time and again. However, despite this, it is still being propagated. The population growth rate in Hindustan is not like as if there is an explosive situation. As per National Family Health Survey 2019-21, there is a 2 per cent decrease in the population growth rate in the country. If this growth is sustained, then India will overtake China as the most populous nation in the world in 2025 or even before it and becomes the first nation. However, from 2060, there will be a decrease in the population of the country and by the end of the century, the population growth rate will become zero.

In such a situation, describing population growth rate as explosive is equivalent to misleading people. One argument of Sangh and those related to them is that a huge population may lead to crisis in hospitals, employment and food availability. According to experts, in order to fulfil the demands of increasing population, it is necessary to create new resources. Population control through force is not a solution for this. The financial condition will not become worse just due to a large population. Instead, it will be a compliment

to the economy. There will be increase in production. If efforts are made to forcibly control the population, then the number of elderly people in the country will increase and there will not be enough people to do work. This is what we see in China today. China imposed the single-child policy in 1980 in an effort to control the population. The result is that the rate of elderly people among the population increased and the number of people who are able to do jobs has gone down. Hence it had to change its old policy and now people are encouraged to produce children. For any nation, its population is not a strain on its natural resources, instead an asset to it and it plays its own part in nation building, called 'demographic dividend.' In Hindustan, one can't find any need for population control as of now. Instead, the large population should be used for the benefit of economic development.

Etemaad (October 8) in its editorial has criticised Mohan Bhagwat's statement on population imbalance and said that a few days ago, when Mohan Bhagwat visited a madrasa and a masjid in Delhi and met a few Muslim leaders, then it was assumed that he was trying to promote religious harmony in the country. However, it is clear from the speech that he had delivered in Nagpur on the occasion of Vijayadashami that neither there is any

change in the ideology of RSS regarding Hindutva, nor they got a better opinion about Muslims. While stressing on the need to formulate a policy for population control, Bhagwat said that it is very important to keep religious balance. Hence a comprehensive policy on population needs to be prepared which shall be implemented among all citizens in an equal manner. While repeating about the old agenda of RSS and its allied organisations, he said that there are several reasons for population growth. This include the increase in birth rate, conversion and illegal infiltration from neighbouring countries. He said that if there is population imbalance from the religious point of view or if forced conversion of people continues, then the nation's unity will be broken. We had passed through this situation in 1947 and many new countries were formed due to population imbalance.

The newspaper said that Hindu organisations in general are making this allegation that the population of Muslims is speedily growing compared to that of Hindus. Hence Hindu leaders are demanding that an effective policy shall be formulated to rein in the growing population of Muslims. However, the official figures do not support this claim. Mohan Bhagwat also said that population needs resources to sustain and if such resources are not available, then the growing population will become a burden. There is also a point of view that the growing population shall be treated as an asset to the nation. Till now, there is a discussion on the need to control the population in the country and stress is laid on the necessity of making a law in this connection. However, no step has been taking in this direction by the government. According to analysts, if the Sangh chief has openly taken up this issue now, it means that the Modi government is also



planning to take some steps in this direction.

Mohan Bhagwat also stressed on women empowerment and on the need to give women equal rights in all walks of life and said that unless it is done, the nation will not progress. Whatever things Bhagwat had said, the BJP government had already taken some steps on them. In order to stop conversion, a law has been formulated. Now the RSS is taking about population imbalance on the basis of religion. The direct meaning of this is that the Narendra Modi government will take some step in this direction. In order to stop infiltration from across the border, the Modi government recently brought the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Now the RSS chief is taking about population control. Is the government preparing to make a law in this connection as well? What is important is that there is no let down in the attack on Muslims even after Mohan Bhagwat's talks with Muslim leaders. Muslim youths were beaten up for taking part in Garba. In Madhya Pradesh, the houses of Muslims have been destroyed on different excuses. A masjid was attacked in Bidar as well. Hence it is necessary that a sense of equality develops in the majority community with regard to Muslims and they stop looking at Muslims as strangers.

Illegal madrasas



anyone, and its aim is to bring minorities on the path of development and include them in the modern stream. He said that the data of this survey will be made available to the state government by the district authorities by November 15. Till now, 6,436 madrasas have been identified in the state which are not getting grant from the government and

Hamara Samaj (October 15) states that the report of the survey on madrasas, which was undertaken at the behest of the Uttar Pradesh government across the state, has been sent to the state government. In the survey, many madrasas were found to be fake and illegal, against which the state government is preparing to take necessary action. In the five tehsils in Aligarh district, 103 illegal madrasas were found to be functioning. These madrasas were being run without registering them with Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board. Among the madrasas that were being probed, one of them was Faizan-e-Quran. The manager of this madrasa, Mohammad Masood Alam, told reporters that the survey team asked 11 questions. These questions were as follows: Is the land of the madrasa taken on rent or was purchased? If it was purchased, how was it bought? How many students are being taught in the madrasa? What is your syllabus? Are you teaching them in Hindi and in English? Do the students sing National Anthem or not? Is Republic Day celebrated on January 26 and Independence Day on August 15 at the madrasa? Where do you get your funds to run the madrasa?

Roznama Sahara (October 15) states that the Minister for Minorities and Haj in Uttar Pradesh, Dharmpal Singh, said that the deadline for the survey being undertaken for unregistered madrasas in the state has been extended till October 20. He made it clear that this survey is not against

neither do they have the recognition from the madrasa board. Till now, the survey of 5,170 madrasas has been completed in the state. He said that our effort is to ensure that the male and female students of these madrasas too get higher education. He also directed that the officials in each zone form a special team and analyse the report.

Inquilab (October 13) reports that the Uttarakhand government had directed all madrasas in the state to register themselves within a month. In case if they fail to register before the given time, the government will close down them. It is to be noted that there are 419 registered madrasas with Uttarakhand Madrasa Board, out of which 192 get the grant from the Centre as well as the state government. This apart, there are more than 400 such madrasas in the state which are not registered. The future of the children who are getting educated there will be ruined. This is because after Class V, they do not get admission in schools. It is to be noted that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had said that the effort of the state government is to ensure that the level of education in madrasas improves and that the minorities benefit from the schemes launched by the state and Central government for minority welfare. Chairman of state Waqf board, Shadab Shams said that the state government is forming a committee to conduct a survey of madrasas in Uttarakhand.

Tribunal constituted to adjudicate ban on Popular Front



Inquilab (October 7) states that the Central government has formed a Tribunal to adjudicate the ban imposed on Popular Front and Delhi High Court Judge Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma has been appointed to head the panel. Recently, the Central government had imposed a five-year ban on Popular Front and its eight affiliated organisations. Before this, hundreds of people linked to this organisation were taken into custody following a nationwide raid. This ban has been imposed under Section 3 of UAPA Act, 1967. Under this Act, if the Central government imposes a ban on any organisation, its confirmation is done by a Tribunal and its chairman has to be a judge of the Supreme Court or the high court. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma has been appointed by the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice S C Sharma. It is to be noted that along with Popular Front, the other organisations which have been banned are Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imam Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisations, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation Kerala.

Inquilab (October 14) states that the Delhi High Court has refused to hear the

bail plea of the former chairman of Popular Front of India, E Aboobacker. He sought bail on the basis of ill health. He was arrested recently by the National Investigation Agency. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiretta, while rejecting the bail application of 70-year-old Aboobacker, said the NIA is a special law as per which we do not have the power to issue an order on the bail application. In his petition, Aboobacker said that he is suffering from diseases like cancer, Parkinson's and diabetes. Hence he shall be released. However, instead of releasing, the high court extended his remand for six more days.

Roznama Sahara (October 5) states that more than 50 people linked to the banned organisation were arrested after a raid in different places in Delhi. The Delhi Police also sealed some houses in Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave and Jamia Nagar.

Siasat (September 28) reports that the National Investigation Agency in the first phase raided dozens of places in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and arrested 247 people. The highest number of arrests took place in



Delhi. The arrested people have been accused of collecting funds to provide terrorism training, giving training in weapons to Muslim youths etc. In Karnataka, 40 people have been arrested and 100 activists of Social Democratic Party of India have been taken into custody. They have been accused of protesting against the decision to impose a ban on Popular Front of India. While 21 people have been arrested in Madhya Pradesh, 10 in Gujarat and 35 in Assam have also been arrested.

Siasat (October 12) reports that the Uttar Pradesh police had arrested eight persons on charges of spreading terror. They were said to be linked to Jamaat-ul Mujahideen (Bangladesh). The ATS claimed that the arrested people have spread their network in the name of Ghazwa-e-Hind.

Siasat (October 7) states that the Central intelligence agencies have been keeping a track of the activities of the recently formed Islamic Federation of Tamil Nadu. The coordinator of this organisation is S Rahmatullah. This organisation has been registered as an NGO. It was also learnt that the intelligence agencies are keeping an eye on the activities of Raza Academy in Mumbai as well.

Siasat (October 6) states that in the Khajuri Khas area in Delhi, Dr Israr Ali Khan, the state unit president of Popular Front's political wing SDPI, and another activist Dr Samoon were arrested. Their arrest took place under UAPA. Israr's son alleged that his father was associated only with Bahujan Samaj Party and he had nothing to do with Popular Front.

Siasat (September 29) states that the Jamaat Islami has condemned the ban imposed on Popular Front and described it as against the Constitution.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 2) reports that the Vadodara police had sealed a madrasa for its alleged links with Popular Front. And the interrogation of the trustees is still on.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 3) reports that three Muslim youths were arrested in Hyderabad who were said to be linked to ISIS. The police have claimed to have seized four hand bombs and cash worth lakhs of rupees from them. Eight persons were arrested from Saharanpur and Haridwar on charges of keeping links with Al Qaida. Some of them were staying in madrasas. The police claim that terrorists from Bangladesh used to take refuge there. The police also arrested three Bangladeshis who were illegally staying in India. ■

Controversy over changing the name of Tipu Express



Roznama Sahara (October 11) states that a political controversy has erupted in Karnataka after changing the name of Tipu Express as Wodeyar Express. According to the newspaper, the Railway Board has recently changed the name of Tipu Express that travels from Bengaluru to Mysuru as Wodeyar Express. This was announced by BJP MP Pratap Simha. Chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, strongly condemned the change of name of the train. He said that the BJP government maintains hatred towards Tipu Sultan because he fought three wars with the British. Some other train could have been named as Wodeyar Express. This decision of Railway Board has hurt the sentiments of

Muslims. He said that let the BJP try lakhs of times, but the legacy of Tipu cannot be changed.

It is to be noted that BJP MP Pratap Simha had met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and expressed his wish to change the name of this train. BJP leader and Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has welcomed this decision of the government. On the other hand, Karnataka Congress leader Manzoor Ali Khan said that the Railway Board is playing at the hands of the BJP. Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah has also opposed this decision of the government and said that the BJP is deliberately spreading the venom of communalism in the country. ■

Discussion over the condition of Chinese Muslims postponed in the UN



Mumbai Urdu News (October 8) reports that due to intense lobbying by China, a debate on the infringement of human rights of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China could not take place at the United Nations Human Rights Council. There are 47 members in this Geneva-headquartered council, out of which 19 voted against holding a debate on the issue while 17 voted in favour of holding the debate and 11 nations including India did not take part in the voting. The interesting thing is that majority of the Muslim countries did not vote in support of a debate on the atrocities committed on their own religion by China. The Western nations are trying for quite some time to ensure that a debate takes place against the infringement of human rights of Uyghur Muslims at the council related to the human rights and pass a resolution condemning China. The council had presented a report long time ago over the infringement of human rights of Uyghur Muslims. However, due to the intense lobbying by China, no debate could take place on this issue till now. This report was prepared by the former chief of the

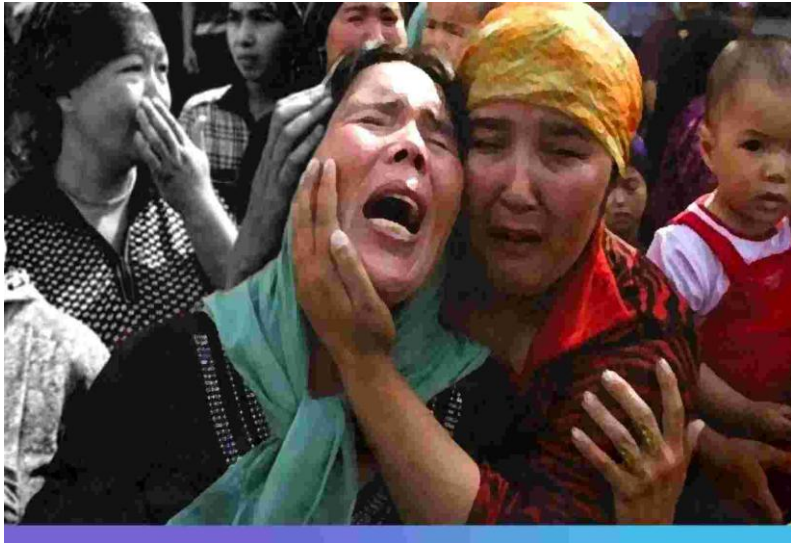
council, Michelle Bachelet, in which it has been alleged that China has been curbing the rights of Uyghur Muslims. Amnesty International has condemned this decision and said that it is a setback to the Uyghur Muslims who are the victims of Chinese dictatorship.

US permanent representative in the council, Michèle Taylor, said in a tweet that the US condemns the stopping of the debate on curbing the human rights of Muslims in Xinjiang and the stand adopted by some nations in this connection is shameful and it is clear from it that some nations have been given a free hand in curbing human rights. The countries which have voted against a debate include Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Qatar, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Whereas Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Gambia, Bharat, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico and Ukraine did not take part in voting. Chinese representative Chen Xu said that some nations are interfering in

the internal affairs of China in the guise of United Nations which is condemnable. He said the draft of this report is not for the protection of human rights but for political alliance. Today China is being targeted, tomorrow some other developing nation will become the target.

It is to be noted that a draft of the report has been presented by some nations including the US, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Turkey. A European expert said that even though a debate did not take place, we succeeded in bringing to light the infringement of the rights of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China. It is to be noted that this report was presented by the former chairman of the council a few days before the end of his tenure. It has been alleged in this report that China has been unleashing large scale violence against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. They are being kept in illegal custody and their religious freedom has been infringed upon. In the report, it has also been confirmed that China has taken more than 10 lakh Uyghur and other Muslims into custody and their women have been subjected to forced sterilisation so that their population growth could be stopped and their majority number could be turned into a minority. The Chinese government has been settling people from outside in this region in a systematic manner so that the Muslim majority could be turned into a minority.

China has rejected the allegation and claimed that training centres have been set up in this region in order to stop fundamentalism and terrorism. The general secretary of Amnesty International said that the tall claims being made by the United Nations about the protection of human



rights have been exposed now. Under the pressure of a particular lobby, the council that makes claims about the protection of human rights has kneeled down. Meanwhile, the director of HRW China, Sofi Richardson said that it is a betrayal of Muslims and they have been cheated.

Roznama Sahara (October 14) has brought out a special supplement on Uyghur Muslims in which an article written by Dr Mohammad Ziaullah has been published. The writer has condemned the fact that majority of the Muslim nations succumbed to the pressure of China and betrayed fellow-religion Muslims sending out a message to the Muslims across the world that they should not trust Muslim nations and should fight for their rights in a constitutional manner with the cooperation of other nations in the world. The Muslim nations have taken the corpse of Islamic brotherhood on their shoulders and buried it permanently in the Kabristan. India's external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the decision taken by India to not to take part in the voting in this connection is part of its old policy. He said we are on the side for protecting the human rights of Muslims in Xinjiang. However, we believe that nothing is achieved by passing just a resolution. India is on the side of resolving the issue through mutual talks.

100 children killed in suicide attack in school in Kabul



Mumbai Urdu News (October 1) reports that there is no end in sight to bomb explosions in Afghanistan. At least 100 male and female students were killed in a bomb explosion that took place in a school in Kabul on September 30. According to local media, the scene soon after the blast was heartrending. The body parts of the children who were killed in the blast were strewn all around and their blood flowed everywhere. It was difficult to identify the children who were killed in the blast. As per a BBC report, the blast took place in a school located in Mohalla Dasht-e-Barchi in the western part of Kabul. Majority of the children who were killed belonged to Shia and the Hazara tribe. According to a local journalist Bilal Sarvari, so far, more than 100 bodies of children were counted. An entrance test was going on at the school where the blast took place and more than 600 students were taking part in it. It is being said that ISIS's hand is suspected to be behind the blast. Students were attending the exams in the room in which the blast was triggered. There is news about injuries to more than 100 students in the blast. Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid has confirmed the incident. Hundreds of women from Hazara tribe held a massive protest in the markets of Kabul, protesting against the incident and also shouted slogans against ISIS.

Salar in its October 4 edition said that the expectations of those who thought that peace will be established in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, had been dashed. Nobody knows about the aim of these people who soil their hands with the blood of innocents. Among the children who were killed in the recent blasts, the number of girls is more. Is it justified in Islam to kill innocent children? Now it is clear that ISIS has become active in Afghanistan as a rival to Taliban. The fact is that even the namazis are targeted in the masjids while offering namaz. Majority of those killed were Shias. However, there is no point in asking questions based on humanity to those who believe in terrorism, but it is weird in itself that those who take weapons in the name of Islam are playing holi with the blood of Islam's followers. Otherwise, it is somebody else, who, on the pretext of Islam and Muslims, are giving a bad name to Islam.

Finally, why are the terrorists upset with the children who receive education? Are they sacred that if the Afghanistan's new generation get educated their public support will end? Whatever the Taliban in Afghanistan is doing to women, nobody can support them. There should be an inquiry to find out who are behind these blasts. And what do they want? ■

Azaan in Germany's biggest mosque



Inqilab (October 14) reports that a new masjid has been inaugurated in Germany in which nearly 15,000 people can offer namaz at a time. This is the biggest masjid in Germany. Interestingly, the masjids in Germany generally do not have minars. However, this masjid has minars. This masjid has been built in a region which has the largest Muslim population in North Rhine near a river in the historic city of Cologne. Muslims stay in large numbers in this area and majority of them are of Turkish origin. Earlier, there was a ban on giving azaan through loudspeaker in

Germany. However, the woman mayor of Cologne has granted permission to call for azaan through loudspeaker in this masjid. She said that the decision was taken in order to respect the religious sentiments of Muslims.

The management of this masjid is in the hands of an institution in Turkey. The manager of the masjid,

Abdurahman Atarsia, said we feel like that we are not in Germany but in some Muslim country where we have the full freedom to practice our religion. It is to be noted that this masjid was inaugurated by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his visit to Germany in September 2018. In Cologne, the Muslim population is over one lakh. Whereas in other masjids in Germany, the loudspeaker could be used only during the Jumanamaz and it has also been directed that the volume of the loudspeaker should be low so that it should not disturb others. ■

Restrictions on media in Russia

Etemaad (October 3) states that Russia has imposed several new restrictions on media, one of which states that the media should not publish any figures about the movement of the military and publish only the news given to them by the government departments. According to government spokesperson, if any media institution violates this direction, either it will be banned or a fine of 50 lakh Ruble will be imposed on them. Ever since Russia's war with Ukraine started, the government started imposing several restrictions on the media. As per a new law, publishing fake news about military has



been declared as an offence and those found guilty will be awarded a jail term of 15 years. Due to the strong stand of the government, many media organisations have stopped functioning. The government has

suspended the license of many media organisations. There is this prominent Russian newspaper 'Novaya Gazeta,' whose editor Dmitry Muratov was given Nobel Peace Prize last year. The government has cancelled the license of this newspaper as well. The government also decided not to provide material in Russian language to foreign broadcasting institutions including BBC.

According to international organisation of journalists 'CPJ,' 15 journalists have been arrested so far in Russia. They have been accused of reporting the news about the rallies taken out without government permission. Those who have been caught include freelance journalist Yulia Vishnevskaya who works for 'Radio Free Europe.' Her lawyer said

that the reason for her arrest was that she covered the news of a rally without permission from the government. According to an organisation for human rights, Human Rights Watch, due to the strong policy of the Russian government, at least 150 journalists had to flee Russia this year and 60 cases have been registered against media under the fresh laws. ■

China exerts pressure to send Balochis back to Pakistan

Hamara Samaj (October 4) states that China is exerting pressure on the Muslim nations in Gulf that they send back the Baloch citizens staying in their countries to Pakistan, who have been fighting for an independent Balochistan and are also opposing the Chinese investment in



Pakistan. Information secretary of Balochistan Human Rights Council, Abdullah Abbas, said that in 2018, the Chinese embassy had exerted pressure on the UAE government that Rashid Hussain, who stays in UAE and accused of attacking the Chinese embassy in Karachi, shall be sent back to Pakistan. Due to the Chinese pressure, the United Arab Emirates took this Baloch citizen into custody and after keeping him for seven months, handed him over to Pakistan. Now, a case has been registered against him under the anti-terrorism law. Similarly, due to the pressure of Chinese embassy, the intelligence wing of UAE arrested one of his brothers and handed him over to Pakistan.

Abbas claimed that China has been exerting pressure on Gulf countries not to allow the Baloch activists who support independent Balochistan to stay in their

countries. Abbas also said that a few months ago, the Balochis organised a protest in Qatar and protested against Chinese investments in Pakistan. It is to be noted that there are largescale protests against the projects being undertaken in Balochistan with Chinese help. The

Balochis allege that the Chinese are exploiting their mineral resources. Last month, a Chinese official was murdered in Karachi. It is being said that the hand of Baloch Liberation Army is behind this murder. Now, the rebel voice is getting louder day by day in the Sindh province in Pakistan as well. Recently, there was news about an extremist organisation named Sindhudesh People's Army becoming active in southern Sindh. Recently, this organisation has attacked several outposts of Pakistan army in Sindh. After this, the Pakistan government had issued strict directions to the security agencies to provide stringent security arrangements for the Chinese workers and officials involved in the China-Pakistan economic corridor project. It is to be noted that last year, nearly a dozen Chinese experts were killed in three attacks by Baloch Liberation Army in Balochistan. ■

200 killed in anti-hijab protests in Iran



According to the Urdu newspaper published from Pakistan, **Jung** (October 15), Amnesty International said that the protests against hijab is getting more aggressive in Iran with every passing day. Reliable sources claim that till now more than 200 people have been killed in these protests.

Inqilab (October 3) states that the chief of Iran's intelligence, Ali Mousavi, has been murdered. He was shot in the chest by some armed men in Sistan province in Iran. It was a big setback for Iran.

Inqilab (October 9) states that France had directed its citizens that they leave Iran immediately. This is because the government there is arresting foreign citizens and they are being kept in illegal custody. As per a government statement, there is a danger to those people as well who are roaming around in Iran in the name of tourists. The website of French foreign ministry claimed that if any French citizen is arrested by the government, then the powers of French embassy in such incidents will be limited. Iran's government television channel showed two French

citizens on TV who admitted that they took part in a hartal of teachers and students organised in the beginning of this year. This apart, two other French citizens who are of Iranian origin were also kept in illegal custody by the Iranian government. They were arrested in May 2020 and were accused of spying. According to French embassy, currently more than 20 French citizens are in the illegal custody of Iran government.

Hamara Samaj (October 4) reports that after the public protest that erupted in Iran, Pakistan has closed its borders with Iran. The newspaper claimed that a police officer raped a 15-year-old protesting girl in Chabahar in Sistan province in Iran. Following this, the protests took a massive turn. The people have targeted police and security personnel and are blowing up public property. Iran's government media alleged that the hands of foreign elements are behind these riots, who are aiding terrorism. It is to be noted that Sistan is originally a part of Greater Balochistan and majority of its people are Balochis. The government has admitted that at least 10 police and security personnel have been

killed by a huge crowd. The government sources have confirmed that in these massive protests at least 20 police and security personnel have been killed in different parts of Iran.

Inqilab (October 3) states that the Iranian police have arrested nine foreigners on charges of sparking violence. They include citizens from Germany, Poland, France, Holland and Sweden.

Inqilab (October 13) reports that the police arrested a woman in Teheran when she was dancing in a restaurant without wearing a hijab. It is to be noted that last month riots started in Iran when a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, died in police custody.

Avadhnama (October 15) has published an interview of an Iranian religious leader staying in India Maulana Mahdi Mahdavi pour in which it has been alleged that the Western nations have been publishing fake news in order to give a bad name to Iran government. In this connection, the 'Millet Times' has carried a lengthy interview of this Iranian Maulana in which he has been described as a representative of Iran's top religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini. In this interview in India, the Iran's religious leader has claimed that the 22-year-old Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, died not due to police persecution but because of a heart attack. He said that Iranian police does not exert force on any woman. Iran is an Islamic nation. The women wear hijab and burqa on their free will. The European media is deliberately circulating fake news in order to bring a bad name to Islam and Iran.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 1) has published a news in which a senior commander of Pasdaran-e-Inqilab accepted that Mahsa Amini died due to an injury she suffered on the head. She received this injury while in police custody.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 4) reports that the protests against hijab have reached many other countries as well. They include Turkey and Iraq. Iranian news agency 'Tasnim' has claimed that till now

133 people have been killed in these attacks.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 8) states that the European Parliament in a resolution condemned the violence in Iran and claimed that the Iranian security personnel have killed at least 82 people in Abadan city.

Mumbai Urdu News in its October 9 edition stated that 20 human rights organisations in the US had submitted a memorandum to US President Joe Biden in which it has been demanded that the US extends its open support to the protesters and raise this issue at the United Nations.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 11) states that Iran's deputy interior minister Majid Mirahmadi has claimed that the US and Israel are provoking riots in Iran. Their aim is to destabilise Iran and to destroy it financially. He has confirmed the killing of 185 people in the recent riots including 19 children.

Qaumi Tanzeem (October 1) states that massive protests are taking place in many countries in Europe in support of Iranian women. In Norway, the police have arrested more than 100 people. The newspaper claimed that there are 70 nations where rallies are taking place in support of students in Iran.

Qaumi Tanzeem (October 8) states that a 16-year-old girl, Nika Shakarami, also died in police custody. The government did not permit her relatives to bury her body and two of her relatives were also arrested. Nika Shakarami's aunt Aathish Shakarami wrote on social media that the Iran police took the 16-year-old girl from her house and 10 days later the police informed her relatives about her death. The police buried the body of the girl under their own supervision.

Comment: Muslim women in 17 countries live under the fear of moral police. In Islamic countries, there is a system of moral police who take stringent action against those who violate Shariah rules and make them comply with the 'social code of conduct.' This system is there in countries which are Shariah-based

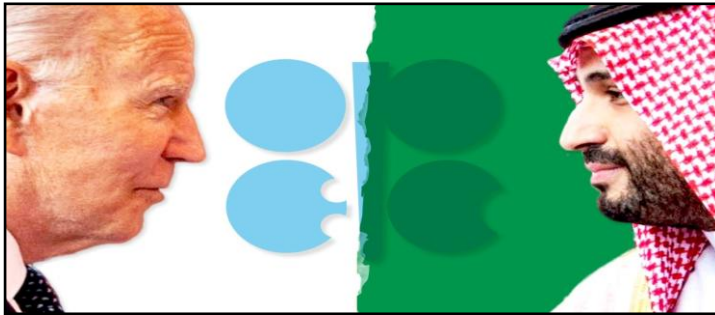
Islamic nations. In Iran, following the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, at the hands of this police, a flame of public anger erupted in the country. In Iran, the moral police are given the name ‘Gasht-e- Irshad’. This police strictly implement the Islamic dress and Shariah. In Saudi Arabia, this kind of police is working since 1940s and it has been given the name ‘Committee for the



promotion of virtue and the prevention of vice.’ The police personnel in this wing are referred to as ‘Mutwin’ and they strictly implement the Islamic Shariah. In Sudan, this was constituted in 1993 during the regime of the then President Omar Al Bashir and it was named as ‘public order police.’ In Malaysia, a special wing was set up to strictly implement hijab and other dress code, and they also take stringent

legal action against those who are involved in extramarital affairs, consume liquor, who do not observe Roza during Ramzan and who do not offer namaz. The hearings against the accused in such cases are conducted under Shariah law. In Nigeria, this police are named as ‘Hisba.’ In Afghanistan also a special police force was formed in 1992 and its duty was to implement the Shariah.

Saudi Arabia, US relationship stuck over reduced oil production



Inquilab (October 13) states that ever since OPEC nations reduced the production of oil, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the US has been stuck. US President Joe Biden, while issuing a threat, said that Saudi Arabia has to pay the price for it. It is to be noted that 12 oil producing nations had taken this decision that there shall be a reduction of 20 lakh barrel per day in the production of oil. The US media has opined that Saudi Arabia has taken this decision at

the behest of Moscow. Whereas Saudi Arabia claimed that the oil producing nations had taken this decision to reduce the production of oil due to financial reasons. The US President has threatened that he has to renew his country’s relationship with Saudi Arabia due to the

latter’s stand. Meanwhile, a spokesperson of White House said that it is in the interest of US to retain the security agreement with Saudi Arabia. Currently, 70,000 US citizens are staying in Saudi Arabia.

Avadhnama (October 10) reports that there is tension between the US and Saudi Arabia following Saudi Arabia’s decision to reduce oil production based on the decision taken by oil producing



countries. According to the newspaper, the US has exerted pressure on Saudi Arabia not to reduce its oil production. However, Saudi Arabia has refused to budge under the pressure of US. This decision of Saudi Arabia is a setback to US President Joe Biden from the political point of view and there is a possibility of his Democratic Party suffering a setback in the mid-term elections.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 13) reports that the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, in an interview to Al Arabia channel, said that the decision taken by oil producing nations to reduce the production of oil was taken with consensus and its aim is to bring stability in the market and to protect the interests of producers and consumers. He said that the military cooperation between the US and Saudi Arabia is in the interest of both the nations, due to which there is stability in this region. Our relationship with the US is quite an old one. As far as the issue of the crisis in Yemen is concerned, Saudi Arabia is trying to ensure that the ceasefire will continue, he said.

Hindustan Express (October 15) reports that sources close to the royal family of Saudi Arabia said that since the US is an ally of Saudi Arabia, it wants to keep a close relationship with the US. But the royal family does not want the country to be left at the mercy of US politicians. On the controversy between Saudi Arabia and the US on the issue of oil production, Saudi Arabia's media expert Ali Sahabadi said both the sides do not want to step back from their respective stand. Due to pressure from OPEC nations, Saudi Arabia had to

cut oil production by 20% despite the resentment by US. However, the US wanted Saudi Arabia to postpone the decision to cut oil production by one month due to mid-term elections in US. This is because due to this decision, the oil prices will increase in the US, which will not bode well for Biden in the elections. The problem with US

is that it does not want Saudi Arabia to get closer to China and Russia. In the same manner, Saudi Arabia also knows it well that it is fully dependent on the US for its security concerns.

Inqilab (October 15) states that recently the US had sent a list to its defence allies and it did not include Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The US has described China as its biggest enemy. A 48-page document has been released in this connection which mentions about the increasing danger of terrorism in South and Central Asian nations. However, it does not mention about Pakistan as its key partner in containing this menace. Pakistan has been making this complaint for a long time that the US is looking at it as a medium to take on the dangers emanating in Afghanistan and other nations. However, the US officials did not criticise the China's close relationship with Pakistan.

Etemaad in its editorial on October 13 has discussed the tension between the US and Saudi Arabia and said that one of the reasons for this is that the Saudi Arabian government remains neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war. But all the Western nations are against Russia. Due to Saudi Arabia's increasing friendship with Russia, the US is feeling disturbed. Three months ago, US President Joe Biden had visited Saudi Arabia. The purpose of his visit was to ensure that Saudi Arabia increases its oil production. But what happened was just the opposite. Saudi Arabia reduced the oil production. According to experts, Saudi Arabia wants to control the prices of oil. Along with it, it is also trying not to offend the US. Because many of its interests are

linked to the US. The mid-term elections are scheduled in the US in November. President Joe Biden fears that increase in oil prices will make it difficult for him to win the elections. This apart, the US is not willing to take oil from its oil reserves. This is because there is little oil left in it. If some natural calamity takes place, the US will face serious difficulty in getting oil. As per a report in Wall Street Journal, the US

is likely to lift the sanctions imposed on Venezuela in order to increase the availability of oil. Venezuela was a major oil producing country till the 90s. Later due to lack of investment, corruption and mismanagement, its condition got deteriorated. Now the question is how Saudi Arabia will be able to improve its relationship with Russia without annoying the US.

New President of Iraq



Etemaad (October 15) reports that the Iraq Parliament has appointed Kurdish leader Abdul Latif Rashid as the new President of Iraq. As soon as he took over as the President, he appointed Mohammed Shia al-Sudani as the new Prime Minister of the country and invited him to form a new government. According to political observers, following this decision of the President, the political instability that has been continuing for some time is likely to end. Seventy eight-year-old Abdul Latif Rashid is an engineer by profession and he got his higher education from Britain. From

2003 to 2010, he functioned as the water resources minister of Iraq. As per the Constitution of Iraq, the post of the President is reserved for Kurds. Whereas the Prime Minister will be a Shia and the Speaker of the Parliament a Sunni. In the presidential elections, he defeated former President Barham Salih and invited the leader of the largest alliance in the Parliament, Coordination Framework, Shia Al Sudani, to form the new government.

The Coordination Framework is an alliance of different Shia parties. Earlier, Al-Sudani was a minister for human rights and social issues. Last year, elections were held to the Iraq Parliament in which the alliance led by Iraqi Shia scholar Muqtada Al Sadar secured the highest number of seats, but they failed to form a new government. Following this, his 73 MPs resigned from the Parliament and Al-Sadar announced his withdrawal from politics. Later, violence broke out in Baghdad and many were killed.

Deal between Lebanon and Israel

Roznama Sahara (October 12) reports that the controversy that has been raging between Lebanon and Israel over the borders of Mediterranean Sea has now been resolved. The two countries reached on an agreement due to the efforts of the US. Due

to this agreement, now Lebanon will do exploration of gas on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea. It is to be noted that Israel had done exploration of gas reserves right in the beginning itself. In this region, there has been conflict between Israel and



Lebanon for a long time now on the issue of gas exploration. There will be a scheduled announcement after the details

of the agreement are worked out. On behalf of Lebanon, the Vice-Chairman of the group of MPs who take part in the talks, Elias Bou Saab told media that both sides are happy over the agreement. The spokesperson of Israel's negotiating team Eyal Hulata said that the amendments that they had sought had been accepted by Lebanon. Now the resolution of the deal will be presented before the Presidents of both the countries for the final nod.

Islamic terrorist organization launches attack in Somalia



Roznama Sahara (October 5) reports that nine persons including a minister and a commissioner were killed in two car bomb explosions in Somalia. Islamic terrorist organization Al Shabab has taken responsibility for this incident. Secondly, the government has claimed that military action has been stepped up against the terrorists of Al Shabab and more than 200 people linked to this Islamic terrorist organization has been killed so far. The government also claimed that Al Shabab is linked to Al Qaida.

It is to be noted that a bloody war is going on in Somalia between the government and Al Shabab for the past several years. The terrorists of Al Qaida

have already seized one-third of the country. The military commander said that the government has increased air attacks against the rebels. In these attacks, one of their leaders, Abdullahi Yare, has been killed. This apart, the deputy chief of Al Qaida, Abdul Ali, was also killed in the attack. The US government had announced a reward of 30 lakh dollar to capture him alive or dead. Abdul Ali is one the founders of Al Shabab. He was also considered as a successor to the present chief of Al Shabab, Ahmad Umar. The newly elected President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, announced that the military has launched a nationwide campaign to wipe out Al Shabab. He urged the citizens that they come out of the places under the control of Al Shabab so that they do not face any danger. It is to be noted that a civil war is raging for the past 15 years between Al Shabab and the government in which hundreds of people have been killed so far. US President Joe Biden has announced that his country will extend all kinds of military help to Somalia to eliminate Al Qaida.

1,000-dollar fine for wearing burqa in Switzerland



Aurangabad Times (October 14) states that the Swiss government has sent a draft of a law to the parliament in which a provision has been made that any woman wearing a burqa has to pay a fine of 1,000 dollars. It is to be noted that last year a public opinion poll was conducted on the issue of covering the face in which 51%

people have supported the ban on burqa. However, Muslim organisations have described it as an interference in Islam. In the original resolution, there was a provision to immediately arrest those women who wear the burqa and to extract a fine of 10 lakh dollars from them, which has been amended by the cabinet. It is to be noted that the total population of Switzerland is 86 lakh, in which 5% is Muslim and they originally belong to Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Demand for Common Civil Code rejected

Mumbai Urdu News (October 2) states that a division bench comprising Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice U ULalit and Justice J B Pardiwala refused to entertain a petition seeking to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country. The bench also made this oral observation that

the Law Commission in its report had opposed the implementation of Uniform Civil Code. In its report, the commission said that there is diversity in the Indian society and it needs to be accepted. Currently there is no need to implement the Uniform Civil Code.

Accused released in ISIS case

Mumbai Urdu News (October 1) reports that a special court hearing NIA cases has released an accused, Arsho Qureshi, who was accused of recruiting youths to ISIS. Qureshi was behind bars for several years. His case has been fought on his behalf by Jamiat Ulema Hind. It is to be noted that Arsho, who was the PRO of Zakir Naik's organization Islamic Research Foundation, was arrested by the Crime Branch of Mumbai Police and later the National Investigation Agency had taken



over the responsibility for investigation into the case. He was arrested in 2016. He

was accused of converting non-Muslims into Muslims and was also charged with treason. His arrest was recorded under UAPA as well. In this case, 57 witnesses were produced in the court. The judge of special court hearing NIA cases, A M Patil, released Qureshi on bail and said that the allegations against him could not be

proved. The case, which was argued by senior lawyer Isharat Ali Khan, said that it was on the basis of this case that a ban was imposed on Zakir Naik's organization, Islamic Research Foundation. Now since the government has failed in this case, the ban imposed on Zakir Naik's organization will be questioned in the court.

Vande Mataram in place of Hello on tele-calling in Maharashtra

Mumbai Urdu News (October 3) reports that the Maharashtra government has started a campaign as per which the government employees have been directed that when people make telephone calls to them, then instead of saying 'hello,' they should reply by saying Vande Mataram. In a government order, it has been stated that 'hello' represents the Western culture and this word has no special meaning. Whereas if one says Vande Mataram, then it creates a sense of nationalism in people.



Spokesperson of Nationalist Congress Party Claude Castro, while criticising this decision of the government, said that though they respect Vande Mataram, the government should not create hurdles in the

freedom of expression of its own employees. If one says Vande Mataram, then it creates a particular emotion, which is not in consonance with the original feeling of the Constitution. Hence the government should keep itself away from such decisions.

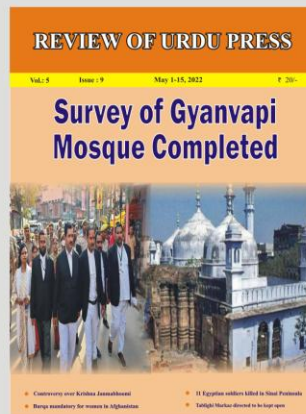
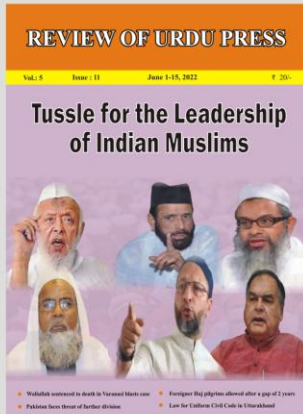
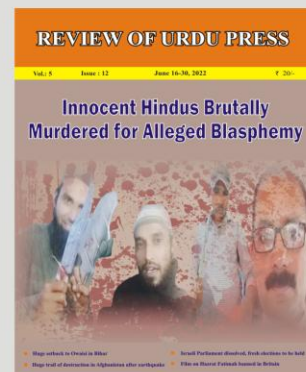
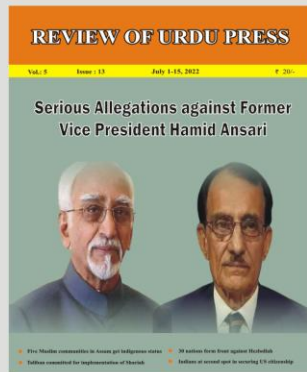
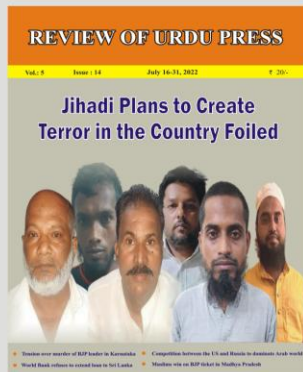
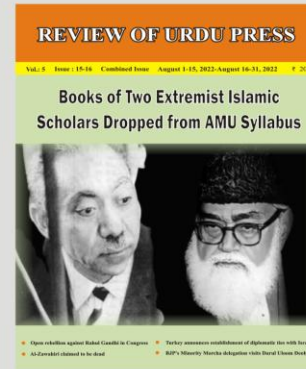
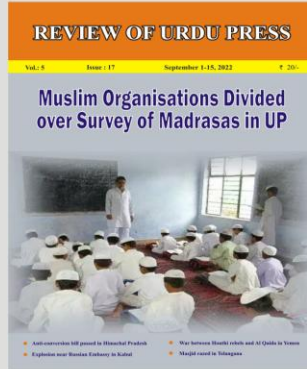
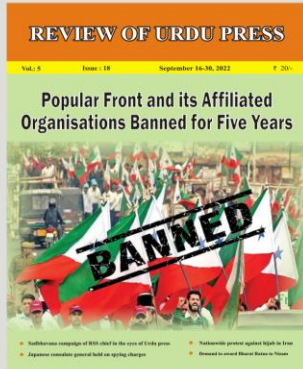
Multilingual employees to help pilgrims at Ka'aba



Siasat (October 15) states that the Saudi government has decided to appoint such employees in Ka'aba who can speak in 50 languages so that they can guide those who come there. In this connection, the managers of Masjid-al-Haram have made special arrangements. Every pilgrim will be

given guidance in their mother tongue itself. This apart, they will be given other information at the time of namaz and other things regarding Islam in 50 languages. In this connection, a system for cooperation has been created between security officials, Haj and

Umrah ministry and Saudi Red Crescent Authority. A spokesperson of Saudi government said that it is of the firm belief that those who come to visit Ka'aba in Mecca shall be given more and more facilities.



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