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Preparations on to Re-Launch Nationwide Agitation against CAA



- Pakistan to raise controversy over open namaz at international forums
- Tension between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon
- US announces talks with Taliban
- Ban on Zakir Naik's organisation extended

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Summary

The stale pot of Muslim politics is boiling once again. Taking a cue from the way the Modi government succumbed to the pressure of farmers and withdrew the farm laws, Muslims leaders are now thinking that they would be able to do the same with the government on Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens (NRC) and force the government to withdraw these laws. The most dangerous part is that the controversial organisation Popular Front is spreading its network in Assam and North-eastern states. This Islamic organisation has links with foreign powers. On the pretext of incidents in Tripura, the extremist Islamic organisation is likely to become a headache for the government. Hence it is necessary for the government to keep a close watch on these elements.

Irrespective of the claims made by the Muslims in the country, the hard truth is that they deliberately create such situations that help Pakistan to run a vilification campaign against India. The controversy that has been going on for the past two years over the open namaz being held on roads in Gurugram has taken a new turn. On the pretext of this incident, Pakistan has not only targeted India but has also threatened to raise the issue at international level.

It would not be in the interest of the country if one ignores the hard stand taken by controversial Muslim organisation, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, at its meeting in Kanpur. The organisation has passed a resolution threatening the government against implementing Uniform Civil Code and interfering in Shariah issues. In the past also this organisation has created headaches for the country. This organisation has got strange organisational structure. Till today, no membership drive has been held or any proper election was conducted. The organisation has become an ancestral property of a few families. In a way, it is a self-styled social organisation which was founded in 1972. Its aim is to stop the government and courts from interfering in Shariah related issues. This organisation is in controversy right from the beginning. This is the reason why Shias and women had to form separate Muslim personal law boards.

Extremist Muslim organisations have unleashed jihad against the former chairperson of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board, Waseem Rizvi. Rizvi had announced that since Muslims have expelled him from Islam he does not want his body to be buried in any Kabristan. Hence after his death, his body should be cremated as per Hindu rituals.

The relationship between Lebanon and other Sunni Muslim countries in Arab world is getting strained day by day. Saudi Arabia and its allied countries have announced breaking of diplomatic relationship and boycott of trade with Lebanon. The reason is that Shia terrorist organisation Hezbollah has close relationship with Iran. Both the USA and Saudi Arabia have been trying to remove the Shia ruler of Syria, Bashar Al-Assad, from his post. However, due to the support extended by Iran and Lebanon, this aim of US and Saudi Arabia has not succeeded. Iran, meanwhile, has opposed the strengthening of relationship between Saudi Arabia and Israel, resulting in increasing tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This rivalry has become serious with Iran extending help to Houthi rebels who target Saudi Arabia.

National

Preparations on to re-launch nationwide agitation against CAA



After the withdrawal of farm laws, Muslim leaders have started making preparations to once again launch a nationwide agitation against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens.

Inquilab (November 24) has published a seven-column news item in this connection and claimed that after the cancellation of farm laws, organisations protesting against CAA have become active again. Prominent Muslim leaders of the country have demanded that since majority of the people are against these laws, the Modi government needs to immediately withdraw both the controversial laws in order to respect people's sentiments. The newspaper has claimed that many organisations like All Assam Students Union to Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti have started making preparations to re-launch the agitation. Chief advisor of All Assam Students Union, Samujjal Bhattacharya, said the Modi government decided to cancel the farm laws because it was an injustice to the people. Now the Central government

has to cancel the CAA also in any situation. This is because it is against the original residents of Northeast India. He said that the All Assam Students Union has started talks with 30 other organisations on the prospects of a joint agitation against CAA. Chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi is also trying to make it an election issue in Uttar Pradesh and while delivering speeches at various meetings there, he announced that he would be launching a nationwide agitation once again to get this black law repealed. The women from Shaheen Bagh and Lucknow have also demanded Prime Minister Modi to repeal this black law. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has warned Owaisi against provoking people on the pretext of CAA. If any attempt is made to spoil the atmosphere in the country, then the government knows how to deal with such elements, he said.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (November 26) reports that Union minister for minority affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, while talking to journalists in Mumbai,

said the Central government will not withdraw CAA and NRC. He said that some people have given a religious colour to it and trying to rip up communal passion. He said there is no need for Muslims to be fearful about this law.

Hamara Samaj (November 20) reports that the leader of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, said the government has to withdraw this law because it is against Muslims. He claimed that the farmers got the inspiration to launch the agitation against the government from Shaheen Bagh and similar incidents.

The Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Ahmad Wali Faizal Rahmani, also demanded that the government withdraw this law. He claimed that this law is against the basic tenets of the Constitution and secularism.

Etemaad (November 26) states that the chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has announced that if the Modi government presents the bill for registration of birth and death certificates

in the next session of the Parliament, then his party would oppose it. This is because it is the preparation for NPR and NRC. He claimed that the bill has been formulated on the basis of religion which is against the Constitution.

Etemaad (November 24) editorial has also demanded the government to withdraw this law. In its editorial on November 19 also the paper has accused the Modi government of trying to suppress the voice of minorities. If this situation continues, then there would be serious consequences.

Salar (November 21) states that Union minister Kaushal Kishore had also announced that the government would not withdraw the CAA.

Qaumi Tanzeem (November 22) editorial has claimed that Muslim organisations are getting united and preparing to start an agitation seeking to withdraw this black law.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 25) in its editorial has advised the government that it withdraw the CAA.

Pakistan to raise controversy over open namaz at international forums

The controversy that has been going on for some time over the open namaz being held in public places in Gurugram has taken a new turn. The Pakistan government's foreign ministry will take up this issue against India.

According to Pakistani newspaper **Dawn** (November 21), the Pakistan government has threatened that it will raise this issue before the International Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Commission for Minorities. Along with it, international Islamic organisations have also started raising this issue. An international channel called Al Jazeera also tried to raise this issue prominently on November 24. The BBC had also broadcasted the issue many times.

Inquilab (November 27) published a news item on its front page titled 'Mischiefous elements prevented jumanamaz in Gurugram again.' The newspaper claimed that today when Muslims tried to offer jumanamaz, the mischievous elements came and sat in the namaz and started raising provocative slogans. However, the administration had given permission to Muslims to offer namaz in this place and even police were present in huge numbers on the spot but still they did not make any effort to stop these mischief mongers. Due to the opposition of some people, Muslims could not offer namaz even in the Gurudwara. However, namaz was offered at the shop of Akshay Yadav in Sector 12.



The newspaper claimed that in Sector 37, where namaz is being offered for the past 15 years and where nearly 3,000 people come to offer namaz, mischievous elements started playing cricket right from the morning and they tried to intimidate namazis and send them back. Muslim leader Shahjad Khan claimed some people were able to offer namaz there due to his efforts. Some people started singing keertans at the vacant plot in Sheetal Colony due to which namaz could not be offered there also. He said he would file a complaint with police in this connection. Mufti Saleem Qasmi claimed that though an invitation had been extended to Muslims by Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee to offer namaz inside the Gurudwara, due to the opposition by some Sikhs related to Bajrang Dal and RSS, namaz could not be offered there. He claimed that Sherdil Sandhu, president of the Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee who had given permission to offer namaz at the Gurudwara, had told them that even Akal Takht had supported the decision to invite Muslims to offer namaz at the Gurudwara. He said that when even Akal Takht had no problem with it, then one should not get afraid of those who oppose it and namaz should have been offered.

Interestingly, two weeks ago, the Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee of

Gurugram had gained publicity by inviting Muslims to offer namaz inside the Gurudwara. However, despite it Muslims could not offer namaz inside the Gurudwara due to public anger.

In an editorial published in **Hamara Samaj** (November 19), it has been said that the way the Sikhs in Gurugram

invited Muslims to offer namaz in the Gurudwara, it was a tight slap in the face of extremist Hindu organisations. The newspaper claimed that the people linked to extremist Hindu organisations have deliberately created hurdles in offering namaz. During Diwali, they held Govardhan puja there and they converted another place allocated for namaz into a Volleyball court.

Sahafat (November 17) states that due to the pressure from extremist Hindus, the Haryana government has cancelled the permission to offer namaz in eight places out of the total 37 places where it had given permission earlier. In this connection, the Gurugram police have arrested 26 protestors on charges of creating obstacles for namaz. President of Joint Hindu Agitation Committee, Mahavir Bhardwaj, claimed that Haryana government did not give permission to offer namaz in the open to anyone. The permission for 37 places that the Muslims claim is fake. Representatives of Muslim United Front met the district magistrate and demanded that they should be given protection to offer namaz at the designated places. This apart, they also demanded the government that they should be allotted land to construct new mosques and the old masjids which are occupied by different people should be vacated.

Muslims to oppose Uniform Civil Code and interference in Islamic law



Inquilab (November 22) states that a meeting of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board held in Kanpur has warned the Union government against interfering in Shariah law or Islamic matters as Muslims will not tolerate it under any circumstances. The meeting also demanded that the government bring a stringent law to stop any insult to Islam and its prophet. This apart, it has also demanded the government to launch a nationwide drive to free Waqf properties from illegal occupation. In another statement, it has warned the government against forcibly bringing Muslims under the Uniform Civil Code. This apart, it has warned the government against serious consequences over raking up the issue of Gyanvapi Masjid and the Idgah Masjid in Mathura. In a press conference, it has been demanded that the government take stringent action to ensure protection to the life, property, honour and respect of minorities and stop incidents like mob lynching at any cost. In a resolution, the meeting condemned incidents of attack on the minorities in Bangladesh and Tripura and accused the police of taking partisan stand.

Qaumi Tanzeem (November 22) states that Maulana Rabey Hasani Nadwi has been elected as the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board for the sixth term. Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani has

been appointed as the general secretary. In place of Maulana Mohammad Saleem Qasmi, Maulana Arshad Madani and in place of Maulana Kalbe Sadiq, Prof Sayeed Mohammad Naqvi have been elected as vice-presidents. The Amir-e-Shariah of Bihar Maulana Ahmad Wali Faizal Rahmani has been appointed as a member of the executive. This apart, Maulana Sagir Ahmad (Karnataka), Maulana Safin Qasmi (Deoband), M R Shams had, Qazi Intezar Qasmi (Patna), Jawed Iqbal, Anwar Alam, Maulana Hafizul Rahman and Maulana Abdul Wahid have been appointed as members of the executive. The meeting also stressed that the government take strong steps for the protection of minorities.

Hamara Samaj (November 22) in its editorial stated that the meeting expressed concern that the ruling party is targeting Muslims and Islam and is trying to forcibly impose Uniform Civil Code on them. In his address, Maulana Rabey Hasani Nadwi expressed concern that the new generation of Muslims is keeping away from Islam and hence it is necessary that they need to concentrate more on Quran and the Prophet and save their faith and belief system.

The newspaper expressed concern that now a conspiracy is being hatched to forcibly take away some other masjids and

idgahs just like the Babri Masjid. There is a talk about turning the Taj Mahal into a temple. Faizabad's name has been changed to Ayodhya while Allahabad has been changed as Prayagraj. But Muslims should not get provoked by this. However, the fact is that the 18 crore Muslims in the country are feeling desperate. The kind of situation that the Muslims face now has never happened to them in the past. Muslims have been marginalised across social, financial, political and academic spheres.

Salar (November 25) states that Maulana Arshad Madani has stressed that

Muslims need not fight fascism and communalism on their own and instead take the cooperation of Dalits and other communities. He alleged that the ruling party has a major role in the atmosphere being created against the Muslims in the country. He said that the present situation in the country is very worrying. Muslims never had to face a similar situation in the past. Hence Muslims need to remain alert and should get united for their religious and Shariah rights. Then only Muslims and Islam can protect themselves.

Waseem Rizvi in trouble

The troubles for former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Board, Waseem Rizvi, continue to increase.

Etemaad (November 18) reports that a delegation led by the chief of Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, met the police commissioner of Hyderabad, Anjani Kumar, and demanded that they register a case against Waseem Rizvi and immediately arrest him. This is because he released a book titled 'Mohammad' on the Prophet, in which he had made blasphemous comments against Hazrat Mohammad and insulted him. This book is in Hindi language. The delegation also handed over to the police commissioner details about a portion of the book in written format. The newspaper claimed that a case has been registered against Rizvi at Kamatipura police station in Hyderabad under Sections 153A, 153B, 295A, 504 and 505 (1) C of IPC.

Mumbai Urdu News (November 24) states that in Maharashtra also various Muslim organisations have filed cases against Waseem Rizvi in different places.

Qaumi Tanzeem (November 17) states that Waseem Rizvi has written in his Will that after his death his body should not be buried in Kabristan, instead should be consigned to flames in a Shamshan Ghat. In his Will, Waseem has given the right to lit his funeral pyre to the Mahant of Dasna mandir, Swami Narsinghanand Saraswati. Releasing a



video, Waseem Rizvi said that a conspiracy has been hatched to kill him and a reward has been announced on his head. He said that he had filed a petition before the Supreme Court to scrap 26 controversial verses in Quran and because of this fundamentalists have become his sworn enemy. "Recently I wrote a book on Hazrat Mohammad in Hindi and hence these fundamentalists want to kill me. I know that they will not allow my body to be cremated in any Kabristan. Hence I have requested that after my death, my funeral should be conducted as per Hindu rituals so that there should not be any tension in the country."

Comment: There is no doubt that Waseem Rizvi has become a target of fundamentalists for the past few years. He has been expelled from Islam and Shia community on charges of amending the verses of Quran. Even his family has cut off ties with him. He has destroyed the Kabristan in Lucknow which he had constructed for his burial after death. Many muftis have expelled him from Islam and declared him as an 'apostate.' As per Islamic Shariah, if any person insults Quran or leaves Islam, then the fatwa says that his head should be cut off with a sword. Till now, on the alleged charges of insulting the Prophet, the fanatic Muslims have killed Mahashay Rajpal and Swami Shraddhanand among others. The shocking thing is that the entire

Muslim community is glorifying these killers. In such a situation, the threat to the life of Waseem Rizvi is quite a serious one.

Salar (November 24) said that in the elections held for the post of chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Central Waqf Board, Waseem Rizvi had to face defeat and Ali Zaidi has been elected as chairman. The newspaper also alleged that there are some ruling party members behind Waseem Rizvi and he has become a pawn in their hands. He is doing what his godfathers are telling him. Whatever he does is part of a larger conspiracy. The evidence for this is that till now no action has been taken against him. What is surprising is that till now no action

has been taken against Waseem Rizvi in a country where people are sent to jail for making comments against the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister. Whereas a number of cases have been registered against Waseem Rizvi over the scam in Uttar Pradesh Shia Central Waqf Board and even a CBI inquiry is also held against him. However, those sitting in the government are protecting him. Muslims need to be aware of those who extend support to him. Who are these people in whose hands he has become a puppet? This man has been continuously insulting Islam, Rasool and his family since 2014. But the government is sleeping like Kumbhakaran.

Over 20,000 applications for Haj

Mumbai Urdu News (November 26) states that the Union minister for minority affairs had said in a press conference that so far 20,000 people have applied online for Haj travel. He said that this time the Hajis have to spend Rs 4 lakh. Those interested in going for Haj can also apply via mobile app and the applications can also be submitted in Waqf offices located in different parts of the country. This year, the Hajis can board planes from 10 places in the country. He claimed that lot of transparency has been brought in the management of Haj pilgrimage in the past seven years. However, the Haj subsidy has been discarded. He claimed that the Haj Committee of India's portal, Haj group organisation's portal, Digital Health Card, e-magazine, accommodation in Mecca-Medina and facility for transportation are among the amenities made available by the Indian government. After Indonesia, the maximum number of Muslims who go for Haj is from India. Haj pilgrims can submit applications for Haj till January 31. He said that more than 100 women have expressed the wish to do Haj without Mahram (without a male companion). The airports from where the Haj pilgrims can board planes are Ahmedabad, Mangaluru, Kochi, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Srinagar. Earlier, Haj pilgrims used to travel for Haj from 21 places in the country.

Hamara Samaj (November 18) reports that the member of Haj Committee of India Hafiz Noushad Ahmad Azmi has demanded that the 11 cities which have been closed for pilgrims to depart for Haj should be opened



immediately. Chief of Jamiat Ahle Hadees Ansar Jubair Muhmmadi has demanded that a Central Haj Committee should be formed immediately. He alleged that land worth crores of rupees was bought recently in Mumbai in the name of Haj Committee. However, nobody is willing to talk about the rule that was applied to purchase this land. The money of Haj committee belongs to all Muslims. Hence every Muslim has a right to know what has happened to his money.

Hamara Samaj (November 17) states that Saudi Arabia has given permission for Umrah and all restrictions imposed in this connection have been removed. Those going for Umrah have to download some applications on their mobile phone and have to take both doses of vaccine. Without these they will not get permission to do Haj and Umrah. Convenor of Muslim Fund Trust Fahim Siddiqui said that those up to the age of 65 years can submit applications for Haj and Umrah. He admitted that this time there is an increase in the expenses for Haj. Now, every Haji has to make a payment of Rs 3.4 lakh.

US announces talks with Taliban



Inquilab (November 25) reports that the US has announced that on the issue of war against terrorism and in order to find solution to problems like the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, it would be restarting its talks with Taliban in Qatar from next week. The US delegation for talks on Afghanistan would be headed by its special representative Thomas West. The meeting would prepare an outline for the campaign against ISIS and Al Qaida. This apart, arrangements would be made to extend humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and help the country revive its ruined economy. A decision would also be taken for the safe exit of American citizens and some Afghans currently staying in Afghanistan. These are those Afghan citizens who were cooperating with the USA in Afghanistan. Earlier also, Thomas West had held talks with the representatives of Taliban in Afghanistan. After the withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan in August, Taliban took over power in that country. After this, USA and Taliban held two rounds of talks. It is being said that USA has stressed that the Taliban government take active steps to rein in other Islamic terror organisations active in Afghanistan. Besides, necessary arrangements should be taken for the protection and education of minorities and women in the country.

Thomas West said that the USA is likely to extend help to Afghanistan on humanitarian basis. Recently, the foreign

minister of Taliban government Amir Khan Muttaqi urged the USA to unblock the Afghan financial assets in the country so that it could overcome the financial crisis. Interestingly, so far no other country other than Pakistan has given recognition to Taliban government. The United Nations has expressed concern that the financial crisis in Afghanistan is increasing day by day and a famine-like situation has emerged. In order to find a solution to the crisis, it is necessary that different nations in the world extend help to Afghanistan on humanitarian basis. Recently, due to the snowfall in Afghanistan, the traffic got disrupted at many places due to which the situation became worse.

Roznama Sahara (November 24) reports that after United Arab Emirates, now Saudi Arabia has also indicated that it would be opening its embassy in Afghanistan. After Taliban came to power, Saudi Arabia had closed down its embassy and recalled its staff. Now, on a request from Afghanistan government, both UAE and Saudi Arabia are planning to reopen their embassies in the country.

As per another report in the same newspaper, the Taliban government in Afghanistan has been expanded for the third time and 25 new people have been inducted into the ministry. However, even now women and different tribes in Afghanistan have no representation in the government.

Khaleda Zia's condition worsens

Etemaad (November 21) states that following the deterioration in the health of Bangladesh opposition leader and chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Khaleda Zia, a number of parliamentarians have urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to send her abroad for treatment, otherwise they would resign from their posts. Interestingly, Khaleda Zia is undergoing her jail term after being convicted in corruption charges. Currently she is admitted in a government hospital in Dhaka. Her younger brother Shamim Iskandar has demanded the government that she should be sent abroad for treatment. General Secretary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that the condition of Khaleda Zia is serious and hence permission should be given to send her abroad for better treatment. An alliance of 20 opposition parties has also threatened that if Khaleda Zia is not sent abroad for treatment, they would submit their resignations and if anything untoward happens to Khaleda Zia, then the government would be fully responsible for it. In a statement, the Opposition MPs stated that as per Section 401 of Bangladesh Constitution, the government could release anyone, grant pardon from jail term and could send the



person abroad for treatment. Commenting on this demand, Bangladesh law minister Anisul Haq said that whatever demand the opposition is making, it is not there in the rule books. Let them abuse me as much as they want, it won't make any difference to me. I will enforce only

the law, he said.

Roznama Sahara (November 27) reports that the general secretary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party has alleged that the government is trying to kill former prime minister Khaleda Zia and that she has been given slow poison. He said that Khaleda Zia is in jail for the past two years and her health has been deteriorating. The government is not providing her proper treatment. Protests were held in Dhaka during which demands were raised for her release and for sending her abroad for treatment. On the other hand, the leaders of ruling Awami League said that Khaleda Zia should not be given permission to go abroad.

Inquilab (November 26) reports that the Bangladesh government has directed all paramilitary forces to remain alert so that if the opposition makes any attempt to disturb peace and unleash violence in the name of the health of Khaleda Zia, then it could be strongly curbed.

Huge decrease in the Hindu population in Bangladesh

Avadhnama (November 16) states that in the past 50 years, the total population of Bangladesh has more than doubled but the population of Hindus is rapidly decreasing. However, there is no change in the population of Buddhists, Christians and followers of other religions. The first Census of Bangladesh was taken in 1974. That time, the population of Hindus was

13.5% of the total population. In all the four Censuses later there is a sharp decline in the number of Hindus. In the 2011 Census, the population of Hindus in Bangladesh plummeted to 8%. In the 2011 report of the Bangladesh Statistics Bureau on the population and number of houses, two reasons have been cited for the constant decline in the population of



Hindus. One is that the Hindus are fleeing Bangladesh and the second is that the population growth of Hindus is less compared to the followers of other religions since Hindus produce less children. Hindu leaders say that in Bangladesh Hindus are not safe and hence they have to pack their bags and flee the country in order to save their lives and belongings.

Head of the economics department in Dhaka University, Professor Abul Barkat, has been studying the declining population of Hindus for the past one decade. He said that the hard truth is that nobody would love to leave his or her motherland. However, due to the increasing insecurity feeling among Hindus, and due

to the discriminations being faced by them, they are forced to take refuge in other countries. He also admitted that the government is constantly depriving Hindus of their properties under the Enemy Property Act. They are being disposed of their properties and non-Hindus are forcibly taking over their property. Hence they are being forced to flee from Bangladesh in search of jobs. He said that recently, during Durga Puja, on the pretext of the alleged insult to Quran, temples and puja mandaps were destroyed in an organised manner, their shops and houses were looted and then set on fire. Many people were killed in these riots. This is the reason why Bangladeshi Hindus are forced to leave their country. ■

Ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Avadhnama (November 18) reports that a ceasefire agreement has been reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan due to the mediation of Russia. The agreement has been announced by the defence ministry of Armenia and it has claimed that the situation in the northern parts of Armenia is stable now. Interestingly, some time ago, a clash took place between the soldiers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in which a number of soldiers were killed and a few others were injured. A war is on between the two nations for the past two years in which

many soldiers from both the sides were killed. Nearly a year ago, due to the efforts of Russia, a ceasefire agreement was reached between the two nations which broke down recently. President of European Council, Charles Michel, said that he had held talks with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in order to stop the war and stressed that instead of making allegations against each other they should accept ceasefire and put an end to the war. French foreign ministry also

extended support to the President of European Council and demanded that they abide by the ceasefire agreement. According to the defence ministry of Armenia, at least its two dozen soldiers were killed in the recent fighting and a dozen soldiers were kidnapped. Following the clashes, Armenia has requested the support of Russia and the Russian President held talks with the President of Armenia in this connection. The Russian defence minister has advised both the nations to stop the war immediately.

Nearly a year ago, in the war that was broken out over the seizure of the disputed region Nagorno Karabakh, more than 6,000 soldiers were killed. This war continued for six weeks. Later due to the interference of Russia, the two nations reached an agreement. However, due to this agreement, Armenia had to vacate a major portion of Nagorno Karabakh.



Interestingly, Azerbaijan is a Muslim majority nation while Armenia is a Christian majority nation. This disputed territory was once a part of Azerbaijan. However, after the disintegration of Soviet Union, separatists captured the territory and established their rule. So far 30,000 people have been killed in this war. In Armenia, Russia has an important military station while Azerbaijan has the support of Turkey.

France decide to control Islamic terrorist organisations

Mumbai Urdu News (November 18) states that in the recently held Indo-French joint working group meeting at French capital in Paris, it has been decided that the two countries will work together for joint action against Pakistani terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen along with Al Qaida and Islamic State. In this meeting, the Indian delegation was headed by joint secretary of external affairs ministry Mahaveer Singhvi and the French side by the director of French foreign ministry Philippe Bertoux. The meeting also discussed the increasing activities of Islamic jihadi organisations especially on forming a strategy to curb their spreading network in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

Interestingly, in 2008, Pakistan-backed terrorists launched an attack in Mumbai whereas in 2015, terrorists attacked French capital Paris in which many people were killed. France has taken



several strong steps to stop Islamic terrorism including stopping of Islamic refugees into the country. This apart, the French government is keeping a close watch on the activities of Islamic terrorists. It has been decided at the meeting that the two countries would create such a system so that in future no Islamic organisation would be able to launch an attack and it would also be ensured that no terrorist organisation would be able to establish itself on its land, nor take refuge in the land.

West Asia

Tension between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon



Etemaad (November 16) states that the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan said that Saudi Arabia does not think that talks with the government of Lebanon would be useful till the time its leadership takes appropriate action against terrorist organisations like Hezbollah and its supporters like Iran. According to Arab News, the statement has ended the possibility of improving the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. The situation in Lebanon is turning from bad to worse with every passing day and the financial crisis is also taking a serious turn. While giving an interview to French television, the Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister said that there is no point in holding talks with Lebanon government because its leader is not ready to free his country from the clutches of Hezbollah and their supporter Iran. Lebanon's relationship with Gulf countries is getting strained day by day. Recently, a minister of Lebanon made some harsh comments on the increasing Saudi attacks in Yemen after which Saudi Arabia expelled the Lebanese Ambassador from the country and called back the Saudi Ambassador from Lebanon. This apart,

Saudi imposed a ban on all trade relations with Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia is upset with the statement of Information Minister of Lebanon George Kordahi in which, while supporting the Houthi rebels in Yemen, he alleged that Saudi Arabia and its allies are adding fuel to the fire in Yemen. However, though the minister claimed that his statement was quite old, he totally refused to withdraw his statement, or apologise to Saudi Arabia or resign from his post despite pressure from Lebanese Prime Minister Najeeb Mikati. The Saudi government said the increasing influence of Iran on Lebanon and Hezbollah's influence in the politics of Lebanon can't be accepted under any circumstance.

Hindustan Express (November 24) states that Lebanese Army chief Joseph Aoun recently visited the US where the top officials of USA accorded him a warm welcome. With regard to Lebanon, the policy of the new US President Biden is not very clear. However, the US is trying to further strengthen its military relationship with Lebanon. Secondly, it is also a worry that the influence of Iran-supported Islamic

organisation Hezbollah is increasing day by day in Lebanon.

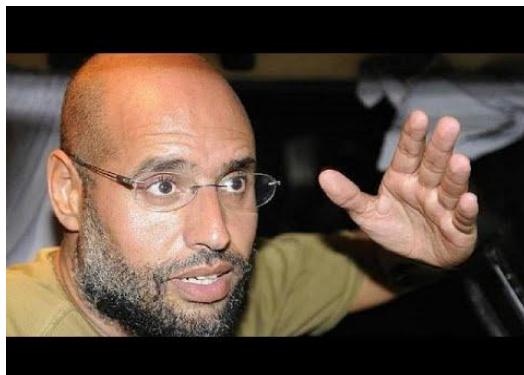
Last year, hundreds of people were killed in a huge bomb explosion in Beirut. However, the Lebanon government kept delaying the probe into the explosion. The US media alleged that the reason for this is the pressure exerted by Hezbollah on Lebanese government. Earlier, Donald Trump had taken a hard stand on Hezbollah and that time the US administration was keen that Hezbollah doesn't get financial help from outside the country. It became a topic of discussion in media that a top official of Lebanon Bank had stolen 120 million US Dollars from the US. It is being claimed that several politicians in Lebanon had a hand in it.

Siasat (November 22) expressed concern over the increasing tension between Saudi Arabia, UAE and Lebanon and said that due to the differences between Arab countries, the Islamic and Arab world have suffered huge damages. This is because Israel and Western countries would take benefit of it. The regions that were forcibly occupied by Israel in the 1967 war still remains with it. A number of

Arab nations, while accepting the illegitimate existence of Israel, have come under the pressure of USA and established diplomatic relations with that country. Kuwait and Bahrain have also withdrawn their Ambassadors from Lebanon under pressure from Saudi Arabia.

The financial condition of Lebanon has turned from bad to worse due to the economic boycott of the country by Arab nations. Due to the pressure from USA, Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries have been fighting against Iran and Houthi rebels. Now, under the US pressure, they have started tightening the grip on Lebanon. In Lebanon, the Hezbollah is very strong and they had played an active role in saving the Shia government of Bashar Al Assad in Syria. On the other hand, the US and its Arab allies want to overthrow the government of Bashar Al Assad and install a puppet leader as head of the government in his place. Due to this attitude of the Gulf countries, the Lebanese government is quite worried. Due to this controversy between Islamic nations, the happiest are the US and Israel because both of them are enemies of Islam.

Colonel Gaddafi's son declared 'ineligible' to contest elections



Roznama Sahara (November 26) reports that the Election Commission of Libya has declared Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, as ineligible to contest the next presidential election in the country. According to American news agency AP, the decision

was taken by Libya's National Election Commission. The decision was taken reportedly on the basis of the punishment awarded to him by the court. In 2015, a court in Tripoli had awarded death sentence to Saif Al-Islam. He was accused of unleashing violence on people seeking to depose his father and murdered nearly a dozen people. However, this decision has become controversial. The election commission of Libya has, however, given Saif Al-Islam the right to appeal in any court against its decision.

Earlier in 2011, there was a case against him in International Court of Justice which is still pending. In Libya, the presidential election is being held under the supervision of United Nations. However,

there is a cloud of uncertainty over the election because the representative of UN in Libya has threatened to leave the country before the elections. After the removal of Colonel Gaddafi from power and his subsequent murder, a civil war is going on in Libya for the past two decades. This civil war has the support of powers like Turkey, Russia and Syria. Colonel Gaddafi's son filed his nomination after coming out of his unidentified place nearly 650 kilometres away from Tripoli. The 49-year-old Saif Al-Islam has got PhD from London School of Economics. The campaign that had been unleashed against

Colonel Gaddafi had the support of NATO as well as the US. Colonel Gaddafi was murdered during the campaign and his 40-year-long regime came to an end. Later a civil war broke out and the ruling alliance had put Saif Al-Islam behind bars. After spending nearly six years in jail, he was released in June 2017. There are differences among world powers over the presidential elections being held in Libya. While the Western nations are in support of the elections, Russia is against it. Due to this opposition, the representative of the United Nations had submitted his resignation.

Australia declares Hezbollah as terrorist organisation

Inquilab (November 25) states that Australian government has declared Hezbollah a terrorist organisation. The ban imposed by Australia on the organisation would mean that it would be a legal offence in Australia to become a member of this organisation and to extend financial help to it. Lebanese citizens residing in Australia expressed anger over the decision and sidestepping it, Australia's foreign affairs minister said that the Australian government is not on the side of promoting violence and terrorism under any circumstance. We do not want the killing of innocents whether its basis is religion or political, we will not accept it.

Hezbollah is continuously promoting Islamic terrorism. USA and Israel have imposed a ban on Hezbollah for some time now. Germany has also imposed a ban on Hezbollah from May last year. However, according to the intelligence agencies of Germany, even now more than 1,000 armed terrorists are present in Germany. What is serious is that Hezbollah is a Shia terrorist organisation which has the support of Iran. It was founded in 1982 during the civil war in Lebanon. This organisation



fought a war against Israel in 2006. It is being said that Iran gives financial and military help to this organisation. Currently, a major part of Lebanon is in the hands of this organisation and it has its say in the politics of Lebanon.

As per another report, Britain has imposed a ban on the Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas. The chief of Hamas' political wing said that it will question this decision of Britain both at legal and political spheres. He expressed hope that those people who support us will put pressure on British government so that they withdraw this decision. This decision of Britain is evidence of their enmity towards Palestinian people and Britain is playing in the hands of Israel.

Nine soldiers killed in clashes between US and Iran

Aurangabad Times (November 24) reports that nine soldiers of Iran were killed in clashes that took place between the US navy and Pasdaran-i-Inqilab of Iran in Persian Gulf. The tension that has erupted in Persian Gulf and in Jordanian Gulf between the US and Iran following the confiscation of oil tankers has been taking a serious turn with every passing day. The US has established a blockade of Iran and in order to financially break its back, wants to ensure that nobody in the world purchases Iranian oil. This is the reason why they attacked the tankers supplying oil from Iran at sea and seized them. Against this, the Iran has recently attacked the US navy several times and tried to drive them away. However, the US has neither refuted nor confirmed the claims of Iran.

The US and Iran have been preparing for a fight for some days now. Recently, Israel and the US conducted an air warfare exercise in Persian Gulf. Its aim was to put pressure on Iran. Before this, the US had clearly threatened Iran that if Iran stops it in Persian Gulf, it

would take military action against Iran. The US Secretary of Defence has announced that the US would take every step to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

Interestingly, the Trump administration had cancelled the nuclear agreement signed between the US, Iran and Europe. USA is not ready to accept the Iranian interference in countries like Lebanon and Syria and it has to face serious consequences over this. Israel wants to ensure that Iran does not sign a nuclear agreement with any country. Knowledgeable sources said that in the recent clashes that took place, Iranian militia Pasdaran-i-Inqilab seized a foreign oil tanker carrying diesel and took its 11 employees hostage. Iran claimed that the diesel was being transported in an illegal manner from an unidentified place. Iran has not revealed the name of the tanker nor the nationality of its employees. Recently, Iran had seized a tanker which had a Vietnam flag. However, it was a US tanker which was illegally supplying diesel.

Investments worth 10 billion dollars in Turkey

Etemaad (November 26) reports that the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Crown Prince of UAE Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan signed several agreements under which the UAE would make investments worth 10 billion dollars in Turkey. These investments will be made in energy, health and infrastructure. The Crown Prince of UAE said that his tour to Turkey was a success and the relations between the two countries would become smooth from now.

Erdogan will visit Abu Dhabi next month. Before this, when the Crown Prince of UAE arrived in Ankara for the state visit, he was received with a 21 gun-salute. Following the visit, there is a likelihood of



the easing of decade-old tension between the two countries. Turkey is currently facing an economic crisis and 40% devaluation in its currency has happened. Unemployment and inflation are shooting up in Turkey due to which the economic condition of the country is worsening day by day. It is hoped that with the help of Gulf countries, Turkey would be able to overcome the financial crisis.

Others

Bad condition of Jama Masjid



Inquilab (November 16) reports that the Shahi Imam of Jama masjid Syed Ahmad Bukhari has alleged that due to the negligence of Archaeology department, the condition of the historic Jama masjid is turning from bad to worse day by day. The water that got accumulated on the dome and the walls due to the rain is flowing to the base of the masjid. Due to moisture, the stones that were engraved on the minars of the masjid had fallen down. In this connection, he has sent letters to the Prime Minister, Archaeology department and Aga Khan Foundation. Since he has not got any reply, he himself has started the repair work.

According to experts, the imam is using cement for the maintenance work which is not correct. It can damage the old construction. The Shahi imam has also claimed that during the time of Pandit Nehru, the Archaeology department had undertaken maintenance work for 35 years. However, after this, nobody took any interest in it. Spokesperson of Aga Khan Foundation said that his institution is an

international one. Unless the Indian government asks them to intervene, it would not be able to do anything in this connection. Chairman of Delhi Waqf Board Amanatullah Khan said that he would write a letter to the Archaeology department in this connection so that this historic masjid could be saved from getting withered.

Comment: The Jama Masjid, built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, is under the control of Archaeology department. But since the beginning, it is being managed by the family of Shahi imam. The current Shah Imam is the 28th person in this lineage. His ancestors had been given the title of 'Bukhara' by Shahjahan and handed over the responsibility to look after the masjid. The Shahi Imam, however, is a controversial person. It is being alleged that he pockets the money that is received as rent from stalls etc on the premises near the masjid. This apart, the entry fee for minarets received from the tourists who come to see the Jama masjid also goes into his pocket. This apart, he also gets a huge amount from the parking fee.

Modi government has changed the names of 26 railway stations



Roznama Sahara (November 21) states that the Prime Minister has recently inaugurated Rani Kamlapati railway station in Bhopal. Earlier its name was Habibganj railway station. Before this also the names of several railway stations were changed during the regime of Modi government itself. So far, the names of 26 railway stations have been changed. In Uttar Pradesh, five railway stations have been given new names. Faizabad railway station's name has been changed as Ayodhya Cantt railway station. Mughalsarai Junction has been renamed as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction. Allahabad Junction has been renamed as

Prayagraj Junction while Manduadih railway station's name has been changed to Banaras Junction. The name of Dandupur railway station has been changed as Ma Barahi Devi Dham station. Similarly, the name of Bangalore City railway station has been changed as Krantiveer Sangoli Rayanna railway station. This apart, Gulbarga has been changed as Kalburgi. The name of Oshiwara station in Maharashtra has been changed to Ram Mandir railway station whereas Elphinstone Road station has been renamed as Prabha Devi station. All these names have been changed on the request of the respective state governments.

Muslim girls getting attracted to non-Muslims

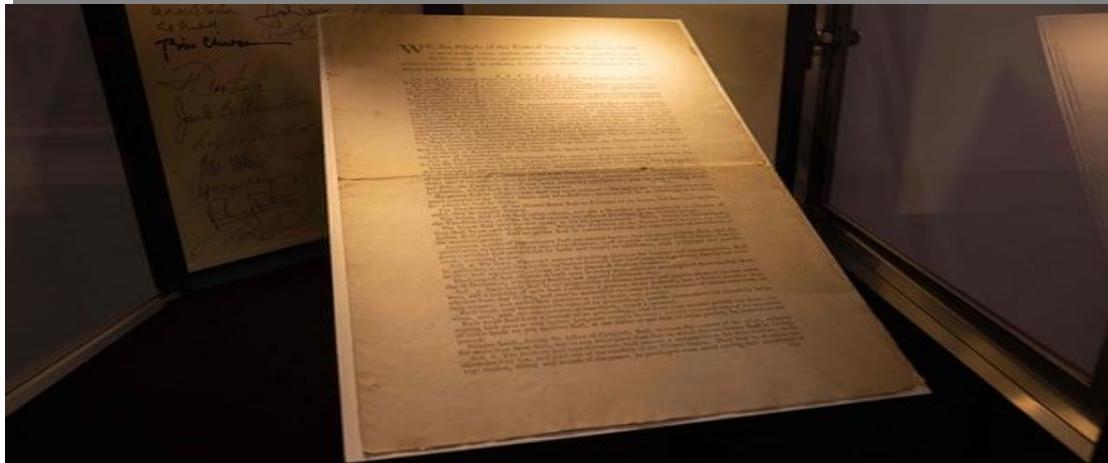
Siasat (November 9) states that while addressing a meeting of women in Sangareddy district, Rizwana Zareen, principal of Jamiatul Mominatin Hyderabad, urged Muslim women to keep a close watch on the daughters because Muslim girls are increasingly falling into the traps of non-Muslim

youths. The tendency of some Muslim boys and girls to abandon Islam and embrace other religions is increasing rapidly. Hence it is necessary that Muslim girls should not be sent to such educational centres where co-education is the norm. This apart, a Muslim woman, Najima Aziz, also said that

Muslims should take caution to ensure that Muslim girls do not fall into the trap of non-Muslim youths. Hence it is necessary that Muslims avoid

unnecessary expenditure like dowry, marriage and feast and start the system of conducting simple marriages at masjids as per Quran.

Draft of US Constitution auctioned for 4.5 crore dollars



Siasat (November 21) reports that the original manuscript of US Constitution has been auctioned for 4.82 crore dollars. Till now, no other document has been sold for such a huge price. The manuscript of the US Constitution that has been displayed in the auction is among the 13 copies which have been issued for government purposes. Among these 13 copies, only 2 copies were in the hands of ordinary citizens. One of these copies has been auctioned.

The name of the person who bought it has been kept a secret. Nearly 17,000 people took part in the auction. This copy of the Constitution was sold by someone for the first time in 1988 and it was purchased by a man named Howard Goldman for 1.65 lakh dollars. This copy has now been auctioned by the widow of Goldman. Those involved in the auction process said that till now no document has been sold for such a high rate.

Ban on Zakir Naik's organisation extended

Inquilab (November 17) states that the Union home ministry has extended the ban imposed on controversial Islamic preacher Dr Zakir Naik's organisation, Islamic Research Foundation, by another five years. Interestingly, the ban was imposed on this organisation in 2016 under UAPA, which has been extended now. Supporting the extension of ban, the



home ministry has claimed that this organisation is involved in such activities that can bring damage to communal harmony, secular image and national security. It has also been alleged that this organisation has been spreading animosity between different religions with the help of money received from foreign countries. Zakir Naik stays in Malaysia nowadays.

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