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Indian Muslims out on Streets in Support of Islamic Terrorism



- Ban on Cow Slaughter in Karnataka
- UN Concerned over the Custody of Arab Princess
- Ban on Islamic Institutions in France
- Maharashtra Govt to Give Salaries to Imams

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Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Chargesheet against Popular Front for incitement of riots	04
Public outrage over Rampur Dargah chief's arrest	08
Ban on cow slaughter in Karnataka	09
Minor Muslim girl's marriage valid	10
Hunar Haat organised for minorities	12
<u>World</u>	
Arrests of terrorists associated with Islamic State	13
Taliban prepares for new attack in Afghanistan	13
Ban on Islamic institutions in France	14
Pakistan not to renew Nawaz Sharif's passport	15
Death sentence for American blogger's murderers	16
<u>West Asia</u>	
UN concerned over the custody of Arab princess	17
Women permitted to join Saudi Army	19
Entry of foreign travellers still not allowed in Kuwait	19
Al Qaeda leaders given shelter in Iran	20
Iran is moving towards becoming a nuclear power	21
<u>Others</u>	
Saudi government arrests Islamic scholars	22
Maharashtra govt to give salaries to Imams of Mosques	22
Mosque officials sued for embezzlement	23
Ajmer Urs gets over	24
Wasim Rizvi under investigation	24

Summary

Government agencies have begun to clamp down on the notorious Islamic organisation, the PopularFront of India (PFI). A charge sheet has been filed in the court against the officials of the Front for providing funds to incite communal riots in the guise of Hathras scandal. Recently many of its activists were arrested in Lucknow with explosives and illegal weapons. The Additional Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police had alleged that the organisation was planning to assassinate several leaders of Hindu institutions. The interrogation by the police of the Front officials confirmed that this jihadi organisation has links to foreign countries and they have received money to the tune of Rs100 crores from foreign sources for instigating riots across the country. In order to expose this conspiracy, the Enforcement Directorate and the STF branch of Uttar Pradesh Police recently raided several offices of the Front and recovered objectionable materials.

In recent times, a peculiar decision of the Punjab-Haryana High Court has been a matter of much discussion. The High Court, while recognising the Muslim Sharia law, gave the verdict that if a Muslim girl marries after attaining puberty, nobody has the right to interfere in it. This decision has been welcomed by Muslim newspapers. They have argued that the rights given as per the Muslim personal law have been confirmed by the court through this decision. It is known that according to the law of the country, the marriage of girls under the age of 18 years is legally prohibited. Whereas according to Islamic law, if a 14-year-old girl has attained puberty, she has the right to marry. Some human rights organisations are preparing to challenge this decision of the Punjab-Haryana High Court in the Supreme Court.

These days Princess Latifa, the daughter of the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, remains the topic of discussion in newspapers. The 35-year-old princess has alleged that her father forcibly abducted her with the help of commandos and has illegally imprisoned her in the palace when she was trying to flee her country to seek political asylum in USA. She has also claimed that her life is in danger. The United Nations Human Rights Organisation has taken cognizance of the case and has launched an investigation into the allegation. But the Dubai administration said that the princess is safe with her family. However, the United Nations has not accepted this claim. The ruler of Dubai was in the news two years ago when one of his wives along with her two children sought asylum from the British government and made serious allegations against him.

The Government of Pakistan has refused to renew the passport of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif. Corruption cases are going on in several courts in Pakistan against Nawaz Sharif. Last year, he went to London on the pretext of getting medical treatment and is still there. The Government of Pakistan has so far failed to bring him back. Earlier, a former Pakistani dictator General Pervez Musharraf also had to take refuge in Saudi Arabia to save his life. He is also still camping there.

Chargesheet against Popular Front for incitement of riots



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed the first charge sheet against the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its student unit Campus Front of India (CFI) under the provisions of the Money Laundering Act. In it, the ED has claimed that the members of this organisation wanted to incite communal riots and terror in the country after the incident of gang rape in Hathras last year.

This extremist Muslim organisation has been in the news for the last few months. An interesting fact is that the Urdu Press and especially the Muslim Press are running a campaign to save the PFI. Most of the Urdu newspapers have not been prominently publishing the claims of the police and the government, but have been publishing the press releases issued by PFI in their defence. The ED had raided various offices of the Front and had recovered a lot of objectionable materials. But most of the Urdu newspapers, instead of publishing the news of the raid, prominently published the press release issued by PFI, which claimed that the government agencies were targeting it out of political malice.

According to **Inquilab** (February 13), Anis Ahmad, Secretary of PFI, has

targeted the Enforcement Directorate, saying that it is acting like a PR agency of the RSS. Recently, a case has been filed in Lucknow's special court regarding money laundering. He pointed out that the press release issued in connection with it has made it clear that these efforts are being made deliberately to mislead the media and society about PFI. He added that the organisation knows at whose behest the investigation is taking place and what is its goal.

Inquilab in its February 22 issue has referred to the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) raid at the Popular Front office. The newspaper has claimed that after questioning Rauf Shareef, General Secretary of PFI's student wing, CFI, the STF raided the office of PFI located in Shaheen Bagh, Delhi. Police claimed to have recovered a large number of pamphlets, pen drives and many other objectionable documents from there. The Front was accused of distributing money during the protests against the citizenship law and for inciting riots evoking the issue of caste in Hathras. Rauf Shareef was taken on police remand by STF for questioning in this regard after a case was filed in the

Math area of Mathura. The raid was conducted after obtaining a search warrant from the Court. According to the sources, no arrest has been made in this regard so far. But preparations are being made to seal the offices. On the other hand, the Front has issued a press release which claimed that the reason behind the actions of the Uttar Pradesh Police was the protest that was staged in Kerala by the activists of the PFI when Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited the state. The press release said that the Uttar Pradesh government was irked by this and hence took action.

Inquilab (February 23) has prominently published the press release of the Popular Front, stating that the raid on the Shaheen Bagh office is an act of retaliation by the Yogi government against the Popular Front and is part of a campaign that is being carried out against it. Anis Ahmad, the General Secretary of PFI has strongly condemned the raid. He has said that two months ago the ED had raided their office and did not find any evidence. He added that the recent raid was done with the sole intention of troubling them. The legal proceedings are being initiated at the behest of the Yogi government. He said that they were neither shown a search warrant before the raid nor were they given any list of confiscated items after the raid. Some flags, publications and pamphlets have been confiscated. He said that they are sure of the STF presenting these asseditious documents in court. He further stated that for the last few months, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched a vicious retaliatory action against them by linking the illegal arrests of the members of the Front with allegations of fake terrorist conspiracies. It all started after the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Because during these demonstrations, the Popular Front had adopted a legal route to ensure justice to innocent people who were

murdered and tortured by the Uttar Pradesh police. After this, the Front had also filed a Public Interest Litigation against the police in the High Court seeking a judicial inquiry into harassment by police against the minorities. Angered by this, the Uttar Pradesh government arrested the PFI officials in the state and also harassed their family members. After the murder of a Dalit woman in Hathras, a reporter and some students were arrested and linked to the conspiracy to incite riots in the state. When two members of PFI, Anshad Badruddin and Firoz Khan were on their way home after deboarding a train, they were abducted by the police. On February 21, protests were staged against Yogi Adityanath in Kerala. This irked the UP police and the two offices of PFI were raided. But the Popular Front will not bow down and will fight against it in a democratic and legal manner.

According to **Inquilab** (February 15), after the gang rape and murder of the girl in Hathras, the Uttar Pradesh police claimed to have arrested six accused including a news correspondent in Mathura for inciting riots in the name of caste. According to the police, the Popular Front's name was revealed during the interrogation. After this, the task of investigating the sources of income of the Front was entrusted to the Enforcement Directorate (ED). In November last year, the ED arrested the Campus Front's General Secretary Rauf Shareef at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Uttar Pradesh Police was preparing to take Rauf on remand when the court granted him bail. STF's team arrested Rauf Shareef once again. Police claimed that documents related to the Popular Front were recovered from four persons in a car in Mathura at the time of their arrest. After interrogation of these four, the police claimed that Rauf Shareef of PFI had given

money to the accused to incite riots in Hathras. While, the ED team has claimed that in the last one-year huge amount of money has come from other countries in the bank accounts of the Front, of which the maximum amount has come in the account of Rauf Shareef. The police claimed that Rauf Shareef was attempting to flee the country when he was arrested from Thiruvananthapuram airport. The STF team had petitioned the court for remand to bring Shareef to Uttar Pradesh. But the court released him on bail before the petition could be heard. The officials of the Enforcement Directorate have claimed that in the last few years, one billion rupees have been deposited in various accounts of the Popular Front.

According to **Inquilab** (February 16), the Supreme Court has released Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on conditional bail for five days. He was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police along with three other persons - Atiq-ur Rehman (Muzaffarnagar), Masood Ahmad (Bahraich) and Alam (Rampur) while on their way for reporting the Hathras riots. It is known that Kappan's lawyer claimed that his 90-year-old mother was seriously ill. The Supreme Court has also directed that Kappan cannot talk to the media or post on social media when he goes to Kerala. Apart from this, he did not have the permission to meet anyone except his relatives, doctors and people connected with his mother's health.

Supreme Court had last month allowed Kappan to speak to his ailing mother through a video call. But because she fell unconscious in the hospital, he could not talk to his mother. The Supreme Court has also said that a team of Uttar Pradesh Police will accompany Kappan and the Kerala Police will cooperate with them. The newspaper has claimed that he has been arrested by the police on false charges. There was a lot of opposition in the media fraternity against his arrest and a

petition was also filed in the court on behalf of the Kerala Union of Working Journalists.

According to the news published in **Dainik Hindustan** (February 12), the charge sheet filed by the ED in the court in connection with the Hathras riots has stated that the Central Investigation Agency has been investigating PFI since 2018. The Popular Front was formed in 2006 in Kerala and is now headquartered in Delhi. The Directorate has recently launched an investigation into the alleged funding of demonstrations against the citizenship law by this organisation and its role in the communal riots in Delhi last year. The charge sheet was filed in the PMLA court of Lucknow by the prosecution. Those named in the charge sheet include PFI member Rauf Shareef, CFI National Treasurer Atikur Rahman, Delhi CFI General Secretary Masood Ahmad, journalist Kappan who has links with PFI and Mohammad Alam, a member of CFI. Taking cognizance of the charge sheet of the Enforcement Directorate, the special court has issued summons to the five accused and has directed them to appear in the court on March 18.

Dainik Hindustan (February 23) has published a news stating that police conducted raids at the offices of PFI across the country following the information received during the interrogation of the Front's General Secretary Rauf Shareef. Rauf had admitted that he was trying to attract youth across the country to PFI. During these raids, anti-national materials have been found in large quantities from these offices. According to another news, a man named Hamid has been arrested after a raid was conducted in a slum in Uttar Pradesh. He is accused of terror funding and receiving money from foreign countries through an illegal software. The police have claimed that interrogation of this person will expose his network as well

as the hidden web of PFI's networks spread across the country. Hamid had been arrested by the CBI in 2016 as well.

According to **Dainik Hindustan** (February 18), the STF will interrogate Rauf Shareef on foreign funding for five days. His remand has been approved by the District Court. A ten-day remand was sought by the STF in its application. According to another news, two members of the Popular Front, Anshad Badruddin and Firoz Khan, have been given police remand for seven days by sessions judge Justice Mohammad Ghazali. The ATS has alleged that some members of the Popular Front of India had formed a terrorist gang and had been accumulating weapons to challenge the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

According to **Indian Express** (February 17), Uttar Pradesh's Additional Director General of Police Prashant Kumar has claimed that the police has arrested two activists of the Popular Front near Kukrail in Lucknow. They were planning to assassinate senior leaders of Hindu organisations by bomb blasts. He said that both the arrested persons are from Kerala and the police have recovered a lot of explosives from their possession. Kumar also said that their plan was to recruit youth for violent activities in different districts of Uttar Pradesh. The police had received information that this gang is planning to carry out explosions at several places in the state on the day of Basant Panchami. Police recovered explosives, batteries, detonators, pistols and cartridges from their possession. The police have also claimed that both these persons have mastered the technique of bomb making.

According to **Dainik Jagran** (February 19), the Ujjain police has taken action against the people associated with the fundamentalist organisation Popular Front of India for violating the rules while



celebrating its 14th Foundation Day. On the orders of Collector Ashish Singh, two cases have been registered against the organisers for violation of Section 188 which pertains to restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus. SSP Amarendra Singh said that PFI held a meeting at Nagauri Mohalla on the night of February 17. The gathering was allowed till 10 pm and 100 people were allowed to attend the event. But the organisers continued the meeting till 10.40 pm and had also used loudspeakers. Apart from this, more than 100 people had attended the meeting. The Mahakal police station has registered a case against organiser Adnan Nagauri.

The second case has been registered by the Kotwali police. PFI had hoisted the organisation's flag at Lal Masjid intersection which comes under the area of Kotwali police station at 8:30 am on Wednesday. Permission was not granted for this too. The general secretary of the Imam Council of India, Mufti Hanif Ahrar, who attended the PFI meeting as a guest, said that they are ready to take on even four groups who are against them. Ahrar said that the BJP government is trying to make people turn against each other. In the name of taking donations for the Ram temple, efforts are being made to intimidate Muslims. Their houses are being attacked and slogans are being raised. He said that these actions will not be tolerated. The gathering was also addressed by the organisation's state chief Kafil Raza.

Public outrage over Rampur Dargah chief's arrest



The anger of Bareilly Muslims is increasing with every passing day due to the arrest of Shah Farhat Ahmad Jamali of Hafiz Shah Dargah located in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. Many Muslim organisations have threatened that if Jamali is not released, they will start agitating across the state. Involvement of Tauqeer Raza, head of Bareilly Dargah, in this controversy, has made the matter more complicated.

According to **Inquilab** (February 7), relations between the district officials of Rampur and religious leaders of Muslims, have been strained for a long time. According to Maulana Jamali, on December 21, 2019, the city's Muslims had announced that they will stage protests against the citizenship law. But the administration did not allow it. This led to clashes between the police and the protesters, including the violence over police barricading at Chauraha Hathi Khana in which a man named Faiz was killed in police firing. Jamali has alleged that even after fourteen months, the police have neither taken any action against the murderers of Faiz nor the people against whom the cases were filed.

According to **Inquilab** (February 8), a meeting was held in Jama Masjid of Rampur under the chairmanship of Imam

Mufti Mehboob Ali in which the actions of the Superintendent of Police were condemned. The meeting was attended by Farhat Ahmad Jamali, General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Aslam Javed Qasmi, Maulana Ansar Ahmad Qasmi, Shia Imam Maulana Zaman Bakri etc. On the other hand, the Superintendent of Police has denied that he ever misbehaved with a Muslim religious leader.

According to **Inquilab** (February 14), the Rampur police have started arresting people based on the lawsuits filed in 2019 in connection with the rampant protests against the citizenship law. Police surrounded Dargah Hazrat Hafiz Shah Jamalullah and arrested several Muslim leaders, including dargah head Farhat Ahmad Jamali. The police have claimed that Maulana Jamali was the mastermind of the violent protests which were staged against these laws. It is known that before this, Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, the national president of Ittehad-e-Millat Council, had in a press conference issued a threat to the administration that if any action was taken against any Muslim leader, it would have serious consequences. Superintendent of Police Dr. Sansar Singh said that Farhat Ahmad, who was among the accused in the protests against the

citizenship law was absconding. After police received the information that he will be visiting Shah Jamal, they raided the dargah and arrested him from there. The newspaper has said that following the arrest of Farhat Ahmad Jamali, many of the accused Muslim leaders are now absconding and the search is on for them.

According to **Inquilab** (February 15), Maulana Tauqeer Raza, chief of the Bareilvi sect has threatened that if Shah Farhat Jamali is not released, Muslims in the entire state would start agitating on the roads. He has alleged since Jamali had announced his support to the farmers' movement, the administration was irked by

it and had him arrested in a case that was 14 months old. He said that the police deliberately want to create communal tension in the state.

In another news report, Muslim Federation President Azam Iqbal has said that the administration is deliberately targeting the dargahs. He added that the Muslims will not tolerate this at any cost and a state-wide agitation will be launched against it.

According to **Inquilab** (February 17), the lawyers had filed an application in the court for the bail of Shah Farhat Ahmad Jamali. But the court is yet to hear the plea.

Ban on cow slaughter in Karnataka



According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (February 17), the strictest law on cow slaughter in the history of Karnataka has been implemented. After receiving the assent of the state governor Vajubhai Vala, the state government has issued a gazette notification with regard to this. According to this law, complete ban has been imposed on the slaughter of cow, ox, calf, and bull and buffalo below the age of thirteen years. But bull and buffalo aged more than 13 years will be allowed to be slaughtered.

Meat of all these animals have been included under beef. Those violating this law can be arrested without bail and will be sentenced to a minimum of three years in prison. Whereas the law prescribes maximum imprisonment of seven years. For violating the law for the first time, the accused will have to pay a fine ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh and if an accused commits this crime for the second time, he will have to pay a fine of Rs one lakh to ten lakhs. Police sub-inspectors

have been given the power to raid not only shops but also homes. The government has announced full protection under this law to those who work for the protection of the cows.

B.S. Yeddyurappa's government had passed this law in the State Legislative Assembly for the first time in 2020, but the legislation could not be passed in the State Legislative Council. Despite this, the government implemented this law by issuing an ordinance. The state government once again introduced this legislation on February 9, 2021 in the State Legislative

Council, which was opposed by the Congress and Janata Dal (S). But on the same day, this Bill was passed by the Council by voice vote. Till now only the cow slaughter law of 1964 was applicable in Karnataka, under which only the slaughter of milch cow was banned. While the slaughter of bulls and buffaloes were allowed. But in the new law there has been a huge increase in the amount of punishment and fine. Apart from this, many restrictions have also been imposed on the movement of animals. ■

Minor Muslim girl's marriage valid



According to **Siasat** (February 11), the Punjab-Haryana High Court has given an important decision regarding the marriage of Muslim girls, stating that a Muslim girl can marry a boy of her choice even though she is under 18 years of age. But she should have attained puberty. In this way, the court has supported the Muslim Personal Law, under which any Muslim girl, irrespective of her age, 14 or 15 years, if she has attained puberty, has the right to marry a boy of her choice and the family members do not have the right to interfere

in her decision. The High Court has said in its judgment that under Muslim Personal Law, a Muslim girl under 18 years of age can marry a boy of her choice and her family members cannot interfere in it. This decision has been pronounced by Justice Alka Sarin on the basis of Muslim Sharia. A Muslim couple hailing from Mohali had filed a petition in the court, according to which a 36-year-old man fell in love with a 17-year-old girl and the two were married under Muslim rituals. Their families were not happy with their marriage. Relatives

from both the sides were issuing continuous threats. Due to these threats, the couple approached the court and demanded protection from the government. When this case was heard in the court, it was argued by the girl's family that the girl is a minor, so this marriage is not valid.

Avadhnama (February 11) has welcomed this decision of the Punjab-Haryana High Court in its editorial. It said that the Constitution of India had long ago given the right to an adult- whether man or woman- to choose a life partner of their choice. Later the age for marriage was fixed at 18 years. Under this law, any Indian girl who has turned 18 years of age has the legal right to marry a boy of her choice irrespective of her religion and caste. But some states have enacted the love jihad law under which inter religious marriages have been declared illegal. But there are reports on the ground where if the boy is a Muslim and the girl is a non-Muslim, then the Muslim boy will be sent to jail and if the girl is a Muslim and the boy is a non-Muslim, then no action is taken in that matter. This is the reason why the message has been spreading in society that the love jihad law has been made only to harass Muslims.

However, when seen, the law of love jihad is against the Indian Constitution. On one hand such a law was enacted, while on the other hand, the Punjab-Haryana High Court, went two steps ahead and said in its historic decision that a Muslim girl under 18 years of age can marry any boy of her choice. But the condition is only that she has attained puberty. In this way, open permission has also been given to Muslim girls aged 14-15 years to marry. The Punjab-Haryana High Court has given this decision in view of the Muslim Personal Law. This decision will become a prelude to the country's courts in the future. The decision was based on Sharia law. It

remains to be seen whether a new controversy will begin over this.

An article published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (February 16) stated that on the one hand, preparations are being made to enforce the Uniform Civil Code, while on the other hand, the Punjab-Haryana High Court has given a decision which is according to the Muslim Personal Law. The High Court has accepted the freedom granted to the Muslim Personal Law in the Indian Constitution. However, most of the newspapers in the country did not publish it. The author has said that there are two types of laws applicable in this country - one is the Civil Code and the other is the Criminal Code. In the Civil Code, all minorities have been allowed to live in accordance with their laws. If any matter related to these cases go to the courts, then the courts will decide according to the Islamic Sharia if the person concerned is a Muslim. The Indian Constitution has accepted the personal laws of minorities. In cases like marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance and succession, they have been allowed to follow the Sharia law. But some narrow-minded people are unable to take this. Therefore, they have been campaigning to scrape the Muslim personal law for quite some time. They want that the freedom given to minorities in their religious matters to be taken away from them. In this way, the real purpose of 'one nation one law' is to create a Hindu nation. First, the adopted child was given the right to property. After this, the issue of giving alimony to the divorced woman was raised. After the BJP came to power, the genie of the Uniform Civil Code was taken out of the bottle and was included in the election manifesto. Then, the issue of Triple Talaq was brought up. The way the government has intervened in the Muslim Personal Law in the recent times is in sharp contrast to the spirit of the Constitution. In such a scenario, the decision of the Punjab-

Haryana High Court needs to be welcomed. The article stated that it is not arguing about the physical impact that a marriage can have at such a young age as the custom of marriage at a young age is not common among Muslims. By not considering the

age of maturity as 18 years, the High Court has accepted the system given in Sharia. Similarly, in cases such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and maintenance, Muslims should accept the laws given under the Sharia. ■

Hunar Haat organised for minorities



Inaugurating the 26th Hunar Haat at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that for rural handicrafts business the government has set a target of five lakh crore rupees in order to provide maximum employment to the people. He said that the Minority Ministry is at the forefront of implementing the Prime Minister's slogan, 'Vocal for Local' to make India self-reliant. He added that Hunar Haat has provided opportunities and marketing avenues to artisans, craftsmen and skilled workers who make a living on the streets. He said that he was surprised to see two hundred and fifty stalls and the products seen at these stores were excellent. He opined that the masters of skill are also masters of their luck and have a significant contribution to the development of the country. He said he has been informed that five lakh people have found employment at Hunar Haat. The place has given a platform for artisans and

they are bringing alive India's cultural traditions. He congratulated Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi for his efforts on making the initiative successful.

On this occasion, Naqvi said that the Haat has started from February 20 and will run till March 1. More than 600 skilled persons from 31 states are taking part in it. 50 per cent of them are women. He said that Hunar Haat is being organised in different parts of the country. Special Hunar Haat will be organised on the occasion of 75th Independence Day in 2022, which will provide employment to seven and a half lakh artisans. In this Hunar Haat, there will be dishes from every state. Member of Parliament Meenakshi Lekhi, National Vice-Chairman of Minorities Commission Atif Rashid and former Chairman of the Commission Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi were also present on the occasion. ■

Arrests of terrorists associated with Islamic State



According to **Sahafat** (February 13), 13 terrorists planning terrorist activities in Germany and Denmark have been arrested and it is reported that they have links with the terrorist organisation Islamic State (IS). Huge quantities of detonating explosives have been recovered from their possession. Police in Denmark have detained 13 people, seven of whom are believed to be associated with ISIS. Many other persons related to this case have been arrested from Germany. A Danish government spokesman has acknowledged that the Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS is spreading its footprints in the country at a rapid pace. According to the Danish

Intelligence Agency, raids were conducted at many places in the country and few people were detained for questioning. Among these, seven of them are accused of collecting explosives and weapons to carry out terrorist attacks. According to the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, six people have been arrested, all of whom are Muslims. A spokesman for the German government said that three other people living in Syria have also been arrested. The German intelligence agencies raided the residences of these suspects in Nuremberg and Berlin, and 12 kg of ammunition and bomb-making items were recovered from there. ■

Taliban prepares for new attack in Afghanistan

According to **Sahafat** (February 20), the possibility of restoring peace in Afghanistan is decreasing day by day. Recently there was a meeting of defence ministers of NATO countries in Brussels, in which the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, stressed that the group should put pressure on the Taliban.

According to informed sources, the plan that the US had charted to recall its troops from Afghanistan has fallen into disarray. Recently there was a conference of security officers of ten NATO countries in Kabul, which was attended by the heads of security agencies of 11 countries including Pakistan. There was discussion on the



increasing threat of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the meeting. Ahmad Zia Siraj, the head of National Directorate of Security (NDS), the intelligence agency of Afghanistan, said that the meeting had discussed the possibility of the Taliban launching a new attack.

On the other hand, according to **Etemaad** (February 15), the Afghan Taliban has warned the NATO countries that if they delay the recalling of foreign troops from Afghanistan as per the agreed-upon schedule, then Afghanistan and its allies will have to bear the consequences of their actions. Doing so clearly indicates that the NATO alliance is not keen on

restoring peace in Afghanistan but wants to continue the war. Hence, the Taliban has intensified their attacks. The new US administration has put on hold the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Although it was earlier decided that all the foreign troops from Afghanistan would be withdrawn by 2021.

According to **Hamara Samaj** (February 18), ignoring the decision of NATO countries, New Zealand has announced the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan by May this year. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced that her government is withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, who have been on duty for the past two decades. She said that in a troubled country like Afghanistan, peace is possible only through negotiations. Because of which New Zealand does not see the need to keep its army stationed in Afghanistan. She said that there were 3500 soldiers from New Zealand in Afghanistan and they have been recalled gradually. Currently, only six soldiers are stationed there and they will be called back soon. ■

Ban on Islamic institutions in France

According to **Inquilab** (February 18), to prevent extremist Islamic activities in France, the government has enacted a new law under which strict prohibition and monitoring will be done by the government in Muslim institutions and places related to them. It has been stated that the objective of this bill passed by the National Assembly of France is to keep a close watch on the various religious organisations, Islamic madrassas and Islamic propaganda organisations located there, in view of the increasing incidents of



terrorism in the country. Although Islam is not mentioned in the law, it is widely believed that this step was taken to curb the growing trend of Islamic terrorism and fanaticism in France. After the passage of this law, the government will now keep a close watch on mosques, their sources of income, Islamic madrassas and organisations promoting and propagating Islam so that Islamic terrorism does not become a serious threat to France in the future. 347 members of the French National Assembly and 151 members of the opposition voted in favour of this legislation. While 65 members were absent from the House. Representatives of French Muslims have opposed this law. Whereas a coalition of 36 NGOs working in the area of civil rights has appealed to the United Nations against this law and to stop the anti-Muslim policy being adopted by the

French government for the last two decades. They have also alleged that the current law is against the policy of secularism of France and aims to interfere in the religious and political activities of Muslims. On the other hand, supporting this law, right-wing leader Marine Le Pen has said that majority rights cannot be violated to protect the human rights of a few Islamic terrorists. It is extremely important to pass such a law for the protection of non-Muslims.

It is known that there are more than 50 lakh Muslim expatriates in France, most of whose roots can be traced back to the old colonies of France. Last year, after a Muslim youth killed a teacher in broad daylight for showing the images of the Prophet, demands were raised to enact a strict law to curb the growing Islamic terrorism in the country.

Pakistan not to renew Nawaz Sharif's passport

According to **Roznama Sahara** (February 18), Pakistan's Home Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said that the passport of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif will not be renewed. But if he wants to come back to Pakistan from abroad, then he will be issued a special permit. Talking to reporters in Islamabad, he said that since 2018, the names of Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are in the Exit Control List (ECL) because of which neither can they be issued new passports nor can their passports be renewed. Nawaz Sharif and his daughter are in London nowadays.

Hamara Samaj has released a special report in its February 17 issue which highlights the difficulties that will be faced by Nawaz Sharif in the event of non-renewal of his passport. Newspaper has



written that Nawaz Sharif has been declared absconding by various courts in Pakistan and hence his passport cannot be renewed. The Government of Pakistan has so far failed to bring him back. When Nawaz

Sharif went to Britain, he had a diplomatic passport which was issued to him when he was the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Ali Jaffar, an expert on international law opined that even if the Pakistan government does not renew Maryam and Nawaz Sharif's passport, their Pakistan citizenship will not be terminated nor can their identity cards be blocked. If they want to come back on their own will, Pakistan High Commission can issue them a temporary travel permit, which will allow them to only come to Pakistan. Another

legal expert said that even if Pakistan does not renew Nawaz Sharif's passport, Britain cannot expel him from the country. According to British law, if someone's passport is not renewed, their status remains intact and cannot be expelled from Britain. Yes, it is a fact that the former Prime Minister will not be able to travel to any other country without a valid passport. Even at this time, the number of illegal immigrants in Britain is around one million. There is no extradition treaty between Pakistan and Britain. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan cannot bring

him back from there. Some time back, the Government of Pakistan had requested Interpol to initiate action to send the former prime minister back home. But a top officer of the Interpol said that the lawsuits were filed for political reasons because of which they cannot take any action in this regard. Similarly, former finance minister Ishaq Dar is also living in England. However, his passport has been blocked by the Government of Pakistan. Dar has been declared as a person with a criminal record by a Pakistani court and an order has been passed to confiscate his property. ■

Death sentence for American blogger's murderers



According to **Inquilab** (February 17), a court in Bangladesh has sentenced five persons belonging to a terrorist organisation called Islamic State to death on the charge of killing an American blogger who criticised Islam six years ago. According to the wire agency Reuters, Bangladeshi-American blogger Abhijeet Rai was killed when he was on his way back from the Dhaka Book Fair with his wife. The trial has been going on against

these murderers for the last six years in the Special Anti-Terrorism Tribunal of Bangladesh after which the court pronounced this decision. Government lawyer Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that the charges against the accused have been proven. Therefore, five persons have been sentenced to death and another person has been sentenced to life imprisonment. The persons who have been punished are said to be related to the Islamic terrorist organisation Ansarullah Bangla Team. They are accused of killing a number of minorities.

The government lawyer said that their leader was Syed ZiaulHaq, who was dismissed from the army. One of the killers was absconding and the death sentence was pronounced in his absence. Dozens of bloggers and people belonging to the minority communities were killed by the activists of these extremist Muslim organisations between 2013 and 2016. These extremists belonged to organisations affiliated to the Islamic State or Al Qaeda. ■

UN concerned over the custody of Arab princess



The United Nations Human Rights Organisation has expressed concern over the illegal detention of Princess Latifa and her sister in Dubai and has decided to question UAE officials in this regard. Princess Latifa, 35, has alleged that her father and the ruler of Dubai, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has illegally imprisoned her and her life is in danger. In this context, recently the BBC has also aired a video, due to which the matter has become a hot topic of discussion around the world. The Dubai government has circulated a portrait, showing Latifa standing alongside some of her family members. The government has also claimed that Latifa is living with her family members and is completely safe. Mary Robinson, head of the United Nations Human Rights Organisation, said that the photo as well as the government's claim is fraudulent.

Hamara Samaj (February 18) has published a detailed news in this context. The newspaper said that US President Joe Biden has also expressed concern over Latifa's case and has insisted that she be

freed from illegal detention. The UK government has also described the issue as extremely worrisome. According to the newspaper, the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rasid Al Maktoum, is counted among the world's richest people. It is said that in 2018, the princess tried to take political asylum in America after fleeing her country. But within the Indian waters, some commandos arrested her and handed her over to the UAE officials. According to News18 World, the princess has alleged that the Indian Navy commandos were the ones who took her into custody. But the Indian government has not yet made any comments in this regard.

BBC Panorama has aired a video of the princess saying that her ship was attacked by some unknown commandos when she was on her way to America after fleeing from Dubai. She hid in the bathroom with one of her friends. But the commandos used tear gas to force her out of her hiding place. When these commandos tried to take her into custody, she strongly opposed it and kicked and bit

them in many places. Latifa was then knocked unconscious with a tranquiliser and was taken to Dubai in a ship where she was imprisoned in a villa. There is tight police security around this villa and its doors and windows are also closed. The princess secretly recorded the story of her detention in the bathroom and sent it to a foreign national friend of hers. She has said that her father has also imprisoned her elder sister Shamsa and she is not allowed to contact the outside world.

On the other hand, a spokesman for the royal family of Dubai has said that Princess Latifa is safe with her family. In 2018, Mary Robinson, a senior officer of the United Nations Human Rights Organisation had met Latifa and described her as a damsel-in-distress. She said that the family members of the princess had betrayed her and was giving out false information about her. She said that given the manner in which matters are getting complicated day by day, it is necessary that the United Nations conduct a high-level investigation about the illegal detention of this Arab princess and get her freed from captivity. The ruler of Dubai is very fond of horse riding, but the social and governmental system there is such that women do not have any basic rights. Nor can they approach the judiciary for the protection of their rights.

The ruler of Dubai has been the centre of discussion for the past several years. In 2019, one of his legitimate wives Haya Bint Al-Hussein had somehow fled to London and sought political asylum from the British government. The England High Court granted Princess Haya asylum in Britain last year. The High Court has stated in its judgment that the ruler of Dubai had illegally attempted to kidnap his wife from England. Earlier, Latifa's elder sister Shamsa also did not want to return after she came to Britain. In 2000, on the instructions of the Sheikh, she was forcibly

taken home. Robinson, the head of the UN Human Rights Organisation, said that they will continue their efforts until Latifa and her sister are released from unlawful detention. She said that the situation was very serious and something untoward could happen to the princess and her sister. Dubai's ruler Al Maktoum has said in one of his tweets that he has no connection with Haya. But he will continue his efforts to get both the children back. Princess Haya is the daughter of Hussein, the former ruler of Jordan. She was married to Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai in 2004. The ruler of Dubai has many wives and the number of his children is said to be more than two dozen. Jordan's current ruler Abdullah II is the brother of Haya. Their mother was a British citizen.

As far as Princess Latifa is concerned, she was born in 1985. Tired of her conservative life, in 2002, when she was 18, she tried to run away from her palace. But on the orders of her father, she was brought back and imprisoned in the palace. Latifa again left Dubai in February 2018 with the support of her martial arts instructor and reached Oman. She was to take refuge in an American ship in the Indian Ocean so that she could reach the US and seek political asylum there. But on the way, on the insistence of her father, Indian Navy commandos captured her near Goa and handed her over to Dubai officials and they took her back to Dubai.

Arab princesses have been the centre of controversy in the Western media for the past few years. Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed bin Salman's sister was prosecuted in Paris for assaulting her staff but later the trial was withdrawn due to high-level pressure. It is known that although the Arab world is rich and prosperous, there are strict restrictions on women. They cannot go to the market without a veil and without being accompanied by men. They are not allowed

to have any connection with the outside world. Their lives are confined within the boundary walls of the palaces and they have to stay behind closed curtains. They cannot have any kind of contact with anyone. Being fed up with the narrow ways of Islam, Arab princesses are now openly leading the path of rebellion.

As far as the United Arab Emirates is concerned, it is a federation of Arab

countries which includes states like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah. The federation is ruled by a Supreme Council, which includes the rulers of these seven Arab states. The president of this council is elected alternately from these seven rulers. In addition, there is a Federal National Council, which has 40 members.

Women permitted to join Saudi Army

According to **Inqilab** (February 22), for the first time in the history of Arab countries, Saudi Arabia, the most radical Islamic country, has also allowed women to join the army. The Ministry of Defence of Saudi Arabia has issued orders in this regard. According to this, both men and women will now be able to join the armed forces. All interested persons will have to get their names registered through a portal. Women will be recruited in the ranks of sepoy to sergeant in the Royal Saudi Air Defence, the Royal Saudi Navy, the Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force and the Armed Forces Medical Services. All candidates admitted to the Armed Forces will have to go through the selection process as per the stipulated conditions. Women who are willing to join the army should be between 21 to 40 years of age and must have passed high school. But



women who have married non-Saudi citizens will not be able to join the army. The decision of the Saudi government has been opposed by some staunch Maulanas and they have described it as against Islam and Sharia. They said that according to Sharia, women should remain covered in a veil and no part of them should be seen. But being admitted to the army would violate this Shariah directive as they would have to wear uniforms like men.

Entry of foreign travellers still not allowed in Kuwait

According to **Inqilab** (February 22), the duration of the ban imposed by the Kuwait government on the entry of foreign travellers into the country has now been extended. According to Arab News this restriction will apply to all non-Kuwaiti citizens. Doctors and diplomats will be exempted from this. Five countries of the Arab world have banned the entry of



foreign nationals in their respective countries due to the new wave of coronavirus. According to the directive issued, if a Kuwaiti citizen enters the country, he/she will have to stay in

quarantine for fourteen days. Out of this, one week stay in the hotel and one week stay at home is compulsory. They will have to bear the entire cost of this on their own. ■

Al Qaeda leaders given shelter in Iran

According to **Hamara Samaj** (February 19), Iran has decided to further strengthen relations with the terrorist organisation Al Qaeda to expand its nuclear program. The growing relationship between Iran and Al Qaeda in foreign affairs has been elaborated by the American press. Last month, former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a press conference had alleged that Iran had become the new base of Al Qaeda and that Iran and Al Qaeda relations had become the strongest in the last 30 years. In 2015, Iran had allowed Al Qaeda to use its soil for its operational activities. Since then, this terrorist organisation has been very active in Iran and has the full protection of the government. Al Qaeda and Iran have reached an agreement, after which a dangerous terrorist organisation like Al Qaeda had the opportunity to expand its activities in Iran. According to the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, relations between Al Qaeda and Iran began in the 1990s. Then many of the chief commanders of Al Qaeda went to Iran to receive military training and they also received training in the military bases there. It also claimed that Hezbollah, a Shiite organisation backed by Iran, has trained Al-Qaeda militants in many of its camps in Lebanon. The report said that although Al Qaeda is a Sunni organisation, Shia Iran has given its full support as both of them want to spread and protect Islam. For this reason, relations were maintained between Al Qaeda and Iran. According to the author of the article, cooperation



between Al-Qaeda and Iran is not only limited to technical cooperation, but the Government of Iran has also allowed Al-Qaeda to establish a main centre in Tehran. In 2007, Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden said that Iran was making an important contribution in providing economic support to Al Qaeda fighters. But at the same time, he had also admitted that Iran had also imposed some restrictions on Al Qaeda terrorists operating in their country. Many Al Qaeda leaders took refuge in Iran after the 9/11 incident. Later, due to diplomatic pressure, some of them were arrested and some others were put under house arrest. According to the documents found from the hideout of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Al Qaeda had strongly protested against these sanctions by the Iranian government.

Qaumi Tanzeem (February 13) has claimed that although both Iran and Al Qaeda have denied their secret ties, Egyptian intelligence sources have said that the relationship between Iran and Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri is still continuing. In Egypt, the banned extremist Islamic organisation the Muslim Brotherhood has a major role in strengthening these relations. According to Al Arabia.com, contacts between Al Qaeda and Iran began in the

1980s through the Sunni terrorist organisation Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood had met Osama bin Laden, the then chief of Al Qaeda in 1986, several times in Afghanistan. The meetings were attended by Osama bin Laden, Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammad Hamid Abu Nasir and his associate Mustafi. The Brotherhood leaders had visited the military camps of the Afghan Mujahideen and after this visit, the foundation of Al Qaeda was laid, in which it was decided that these organisations would protect the interests of Muslims around the world and where necessary there would be armed intervention. Al-Zawahiri and Osama bin Laden are said to have differed on whether Egypt and other Islamic countries should be used for Al Qaeda activities. Osama strengthened Al Qaeda in Somalia, Bosnia and Chechnya. While Al-Zawahiri instructed the organisation to launch violent activities in Egypt, Sudan and Yemen. Militants from Jamaat al-Jihad, an Islamic organisation in

Egypt, received military training in secret camps of Al Qaeda located in Afghanistan. After this, they came back to Egypt and launched deadly attacks on the then Prime Minister of Egypt Atif Siddiqui and Home Minister Hasan al-Alafi and also targeted foreign tourists in many places. Iran had made contact with Al Qaeda through Asif Mohsini, a civilian from Afghanistan and he was given a hefty amount of money by Iran. Showky Al-Islambouli and Al-Zawahiri shared a deep relationship in Iran. Showky was the brother of former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's killer Khalid al-Islambuli. The Muslim Brotherhood had already set its footsteps in Afghanistan and had formed Jamiat Islamiah, a terrorist organisation, the leader of which was Abdul Rahim Niazi. Later, Burhanuddin Rouhani and Gulbudin Hikmatyar also joined Al-Qaeda. This encouraged Shia militants in Afghanistan. Al-Zawahiri is also said to have received ten million dollars from Iran to counter the Egyptian government. ■

Iran is moving towards becoming a nuclear power

According to **Sahafat** (February 12), the world's nuclear organisation International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that Iran has met the goal of uranium production and the development of nuclear weapons is going at full throttle at secret nuclear bases in Isfahan. In this context, nuclear fuel in Tehran's nuclear reactor is being prepared according to the policy laid down. According to the World Atomic Organisation, uranium metal plates have been prepared in the secret bases of Isfahan. Qazim Garibabadi, Iran's permanent representative to the IAEA headquartered Vienna, has confirmed that Iran has started producing nuclear fuels. Iran's nuclear policy will be in three phases. In the first phase, uranium metal will be prepared from uranium. He said that they

have informed the IAEA about their nuclear program and they will soon join the major countries of the world producing nuclear fuel.

According to **Inquilab** (February 13), Russia and France have warned Iran of violating the ban imposed on it for the development of nuclear power and said it would further increase tensions in the world. The spokesperson of the French State Department said that they demand Iran not to take any step towards the development of its nuclear power which would worsen the situation. France pointed out that Iran has already made the situation worse due to the violation of the Vienna Treaty. Russia has said that Iran should act with caution in this context so that further complications do not arise. ■

Saudi government arrests Islamic scholars



According to **Inqilab** (February 17), the Saudi government has arrested world-renowned Islamic scholar Ayesha al-Muhajiri. She is accused of teaching and preaching the Quran in her home. According to the Saudi Intelligence Department, the 65-year-old female scholar has been arrested along with two other women. Both of them are around 80 years of age and are counted among the renowned Islamic scholars of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government has announced that anyone who questions the arrest of these

women or asks about the charges levelled against them will also be jailed. These women are kept in a prison near Jeddah.

A section of Muslim scholars have been opposing the liberal policies adopted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the last few years. Hundreds of protesting Islamic scholars have been arrested and jailed. These include prominent scholars such as Aid al-Qurani, Ali al-Omari, Saffar al-Hawali, Umar al-Mukabil and Salman al-Ouda. ■

Maharashtra govt to give salaries to Imams of Mosques

According to **Hamara Samaj** (February 22), All India Imam Organisation has been campaigning for provision of salaries to Imams and other staff of mosques across the country for the last several years. According to the information received, at present, there are seven states in the country where the Imams and other staff of mosques are paid salaries every month from government treasuries. These states include Delhi, Telangana, West Bengal,

Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Recently a delegation of Imams met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar under the leadership of MLA Abu Asim Azmi. The delegation presented a copy of the Supreme Court directive to Pawar recommending that the government pay monthly salaries to the Imams and other employees of the mosque. Ajit Pawar told this delegation that if other state governments are paying salaries to the



Imams, then Maharashtra too will not lag behind. He said that he would soon take a decision in this regard, and would decide on how much salary should be given to the

Imams and other staff of mosques from government treasuries, after consultations with the State Finance Secretary and the Secretary of Minority Affairs. ■

Mosque officials sued for embezzlement

According to **Roznama Sahara** (February 12), a case of embezzlement of Rs 45 lakhs has come to light in the mosque Fazal Rahmania, located in Balrampur district. In this context, a case has been registered against madrasa's former manager Shabbir Hussain and six other persons. The case has been filed on the report of the madrasa's current manager, Mohammed Ahmad Al Qadri. The allegation is that the former manager, during his tenure, embezzled Rs 45 lakh from the amount of aid given to the madrasa from the government. According to the complaint, during 2018-19 and 2019-20, the madrasa received Rs 48 lakhs in the form of donations and grants. Instead of depositing the money in the account of the madrasa, the manager embezzled the funds and claimed that it had been spent on various works related to the madrasa. But despite repeated demands, the manager neither offered any details of these expenses nor showed any receipts to prove his claims. On investigation of the charge by the Balrampur police chief, merit was

found in it, after which the police filed a case in this regard. The newspaper has claimed that the two factions of this madrasa have been in conflict for a long time. Earlier, madrasa's former manager Shabbir Hussain also lodged a complaint in Kotwali, Ayodhya on September 4, 2020, that the head of the managing committee of the madrasa, Mohammad Ahmad Qadri is also in the managing committees of madrasa Fazal Rahmania, madrasa Jamia as well as he is posted as the Headmaster of Ayesha Siddique Women's College. Therefore, according to law, no government employee can be part of any managing committee. Shabbir Hussain has also alleged that Mohammed Al Qadri, along with his colleagues, forcibly captured the madrasa and removed Shabbir Hussain from the post of manager on May 30, 2020, in a staged meeting of the managing committee. District Magistrate has said that investigations are being done in this regard too. ■

Ajmer Urs gets over



According to **Inquilab** (February 23), the Urs on 809th death anniversary of world-famous Sufi poet Syed Moinuddin Chishti has ended after a week of celebrations. On this occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and many Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of the States had sent *Chadars* as offerings to the tomb. On behalf of the Prime Minister, Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi laid a *chadar* on the tomb. Naqvi said that tolerance and harmony are in the DNA of India and no one can malign and destroy this glorious

heritage of the country. In his message, festival is a beautiful example of social unity and brotherhood. The harmonious coexistence of various religions, sects and beliefs associated with them is a magnificent legacy of our country. Various saints, *pirs* and *fakirs* of our country have played an important role in preserving and strengthening this heritage. Their eternal messages of peace and goodwill have always enriched our social and cultural heritage. The Prime Minister further stated in his message that Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, who made an indelible mark in society through his Sufiteachings symbolises our great spiritual traditions. The values and ideas that he imparted to encourage the spirit of love, unity, service and goodwill will always inspire humanity. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi also inaugurated the guest house located in the dargah complex on the occasion. On behalf of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, Congress Minority Cell President Nadeem Javed presented the *chadar*.

Wasim Rizvi under investigation

According to **Inquilab** (February 16), the government agencies have begun to clamp down on Wasim Rizvi, former chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board. The CBI has already launched an investigation against him. Now the Enforcement Directorate is also filing a case of money laundering against him. He is accused of a huge scam



in the purchase and sale of assets of the Shia Waqf Board. A case against Wasim Rizvi is already registered in Lucknow and another one is registered in Prayagraj. During the Samajwadi Party's reign, he began to face serious allegations. But the then minister Azam Khan kept him safe. These days, Wasim Rizvi is very active in the construction of Ram temple.

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