

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

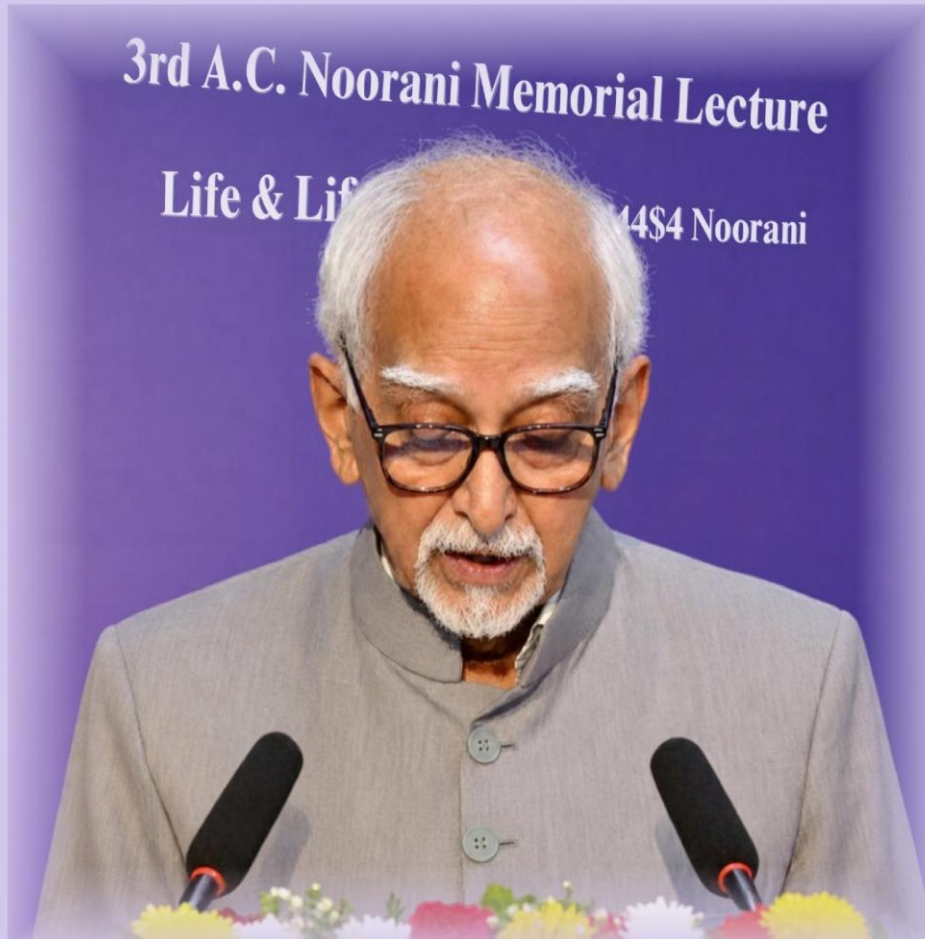
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Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari Embroided in Controversy Again



- Legal net tightens around Popular Front leaders
- War rages between Houthis rebels and Saudi Arabia
- Sri Lanka court gives life sentence to Jihadis for killing Christians
- Muslim Personal Law Board suspends Shariah Bachao Andolan

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Summary

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari is well known for his radical views. Recently, while addressing a programme organised in memory of Islamic thinker Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, he claimed that the real threat to the country is not from communism, but from Hindu right-wing communalism. BJP leaders have sharply criticised this statement of Ansari.

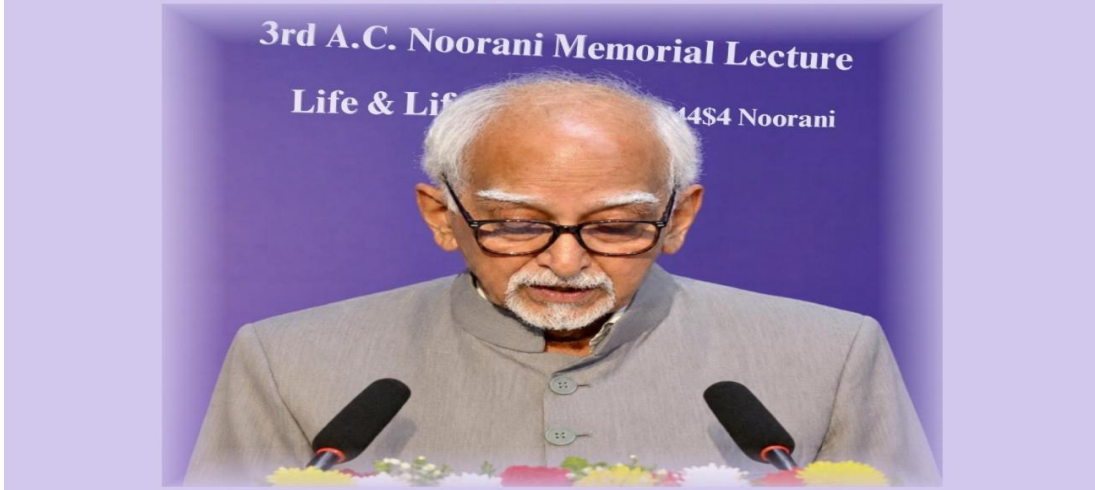
It is worth mentioning that a few years ago, some retired officials of India's intelligence agency 'RAW' wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that when Hamid Ansari was India's Ambassador to Iran, he had leaked secret information about the RAW's network in Iran to the Iranian government, for which many RAW officers working there had to suffer a lot. Similarly, a prominent journalist of Pakistan, Nusrat Mirza, revealed that he had visited India several times on the invitation of the then Vice-President Hamid Ansari and visited several sensitive locations in the country, and whatever information he had collected from India, he shared it with Pakistan's intelligence agency 'ISI.' Similarly, there is a long list of controversies involving Hamid Ansari.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board had announced the starting of an agitation from Delhi on September 17. However, the board has now suspended this agitation stating that the Delhi Police has refused to grant permission for them to protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. However, the Urdu newspapers have alleged that the self-appointed Muslim organisation, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, has entered into some secret understanding with the government, and hence they cited this pretext to postpone the agitation.

Recently, the high court of Sri Lanka has delivered a historic verdict sentencing 15 accused belonging to Islamic terrorist organisation 'National Thowheeth Jamaat' from 200 years to 260 years of rigorous imprisonment. They were accused of carrying out suicide attacks at three churches and a few hotels in Colombo during the festival of Christians, Easter in the year 2019. More than 270 people were killed in these attacks, which included several Indians as well.

Iran-supported Houthi rebels have inflicted heavy damages to the oil trade of Saudi Arabia by blocking the Red Sea. This apart, they also targeted Saudi Arabia's holy cities Mecca and Medina using missiles and drones. In this connection, though the Saudi government sought help from the US President Donald Trump, he refused to provide any direct military help in this matter. Saudi Arabia also had the hope that under the recent defence agreement signed with Pakistan and Turkiye, the two countries would extend it military help, but they were also not keen to intervene militarily in this issue. A disappointed Saudi Arabia has now sought defence assistance from China and Israel.

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari embroiled in controversy again



Former Vice President of the country, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, has a penchant for controversies. A fresh statement by him recently has kicked up a major controversy again.

Aurangabad Times (September 21) reports that while addressing the 'A G Noorani Memorial Lecture' organised at India Islamic Cultural Centre in New Delhi, Hamid Ansari has referred to a book 'The RSS: A Menace to India,' written by late Muslim thinker Abdul Ghafoor Noorani in 2019. He said that in the preface to the book, Noorani had highlighted a statement by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. It has been claimed in the book that Nehru had said at a meeting of foreign ministry officials that the "real danger of Bharat is not from communism, but from right-wing Hindu communalism." Hamid Ansari said this statement of Nehru reflects the sentiments of most Muslims of the country towards the RSS even today.

In his address, Ansari expressed concern over the changing attitude towards nationalism and politics. He said that in recent years, 'cultural nationalism' is being promoted by sidelining the established principles of 'civic nationalism'.

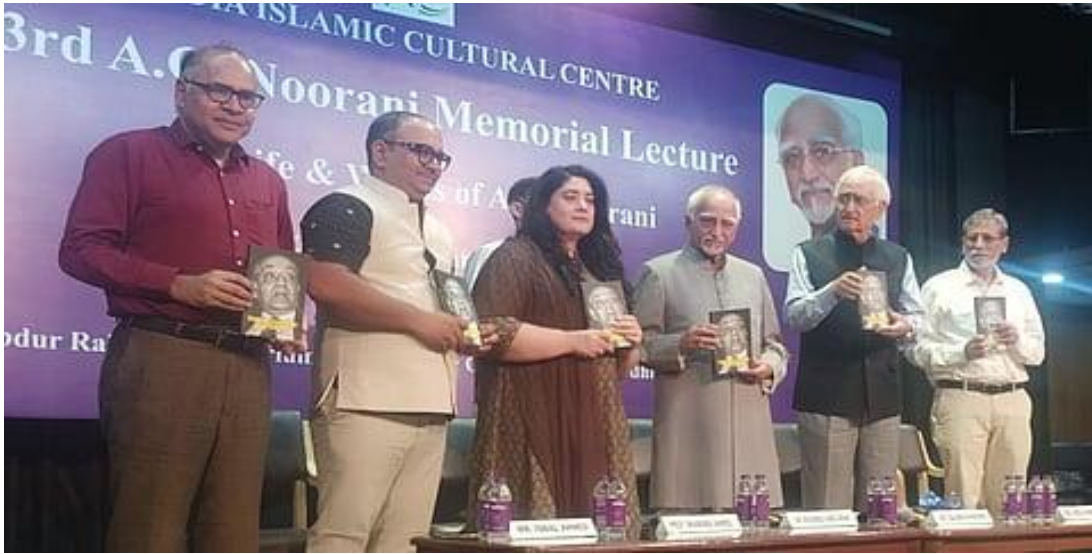
He alleged that the RSS is trying to win elections and establish monopoly

through this ideology, due to which the atmosphere of division, intolerance and insecurity on religious grounds is increasing among the citizens.

Strongly rebutting this statement, the BJP said this comment by Hamid Ansari exposes the anti-Hindu politics of Congress and their agenda.

Hindustan Express (September 22) states that commenting on the statement of Hamid Ansari, the BJP has accused Congress of gradually shifting towards leftist ideology. National spokesperson of BJP Sudhanshu Trivedi said today the entire Congress has moved towards the extreme left. He quipped that Hamid Ansari's statement has accomplished three important things, for which he deserves congratulations. First, he has completely exposed that today's Congress has become 'Muslim League-Maoist Congress.' Second, he disclosed the historical fact that even during the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, communism was considered a threat to the country, whereas on the contrary, today's Congress has abandoned its old ideology and Rahul Gandhi is stuck in this ideology of communism.

Third, Hamid Ansari himself has brought to fore Nehru's thinking, which proves that whatever opposition leader



Rahul Gandhi says today about Hindus or Hindu nationalism inside and outside the Parliament, its story is buried in the pages of his own family, clan and Nehruvian history.

Targeting Rahul Gandhi, Sudhanshu Trivedi said that today's Congress is sitting on the lap of those communists, who were described as a threat to the nation by their own ancestors. He reminded that Rahul Gandhi has recently issued a certificate of 'secularism' to the Muslim League founded by Mohammad Ali Jinnah from a foreign land. Now in Kerala, with the help of the same Muslim League, Congress is promoting its politics and promoting Maoist and separatist ideology in the country.

Urdu Times (September 21) states that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has described the comments of former Vice President Hamid Ansari as unfortunate and dangerous. He alleged that such a comment has been made to tarnish the image of Bharat before the world and to insult the Sanatan tradition and Hindu culture. Mentioning about the statement of Ansari at a programme organised at a university in Greater Noida, Chief Minister Yogi said that when an individual holds a high Constitutional post like that of the Vice President, he is expected to behave in a manner befitting the dignity of his position. He is also expected to promote the

unity and integrity of the country while upholding the Indian Constitution.

Yogi said that it is very objectionable that Hamid Ansari has tried to describe Hindu tradition as real threat to the country. Taking a swipe, he said those who consider insulting Bharat, Bharatiyata and Hindutva as their sole aim can never understand the great concept and basic spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

It is to be noted that former Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari's personality remains controversial. In 2022, a renowned journalist of Pakistan, Nusrat Mirza, made this startling revelation that he had visited Bharat several times on Ansari's invitation. He claimed that whatever sensitive information he had obtained from there, he had shared them with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. As per media reports, Nusrat Mirza visited India several times between 2005 and 2011. In an interview, he clearly revealed that it was the then Vice President Hamid Ansari who had invited him to take part in a seminar organised in Delhi in 2010. Later in 2011, he had again visited India and met the publisher of 'Milli Gazette' Zafarul Islam Khan.

Nusrat Mirza also claimed that Pakistan's foreign ministry had extended special facilities for him for his visit to India. In general, any Pakistani is given permission to visit only three cities of

India, but he had been given the permission to visit five cities. He admitted that the Pakistan's foreign ministry sent him to India with the sole purpose of gathering highly sensitive information.

Earlier, the former chief of RAW, N K Sood, had also raised a very serious allegation against Hamid Ansari. In a tweet in 2019, he had claimed, "When I was serving in Tehran (Iran), Ansari was serving there as India's Ambassador. He leaked the information regarding the Indian spies active there to the Iran government, due to which the lives of all these RAW employees landed in grave danger. Due to his action, the entire network of Indian agents deployed in Iran got into disarray."

Background: Hamid Ansari is generally considered as a radical Muslim. He was born in Kolkata in 1937 and he was educated at Aligarh Muslim University. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1961 and he served as Indian Ambassador to more than a dozen countries. In 1984, he was honoured with a 'Padma Sri.' In 2007, the Congress made him the Vice-Presidential candidate and he won. In 2012, he got his tenure extended by another five years. During his farewell function as the Vice President and during the final days of his term, he created a sensation claiming that a sense of insecurity has been spreading among Muslims in the country.

In 2017, a few former officials of India's intelligence agency 'RAW' wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and made this serious allegation that when Ansari was India's Ambassador to Iran, he had leaked information regarding a secret operation of RAW to the Iran government. Taking action on this, the Iran government arrested several RAW officials active there, among which Sandeep Kapoor's name was prominent. When India's external affairs ministry sought information about Sandeep Kapoor from Hamid Ansari, he filed a false



report with Indian government stating that Kapoor was missing, though he knew it very well that Sandeep Kapoor was in the custody of Iran government. The officials also alleged that RAW had received a secret information that Kashmiri youths were being given secret training in handling weapons at an Iranian city named Qom. Ansari had leaked this important information also to the Iranian government.

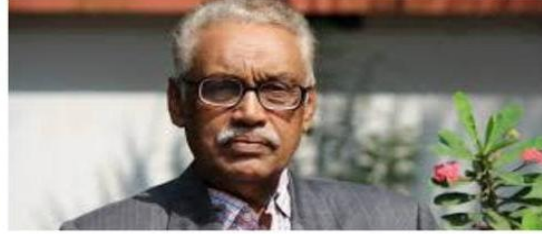
On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations on December 11, 2014 had declared June 21 as 'International Yoga Day.' In 2015, when the Indian government celebrated the first Yoga Day, Vice President Hamid Ansari was missing from the main official function. The media had also highlighted the issue of Hamid Ansari not saluting the national flag at the Republic Day Parade that year. When a man named Akhlaq was lynched to death by a mob at Dadri in Greater Noida, then also Ansari had alleged that Muslims are not safe in Bharat.

A few years ago, when National Anthem was made mandatory in cinema halls before the starting of the screening of films on the orders of the Supreme Court, Ansari made a comment that he would not accept it. In 2018, when a controversy erupted over installing the photo of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah at Aligarh Muslim University, Ansari had openly supported keeping Jinnah's photo at the university. This year, he had also supported the idea of All India Muslim

Personal Law Board to establish Shariah courts in every district in the country. Addressing the golden jubilee function of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat,

Ansari complained that the Muslims in the country are not getting justice from Modi government and they are being deliberately deprived of development programmes.

Legal net tightens around Popular Front leaders



Mumbai Urdu News (September 23) states that several prominent leaders of banned Islamic extremist organisation, Popular Front of India (PFI), are still lodged in jails. It is to be noted that the Union Home Ministry on September 28, 2022, had imposed a ban on PFI and its eight affiliated organisations under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, for a period of five years. The organisations which were banned included Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imam Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation (Kerala).

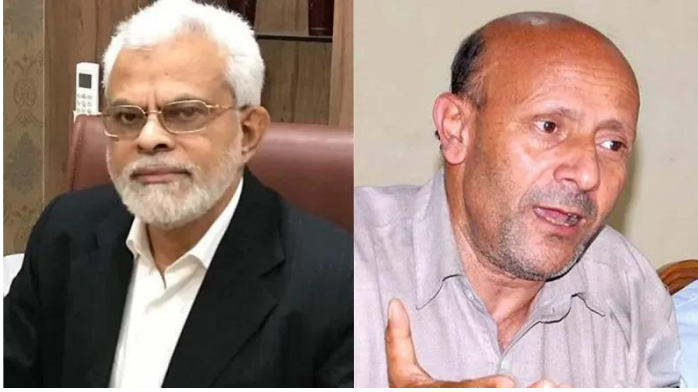
Earlier on September 22, 2022, the National Investigation Agency carried out a massive raid in several parts of the country and arrested several leaders and workers belonging to PFI. Those who were arrested included former chief of PFI and founder of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) E Aboobackar, general secretary of National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation and journalist Prof P Koya, former national president of PFI, O M A Salam, and former national vice-president

E M Abdul Rahman. Since then, several prominent leaders of PFI and its associated organisations are behind bars.

In July 2026, the Special NIA Court set up at the Patiala House Court in Delhi had framed charges against the banned PFI and its 20 leaders. Special judge Prashant Sharma said there is enough evidence to run the case against the accused. However, all the accused denied the charges framed against them. These PFI leaders are accused of serious charges like waging war against the Indian government, raise funds for terrorist organisations, conspiring for terrorist activities and running camps for training in weapons.

In a social media post, son of E Aboobackar, Amal Tahsin, claimed that all these leaders have been suffering from serious illnesses for years, but despite that they were not released on bail. On the other hand, independent MP from Baramulla, Engineer Rashid also appealed to the MPs to raise their voice for the unconditional release of E Aboobackar, citing his health and age.

In his newspaper, Engineer Rashid had written that 75-year-old Aboobackar is suffering from Parkinsons and he had



undergone cancer surgery. According to Rashid, his health has deteriorated to the extent that he finds it difficult to eat, speak, hear and write. Rashid appealed to MPs that they raise the issue of the release of Aboobackar on humanitarian ground and they contact Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in this connection.

Background: The PFI was officially founded on February 17, 2007. This organisation was created after the merger of three extremist Muslim organisations of South India, which included Kerala's National Development Front, Karnataka Forum for Dignity and Tamil Nadu's Manita Neeti Pasrai. The PFI began rapidly expanding when Islamic terrorist organisation Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) was banned, because the members associated with SIMI started joining this organisation.

In the year 2009, SDPI was founded as the political wing of PFI. Slowly, the roots of PFI spread to 17 states in the country. As per the investigation reports of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the NIA, the goal of PFI as part of its 'Vision 1947' is to establish an Islamic nation. In this connection, the investigating agencies had seized several suspicious documents during the raids. This apart, more than 1,300 criminal cases were registered against PFI and those associated with the

activists who were found involved in violence, political murders, illegal activities and terrorism.

In 2010, PFI members cut off the hands of Professor T J Joseph in Kerala because he allegedly insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad in a college question paper. In the year 2015, a court sentenced 13 members of PFI after they were found guilty of this

murderous attack on Professor Joseph. The NIA had submitted a detailed report to the Union Home Ministry in 2017, in which it had been revealed that PFI had become a major threat to the internal security and an immediate ban shall be imposed on it. The investigating agencies also alleged that the PFI has been using a centre named as 'Satya Sarani' to carry out forcible religious conversions on a largescale.

In 2019, a protest march taken out against Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAA) in Mangaluru had turned violent, and the police had to open fire to control the situation, resulting in the death of two persons. That time, the Karnataka Police had got evidence against PFI and its political arm SDPI for spreading misleading content on social media, because of which the agitation turned violent. Looking at the activities of the PFI, the then BJP government in Karnataka recommended to the Centre to ban this organisation. Similarly, in 2020, gold worth Rs 15 crore was seized at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. It was revealed in an investigation conducted by the NIA and ED that a major portion of the illegal income generated through the smuggling of gold is being used to promote anti-national and terrorist activities and PFI members were part of this entire network.



Muslim Personal Law Board suspends Save Shariah campaign



Aurangabad Times (September 17) states that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has announced its decision to suspend its protest march to be organised in New Delhi. In a statement, Board spokesperson Syed Qasim Rasool Illyas said he had sought permission from the Delhi Police three times and had even assured that the number of protesters would be limited. Despite this, the police refused to grant permission for the protest. This is the reason why the Board has decided to stop the agitation for the time being.

It is to be noted that the Muslim Personal Law Board, with the cooperation of other Muslim organisations, had announced a nationwide agitation against the violation of Constitutional rights of Muslims, the so-called conspiracy to erase their separate identity, demolition of masjids, mazars and dargahs and indiscriminate arrests of Muslim youths in fake cases. The day after the board's announcement, some Muslim leaders, at a conference held at the India Islamic Cultural Centre, also announced the formation of a 51-member National Monitoring Committee to protect the rights of Muslims and raise awareness about their oppression.

Aurangabad Times (September 23) states that Muslim activists, intellectuals and women's rights organisations in

Mumbai strongly opposed the 'Save Shariah' campaign organised at the national level by All India Muslim Personal Law Board. They say that this campaign would increase the political and communal divide in the country. This joint statement was mainly issued by Javed Anand of Indian Muslim for Secular Democracy, Zakia Soman of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan and Shamsuddin Tamboli of Muslim Satyashodak Mandal. Those who signed on this joint statement include several educationists, writers and journalists include film actor Naseeruddin Shah, Dr Zinat Shoukat Ali, Sultan Shahin, Teesta Setalvad, Ram Puniyani, Tushar Gandhi, Amol Palekar, Mallika Sarabhai, Ratna Pathak Shah.

In an article published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (September 22), the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has been accused of staging a drama. The writer claimed that the Muslim leadership in India has been wiped out. Now in this country, the Muslims neither have the courage nor the strength to speak about themselves or to raise voice for their rights. It is to the extent that even the government does not allow it. In this era of hatred and oppression, the government has made life difficult for Muslims.

There is a competition between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar



Pradash Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on who will do more atrocities against Muslims. It is going on like a spectacle, where the magician is showing the monkey dance, and the spectators are enjoying it.

Today the country is passing through such a difficult time where no one is allowed to speak their mind or raise their problems. History is witness that there was no such period in the country since independence till now when Muslims are allowed not even to open their mouth. Today, oppression and tyranny are at their peak.

On one hand, the atmosphere of hatred is continuously increasing, while on the other, the merchants of hatred have snatched away the right of Muslims to live in this country.

The saddest thing is that in such a critical time, the Muslim Personal Law Board is also busy appeasing the government. This is the reason why it is rapidly losing its hold on Muslims. Now their sole purpose is to become a star in the eyes of the government and to protect their personal interests. The newspaper said that the Board had announced massive nationwide protest marches from September 17 for three months, but at the last moment, they postponed their entire movement on the pretext that the police did not give permission for the demonstration.

It has been said in the article that the Muslim Personal Law Board has cleverly washed its hands off the matter and has placed the entire responsibility for stopping

the agitation on the police. Can anybody think that today's police and administration will easily grant us permission to carry out any protest march? The truth is that had the Board been truly active and serious, the dire situation of Muslims in the country today would never have happened.

Today, countless mosques in the country have been demolished with bulldozers and countless madrasas have been

forcibly closed. The situation is such that no Muslim is feeling safe today, but all the big leaders of the board are sitting with their mouths shut.

Now, Assembly elections are set to take place in Uttar Pradesh, due to which another new way has opened up to defame Muslims.

Now the ordinary Muslim need to think whether they should sell their lives and future to such organizations, or instead use their own strength.

Unless the Muslims in the country get united and come out on the streets, organisations like Muslim Personal Law Board will continue to hold drama like this.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 21) has strongly criticised the decision by Muslim Personal Law Board to suspend the agitation. The newspaper said that protests are never carried out with the help of government permission or crutches, but movements are always carried out with determination and resolve.

The newspaper flayed the manner in which Muslim Personal Law Board, the self-appointed body of Muslims in the country, first made big announcements about starting a movement across the country and later backtracked from it saying that the police had not given permission. The newspaper asked whether it has now become necessary to take permission from the government itself to start a movement against the government. The newspaper sarcastically said that the condition of the board has now become like

that of a child who cries at first and then sits quietly as soon as he gets a lollipop in his hand.

The newspaper says that if the Muslims in the country wait for government permission, then an agitation like Shaheen Bagh would not have taken place. Did the Cockroach Janta Party, which protested at Jantar Mantar, wait for police permission? In any case all self-

appointed Muslim organisations including the Muslim Personal Law Board have been bowing their heads before the orders of the courts and the governments ever since 1992. In a way, these Muslim organizations have given the government a free hand to oppress Muslims. It is a shameful thing that today's Muslim leadership is limited to mere empty rhetoric, condemnation resolutions and press conferences.

Row over Shahi Masjid in Ujjain



Aurangabad Times (September 29) reports that a huge ruckus and stone-pelting took place during a protest against the removal of a portion of Shahi Masjid located in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. In order to control the mob, the police resorted to lathi-charge and also fired teargas shells. The police arrested 15 people on charges of disturbing communal harmony and inciting violence, while four YouTubers were also detained on charges of circulating misleading and provocative videos.

Inquilab (October 2) states that during the removal of the façade of this mosque in Ujjain, the crane belt suddenly broke, causing a portion of the main minaret to collapse, damaging the dome and roof of the mosque.

Following this unexpected incident, tension prevailed in the area, prompting

police to tighten security in a two-kilometre area around the mosque and impose restrictions on movement. According to official sources, in view of the Simhastha Kumbh Mela to be organised in Ujjain in the year 2028, the nearly 900-metre long road from Gopal Mandir Marg to Kandhal Square is being widened by 15 metres.

Due to this beautification project of the road, a total of 272 construction structures and houses would be removed, which included more than 80 religious places. Nearly a six feet portion of Shahi Masjid also falls within this project. However, following mutual talks between the Masjid management committee and the administration, a written agreement was signed at the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court. Under this agreement, the Muslim side agreed to remove that portion of the masjid on their own. Earlier,

the high court has rejected the petition filed by the management committee to stop the project.

Munsif (September 28) states that people belonging to the local Muslim community have been camping there for the past two weeks to stop the demolition of a portion of the masjid. The imam and the management committee of the masjid claim that this masjid is nearly 636 years old, while the administration considers it as 100 years old.



Urdu Times (October 2) reports that Muslims took out a massive rally at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi against the demolition of masjids and mazars in different parts of the country. On this occasion, the police took into custody several Muslim leaders who took part in the protests including Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan, MP Ziaur Rahman Barq, MP Mohibullah Naqvi and the vice-president of Jamaat-e-Islami Malik Motasim Khan.

Mumbai Urdu News (October 1) states that the chairman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani issued a statement thanking the efforts of Muslims of Ujjain, especially burqa-clad women to save the masjid.

Hamara Samaj (September 26) states that the chairman of Jamiat Ulema Mahmood Madani said that the current dictatorial government is overthrowing the Constitution and hell bent on wiping out the religious places of Muslims. In view of this, they will soon meet the President and seek her intervention in the matter.

Etemaad (September 30) in its editorial has condemned the demolition of a portion of the historical Shahi Masjid in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh in the name of beautification of the road. The newspaper wrote that the process of occupation and demolition of mosques that began after the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya is gaining momentum day by day.

Hindustan (October 1) alleged that the government is wiping out the religious

places of Muslims under the pretext of development. It looks like today's ruling party is hell bent on destroying the existence of Muslims and Islam by deliberately demolishing their masjids, maqbaras and dargahs.

Hamara Samaj (September 17) alleged that the current government, because of its blind hatred towards Muslims, demolished hundreds of masjids, dargahs and madarsas from the year 2014 to 2016. In this connection, more than 1,000 incidents have taken place so far. In the past 45 days, more than 43 masjids were demolished in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal. This action is part of an anti-Muslim strategy. The guiding light of the ruling party namely the RSS is committed to making Bharat a Hindu Rashtra. In Assam and Uttar Pradesh, more than 500 madrasas have been either sealed or demolished till now.

Urdu Times (September 29) in its editorial alleged that the venom that the BJP has unleashed against Muslims after coming to power has now spread so much that mobs kill Muslims in public.

After the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, the communal elements in the country has got a way to demolish the masjids. Ever since the BJP came to power, not a single day has passed without masjids, dargahs and mazars are targeted. Looking at the present circumstances, it looks like that even the law and the Constitution have come under the control of the ruling party. This is the reason why Muslims have lost

their trust in the justice system of the country.

Munsif (September 29) in its editorial stated that several religious structures have been removed for the road widening work being undertaken in Ujjain for the forthcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela. The Shahi Masjid managing committee has recommended to the administration that the road shall be

diverted via a nearby park, but the administration rejected this proposal. The newspaper alleged that the current ruling party is not ready to accept the places of worship of Muslims, their dress, food, Waqf and religious congregations. It is clear from this incident in Ujjain that today's dictatorial government want to crush the religious sentiments of Muslims at any cost.

Controversy continues over national song Vande Mataram



Inquilab (October 2) states that the former president of All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation V D Borkar has challenged the decision of the Central government to make it mandatory to sing all the six stanzas of the National Song Vande Mataram before the Supreme Court. Borkar said that this decision of the Central government is in contravention of secularism and a violation of the fundamental rights of those citizens who do not follow Hindu religion. He further said that Anandmath is a novel filled with anti-Muslim violence and hate writing. In this, all the six stanzas of Vande Mataram are presented as a song for civil war. This is the reason why leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore had an objection towards the singing of all the six stanzas of it. Later a decision was taken to sing only two stanzas of the song.

It is to be noted that famous singer of Carnatic music, T M Krishna, has also filed

a petition in the Supreme Court against making the singing of all six stanzas of Vande Mataram mandatory and granting same legal protection to it as National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana.' During the hearing of this petition, the court said those who do not want to sing Vande Mataram due to religious or other reasons, should not be given punishment.

It is to be noted that the Parliament has recently passed the 'Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026,' for which President Droupadi Murmu had granted her assent on August 6, 2026, following which it became a law. Under this amended law, if any individual deliberately stops the singing of national song Vande Mataram, he will be awarded a jail term of upto three years apart from fine. In his petition, T M Krishna has raised objection to the last four stanzas of Vande Mataram, because it worships Hindu deities Durga and Lakshmi. Krishna's argument is



that forcing to sing these stanzas in a multi-religious nation is not in tune with the religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution and the secular structure of the country, hence no such individual could be forced to sing this whose religious belief does not permit it.

During the hearing of this petition, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the Supreme Court not to issue any notice to the Central government in this connection, because this sensitive matter may be unnecessarily sensationalised. He said only the government should decide whether to sing only two stanzas or all six stanzas. On the other hand, the lawyer of T M Krishna, S Murlidhar, argued that before finalising such a sensitive law, the government should have taken the opinion of the people. On this, Justice Joymalya Bagchi said this argument should be considered.

In this connection, the court also mentioned about the principles laid down in the case of 'Bijoe Emmanuel Vs State of Kerala' of year 1986. In this case, three students did not sing the National Anthem as per their religious belief, but they stood up in its honour. The Supreme Court, while quashing the punitive action taken against them by the government, said that no one can be punished merely on the basis of not singing the national anthem or the national song, unless he has insulted it.

Inquilab (September 27) reports that a seminar was organised in Chandigarh by Sri Guru Singh Sabha, All India Peace Mission and Indian Muslims for Civil Rights on Vande Mataram. In this seminar,

thinkers, jurists and religious and social leaders from different parts of the country took part. It was presided over by the retired chief justice of Patna High Court Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari. Meanwhile, the president of Indian Muslims for Civil Rights, Muhammad Adib, from Delhi took part as a special guest.

President of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Prof Sham Singh, said that a sense of anxiety has spread among the minorities after Vande Mataram got equal Constitutional status as that of National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana.' Bharat is a multi-religious country, hence the beliefs of any religion should not be imposed on people of other religions. General Secretary of this organisation Dr Khushal Singh said that due to the political dominance of people belonging to majority community, a sense of insecurity has risen among Sikhs and Muslims, hence it is necessary that special efforts should be made to protect the religious and civil rights granted to these classes in the Constitution.

Muhammad Adib said that after Independence Muslims living in India have played an active role in the democratic and secular system of the country. Muslims had always opposed the portion of Vande Mataram, which is related to the worship of devi-devatas.

Justice Iqbal Ahmad Ansari said that Vande Mataram and Anand Math were controversial right from the beginning. As per Constitution, Bharat is a secular nation, hence no citizen can be forced to sing any song against his religious beliefs.

Life-term to jihadis accused of killing Christians in Sri Lanka



Urdu Times (September 24) states that a special high court bench in Sri Lanka has delivered a historic verdict sentencing 15 accused to 200 to 260 years' rigorous imprisonment on charges of conspiring and aiding terrorists to carry out serial suicide bomb blasts during Easter, the holy religious festival of Christians. This apart, the court also ordered that the entire property of the accused shall be confiscated. It is to be noted that on the occasion of Easter on April 21, 2019, suicide attackers belonging to a local terrorist organisation linked to Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS, National Thowheeth Jamaat, targeted three Catholic churches and three hotels in Colombo and carried out serial blasts. In these blasts, 270 innocent people lost their lives, including 45 foreign citizens and 11 Indians. This apart, more than 500 people were seriously injured in this terrorist attack. The hearing in this case has been going on before a special bench of three judges in the Sri Lanka High Court for the past five years.

The special high court bench in Colombo has found 15 out of the total 24 accused as guilty, while nine have been acquitted. The main ringleader of this entire

gang is Mohammad Naufar alias Naufar Maulavi.

According to the investigation, he had links to Zahran Hashim—the ringleader of local suicide bombers who was inspired by the ideology of the notorious Islamic terrorist organization, ISIS. It is to be noted that Zahran Hashim was among the main suicide attackers who, on Easter, blew himself up with explosives at a hotel in Colombo. Earlier, the same court in Sri Lanka had awarded death sentence to two former senior officials (former defence secretary and former director general of police) for gross negligence in security and not taking appropriate action despite receiving intelligence information.

It had also been alleged in the court that the intelligence sources had given prior information regarding the blasts to the government, but the then President Maitripala Sirisena and the then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe did to take any prompt action, nor gave stringent directions to the officials concerned. This case has become the most discussed in the politics of Sri Lanka, due to which the then President Maitripala Sirisena's party had to abdicate power.

Ban on burqa and naqab in schools in Italy



Siasat (September 21) reports that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had announced that her government had decided to impose a complete ban on burqa and naqab in schools across the country. This apart, a historical decision has been taken to limit the number of foreign origin students having limited knowledge of Italian language to a maximum of 30 percent in classes in schools. The government has also made it mandatory that the parents of those students who are finding it difficult to mingle and learn languages in school, will have to mandatorily attend free Italian language classes.

Prime Minister Meloni made this announcement while addressing a meeting

of the youth wing of her political party 'Brothers of Italy.' She clarified that every individual who stays in Italy needs to learn the language of the country and must respect the culture and laws so that they can better integrate into Italian society. She emphasised that all the girl and boy students who study in schools should arrive with their faces uncovered and no one would be allowed to hide their faces in the name of tradition.

Under this new law, the parents of those boy-girl students who violate this law would be imposed a penalty of 200 to 1,000 Euros. As per the data of Italy's education ministry, nearly 12 per cent of the total number of students enrolled in schools are of foreign origin.

Myanmar military carries out air strike on Rohingyas

Inquilab (September 20) states that Myanmar's air force carried out a massive air strike in a town of Rohingya majority province of Rakhine. At least 50 people were killed in this attack and nearly 100 people were seriously injured. Local rebel organisation Aarakan Army has confirmed this attack. According to the newspaper, a civil war is raging across the country following the military coup that took place in Myanmar in 2021. The rebel groups and

ethnic armed organisations have been fighting a war with Myanmar army for years now. A spokesperson of Myanmar army claimed that the military operation has been undertaken to maintain law and order in the regions under the control of rebels.

It is to be noted that recently, the air force of Myanmar attacked a hospital located in this region as well, in which at least 33 people were killed. The Aarakan



Army alleged that the Myanmar army deliberately targeted this hospital, where both the patients and doctors died. On the other hand, the Myanmar army claimed that they attacked a secret hideout of the Aarakan Army, which was being run from hospital premises.

Hindustan Express (September 25) states that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, while addressing a high-level session on the sidelines of the United Nations Assembly, highlighted the issue of Rohingya refugees on the global stage. In order to find a permanent solution to this problem, he urged the international community to adopt a humanitarian approach and extend cooperation. Prime Minister Rahman presented a five-point action plan to end the crisis of displaced Rohingyas. Special emphasis has been laid on developing a clear and credible road map for the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar in

this plan. He said it is the responsibility of the world nations to exert strong pressure on Myanmar government for the basic rights, security guarantee and the return of the Rohingyas.

In his address, Rahman said there is a lack of necessary funds at the international level to provide humanitarian aid to the more than 18 lakh Rohingyas who have taken refuge in

Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh has provided shelter to these refugees for more than nine years and they are being provided food and other facilities. He admitted that there is a security challenge in Bangladesh due to them, which included human trafficking and smuggling of contraband. He warned that if no immediate solution is found for this problem, it would create an explosive situation in several countries in South-East Asian nations.

The meeting was jointly organised by Bangladesh and Gambia, in which representatives from 60 countries took part. The representative from Gambia said that the Rohingya issue started in Myanmar and the Myanmar government is fully responsible for the same. Due to the campaign unleashed by the Myanmar army and the Aarakan Army against the citizens of own country, lakhs of Rohingya Muslims got displaced and had to take refuge in different countries of the world.

Fierce battle between Pakistan and Afghanistan

Avadhnama (September 22) states that due to the ongoing standoff between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the border, tension has now reached a peak, leading to heavy firing and clashes between the two countries in the border areas. Contradictory claims are being made by both the sides regarding the number of people killed in these attacks. The Afghanistan government alleges that the Pakistani air force violated

its airspace and carried out airstrikes within its territory in which several ordinary citizens lost their lives. On the other hand, the Pakistani military spokesperson, while rejecting these claims, said their fighter planes had targeted only the terrorist bases active in Afghanistan. During this operation, the Pakistani air force had targeted border regions like Kunar, Nuristan, Paktia and Paktika.

Pakistan's claim is that more than 28 terrorists were killed in these precision strikes. On the other hand, the chief spokesperson of Afghanistan government, Zabiullah Mujahid, while strongly condemning these attacks, said ordinary citizens were killed in these attacks by Pakistan including women and children. Strongly condemning these attacks, Mujahid warned that Afghanistan will give a befitting reply to these offensive actions.



Issuing a statement, Pakistan's military spokesperson said this military operation has been carried out in retaliation to the suicide attack carried out by Afghan-supported terrorists at a masjid in Kohat in Pakistan. A total of 31 namazis were killed in the massive blast that took place in the masjid, which included 16 police personnel as well.

Etemaad (September 24) states that the spokesperson of Pakistan's defence ministry claimed in Islamabad that a group of terrorists that had arrived from Afghanistan tried to infiltrate the border, which the Pakistan army foiled. In this retaliatory attack, several terrorists belonging to banned organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and ISIS were killed. The Pakistan military also downed eight drones that violated its border, out of which four were targeted using anti-aircraft guns in Torkham border and four others at the mountainous region in Kohat. Similarly, Pakistan's foreign affairs minister Ishaq Dhar who had gone to take part in the United Nations Assembly in New York, made this serious allegation that this modern drones that were used against Pakistan were supplied by India.

Etemaad (September 20) states that in a special interview given to 'Al Arabia,' the chief spokesperson of Afghanistan's

Taliban government Zabiullah Mujahid, while issuing a stern warning, said if Pakistan does not stop aerial and ground attacks by violating Afghanistan's sovereignty, Afghanistan will be forced to take strong military action. Mujahid categorically rejected Pakistan's allegation that any terrorist group is being provided shelter on Afghan soil.

Mujahid further said that currently in Pakistan there is widespread anger among the people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces against the flawed policies and runaway inflation. It is precisely because they have failed to gain control over their own internal state of disarray that Pakistan's rulers are blaming Afghanistan—in order to divert the attention of their own people.

Avadhnama (September 28) states that a spokesperson of Afghanistan's defence ministry claimed that their army foiled an attempt by an armed group trying to infiltrate from Pakistan at Nooristan border. In this clash, 28 terrorists were killed and 32 were injured, who were said to belong to terrorist organisation ISIS. According to Afghanistan's spokesperson, majority of the terrorists killed were linked to the previous government in Afghanistan, who were equipped with modern weapons by the Pakistan government and sent to Afghanistan with the aim of spreading violence.

PTI's Long March in Pakistan



Avadhnama (September 27) states that Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), had initially announced a gherao of Pakistan's capital Islamabad on September 27, which was later postponed to October 4. PTI had decided to organise this march demanding the immediate release of Imran Khan, who is lodged in prison. It is to be noted that 73-year-old Imran Khan is lodged in a jail in Rawalpindi since 2003, who was sentenced to jail by a special court hearing several corruption cases.

Chattan (September 26) states that the Pakistan government has made stringent arrangements on an extensive scale to foil this march. All the roads from Lahore leading to Islamabad have been handed over to the army and tanks have been deployed in every nook and corner. The responsibility to manage the 180-kilometre road from Peshawar to Islamabad has also been handed over to the army. More than one lakh personnel of Pakistan army have been deployed on duty for the security arrangements. In Islamabad alone, more than 25,000 soldiers have been deployed and nearly 5,000 containers have

been set up to block the roads. The schools and colleges have been shut down indefinitely across the country, an Emergency has been declared in hospitals and the holidays of doctors, police personnel and soldiers have been cancelled.

As per a report of 'Al Jazeera', the government has arrested more than 2,000 supporters of Imran,

including his three sisters—Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi—in order to stop this march. The chief of PTI's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Junaid Akbar, accused the government of adopting a dictatorial stand. He stated that the Pakistani government is employing tactics to crush Imran Khan's supporters that are reminiscent of those used by Mahmud of Ghazni's army during the attack on the Somnath Temple. He claimed that more than 1,000 activists have been taken into custody in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-e-Islami has announced a nationwide dharna and protest against rising inflation and increase in the prices of petrol, following which the police arrested the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeem Ur Rahman and hundreds of his activists. The party has rejected the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to start talks with Jamaat-e-Islami.

A petition that has been filed by Gauhar Ali Khan in the Lahore High Court challenging the arrest of the three sisters of Imran Khan has been rejected by the court. The court said that they cannot be released after seeing the material produced in the court against these women.

War continues between Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia



Inquilab (September 29) states that the spokesperson for the Houthi rebel group of Yemen, Yahya Saree, has claimed that 30 Houthi fighters and eight civilians were killed in airstrikes carried out by the Saudi Arabian Air Force on the city of Taiz in Yemen.

In contrast, the UN-recognised official government of Yemen has announced that civilians were not targeted in these attacks; instead, a military camp of Houthi rebels and their military vehicles were targeted. The Houthi-supported television channel, Al-Masirah, had also reported a day earlier that seven people were killed and several injured in a Saudi airstrike on a local market, to which the Houthi spokesperson threatened a crushing response.

On the other hand, Colonel Majed Abdullah Al-Nuzaili, spokesperson for the Yemeni government, stated that their army has carried out 756 intense strikes on Houthi strongholds in the past 72 hours, killing more than 2,300 Houthi rebels. Iranian military experts assisting Houthi rebels in drone and missile operation technology are also among those killed.

Hindustan (September 25) reports that Saudi Arabia shot down six ballistic missiles of the Houthis in mid-air and destroyed their launch platforms.

Chattan (September 20) states that Houthi rebels claimed to have attacked the

Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, 12 times with missiles and drones.

Avadhnama (September 24) reported that Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree, claimed to have shot down a pilotless Chinese fighter drone belonging to Saudi Arabia near the Mokha port, which was manufactured by the Aviation Corporation of China. They stated that the drones China recently supplied to Saudi Arabia are being used against the Houthis.

Along with this, the Houthis have also claimed to have shot down four other military aircraft of Saudi Arabia. The name of this downed Chinese drone is Wing Loong-2. China has supplied this drone in large quantities to Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand, the foreign ministers of G-7 nations issued a statement expressing concern over the ongoing war between Yemen's Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia. The G-7 countries strongly condemned the continuous attacks against Saudi Arabia, showed solidarity with it, and demanded Iran to immediately stop supplying weapons and other military equipment to the Houthis.

Avadhnama (September 22) states that US fighter jets, which were ready on special orders from US President Donald Trump to confront the Houthis in Yemen, have been held back. It is reported that there are deep differences within the US administration regarding whether the US



should directly participate in the ongoing war between Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia.

According to **Avadhnama** (September 21), at least 413 people have been killed so far in airstrikes led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, including 73 prominent commanders and 25 top military officials of the Houthis. The newspaper appealed that to prevent the loss of Muslim life and property, leaders of the Islamic world should intervene immediately.

Aurangabad Times (September 18) claimed that a secret agreement has been reached between US and the Houthi rebels, after which the US decided not to attack the Houthis. Seeing this stance of the US, Saudi Arabia has intensified its efforts to purchase military equipment from other countries. In addition to this, Saudi Arabia's oil business has been affected due to the Houthi rebel attacks, because it is unable to repair the oil pipelines damaged by the continuous attacks. To keep its oil supply secure, Saudi Arabia is now searching for alternative routes.

Aurangabad Times (September 17) reports that due to the US and its allied nations failing to provide requested military assistance against the Houthis, Saudi Arabia has requested military assistance from Israel. During this period, Houthis claimed to have targeted eight locations of Saudi Arabia's state oil company, Aramco, with ballistic missiles and drones, causing production and supply to be affected due to a fire at the oil facilities. Further, Houthi rebels claimed to have fired missiles at Saudi Arabia's

Khamis Mushait military base, destroying about a dozen aircraft parked there.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 17) states that the Saudi government claimed that the Houthis targeted Mecca, the holy site of Muslims. According to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Saudi Air Force shot down a Houthi drone in the air before it could enter the restricted airspace of Mecca.

A drone attack was also carried out on the Taibah electricity distribution station in Medina, which supplies electricity to Al-Masjid an-Nabawi. The Saudi government and the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) strongly condemned these attacks, stating that any attack on the holy sites of Islam would not be tolerated. They have appealed to the Muslim nations of the world to unite against this action by the Houthis.

Siasat (September 18) reports that the attacks carried out by the Houthis on Mecca and Medina are akin to a challenge for the entire Islamic world. It is a matter of relief that these attacks were not successful, but such attacks cannot be accepted at any cost, nor will any Muslim ever tolerate them. Looking at the situation in West Asia, it is clear that some Western countries are deliberately conspiring to push the Islamic world into the fire of war. The newspaper has appealed that Muslims should remain alert to these nefarious designs of the infidels and should not engage with one another in this manner.

Siasat (September 17), in its editorial, has appealed to Muslim nations to put pressure on Iran, Iraq, and Turkiye so that the conspiracy by European countries to ignite the flames of war in this region can be foiled.

Etemaad (September 20) has written that Muslim nations should seriously consider who is behind the full-force attacks carried out by the Houthis on Saudi Arabia. According to the British media, Yemen's Houthi rebels have now

developed modern forms of guided missiles and rockets, whose strike range is more than 1,000 km. If this information is correct, security challenges for Saudi Arabia would increase significantly. Although the Saudi government has close relations with European countries and the United States, it has failed to gain control over the Houthis in the last 20 years. In 2004, the Houthis launched an armed rebellion against the government in Yemen, and in 2014, they captured two-thirds of the country, including Yemen's capital, Sana'a. In 2015, a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia was also formed against the

Houthis, but this coalition completely failed to stop them. The current situation is that the Houthis have economically crippled Saudi Arabia by targeting its oil installations and supply routes.

Hindustan Express (September 19) has condemned the attacks carried out by the Houthis on the religious sites of Islam. The newspaper stated that Saudi Arabia bears a major responsibility to protect these holy religious sites and to provide security to the millions of Muslims arriving for Hajj and Umrah. Therefore, if an attack occurs on these holy places, it signals massive devastation for the entire Islamic world.

Iran refuses to hold talks with the US



Inquilaab (September 27) reports that Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian has returned to Tehran after participating in the United Nations General Assembly session. Along with this, speculations about a potential meeting with President Trump have also come to an end. According to Iranian media, the Iranian President held discussions with the heads of state of Pakistan, Switzerland, Iraq, Bangladesh, Yemen, Armenia, the Netherlands, and Lebanon regarding the ongoing crisis surrounding Iran.

Prior to this, in an interview given to the US television channel CBS, he had clarified that Iran does not want war and is a supporter of peace in West Asia. However, he warned that if a war is

imposed on Iran, they would give a crushing response.

Pezeshkian made serious allegations against the US and Israel, stating that these nations are conspiring to make different Muslim countries fight among themselves so that they can establish their control over the oil reserves of this region.

Mumbai Urdu News (September 25) reports that Mohsen Rezaee, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, clarified that until Iran's conditions are met, there would be no talks with the US. Iran's conditions include a ceasefire on all fronts, stopping US aggression, lifting the maritime blockade, removing economic sanctions, and releasing frozen Iranian assets. He warned that until these conditions are met, till then the Strait of Hormuz would not be opened for ships.

Hindustan (September 27) reports that the US Ambassador appointed to China, David Purdue, stated that the US President, during talks with his Chinese counterpart, made it clear that China must not provide any form of military or intelligence assistance to Iran. The US would not accept this under any

circumstances, and doing so could lead to serious consequences.

Urdu Times (September 28) reports that the US Intelligence Department claimed that if the US reaches an agreement with Saudi Arabia, it would have complete freedom to manufacture nuclear bombs.

Aurangabad Times (September 23) reports that while addressing the United Nations General Assembly, US President Donald Trump issued a warning to Iran, stating that if it does not reach an agreement with the US, it would be wiped out. He claimed that this war was not started by the US. Rather, the US took necessary action only to establish peace in this region.

Inqilab (September 29) reports that Iran has clearly rejected the possibility of any talks with the US. The Iranian government has clarified that the Iranian delegation present in New York has no plans to start talks with US officials. This statement from the Iranian President came after Donald Trump's remarks in which he expressed hope that talks with Iran would start this week. A day earlier, the Iran



President had dismissed a conditional proposal by Trump, which stated that in exchange for the US removing economic sanctions, Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days. Following Trump's rejection of this proposal, Iran completely put an end to all potential talks.

Prior to this, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi stated that Tehran still sought a political and diplomatic solution to this problem and is waiting for the the US proposal through mediators. He mentioned that the main reason for the deadlock in talks is that deep differences exist between the US and Iran.

75 countries boycott Israeli Prime Minister's speech at the United Nations

Inqilab (September 26) states that representatives from 75 countries boycotted the speech of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the United Nations General Assembly. Despite this, he completely justified Israel's military actions in Gaza during his speech. He outright rejected the allegation that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, calling the claim the "biggest lie of the century".

Earlier, as Prime Minister Netanyahu took the stage to speak, representatives from dozens of countries stood up and walked out of the assembly in solidarity



with the Palestinian people. Dismissing the boycott, Netanyahu stated, "If there are any other 'moral cowards' left in this hall, they can leave right now." He emphasised that Israel is fighting this war to protect its sovereignty and existence, as it has no

other option. He also accused people of spreading lies against his country and its soldiers.

According to another news report, while the Israel Prime Minister was speaking, thousands of pro-Palestine supporters held massive protests against him outside the UN headquarters and on the streets of New York. In response, pro-Israel supporters also staged demonstrations, demanding that their government continue military action against terrorists. To maintain law and order on the streets, the New York Police arrested 103 people, who were later released.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Ireland's Prime Minister Michael Martin said the international community had completely failed to protect the rights of Palestinians. He specifically mentioned the continuous killings of civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Martin said that the October 2025 ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which was supposed to bring peace, failed to change the ground reality. Israel continued its attacks and created obstacles to basic humanitarian assistance. He also condemned the illegal establishment of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. He alleged that some people are deliberately trying to eliminate the two-state principle.

According to a report in **Etemaad** (September 18), the US has denied visas to nearly 80 Palestinian officials, including Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, preventing them from participating in the UN General Assembly session in New York.

US officials claimed that the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian Liberation Organisation have failed to fulfil their promises toward peace and are promoting terrorism, which is why they were denied entry into the country in the interest of US national security. It is



significant to note that currently 157 countries in the world recognise Palestine as a sovereign state.

Major nations that have granted recognition in recent years — such as Britain, France, Canada, and Australia — are also included. However, the US has still not recognised Palestine as an independent state among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

According to a report in **Urdu Times** (September 24), Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while addressing the UN General Assembly session, said that hostility toward Islam and Islamophobia are spreading rapidly across the world. Critically reviewing the global system, he said that the importance of the United Nations, established to maintain global peace, is diminishing day by day, and therefore the current system needs reforms.

While mentioning Palestine, he condemned the unjust stance of some major countries and stated that not allowing Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas to arrive due to visa complexities for two consecutive years is a huge injustice by the international system. He pledged that Turkiye will always continue to raise its voice in support of a free and sovereign Palestine.

In his speech, Erdogan also mentioned the Kashmir issue, stating that all disputes in South Asia, including Kashmir, should be resolved through dialogue within the framework of the United Nations Charter and its resolutions.

Israel Prime Minister's secret visit to the UAE

Urdu Times (September 29) reports that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid a secret visit to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he met with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. A senior official from the Israeli foreign ministry confirmed this meeting to the British news agency, Reuters. However, initially, no official statement was issued by the UAE foreign ministry regarding this. This visit was kept completely confidential.

According to Israeli media, Netanyahu suddenly arrived in Abu Dhabi and held detailed discussions with the UAE President on regional security and challenges related to Iran. Following this, he returned to Israel. Later, the UAE's official news agency, WAM, also confirmed this meeting and shared references to the meeting between the two leaders.

It is significant to note that diplomatic relations were established between Israel and the UAE in 2020 under the Abraham Accords. Recently, these relations became a centre of discussion due to a major controversy. The Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, made a sensational claim that UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had informed Netanyahu over the phone about



a major attack by Hamas about 10 days in advance.

This revelation has sparked a major storm in Israeli politics. Recently, heavy upheaval regarding accountability has been observed in Israeli intelligence and military security circles. Israel's opposition parties allege that Netanyahu deliberately ignored this crucial intelligence warning and did not inform the country's security apparatus about it.

In view of this major political controversy and upcoming elections, Netanyahu's recent UAE visit has become extremely significant.

Elections are scheduled to take place in Israel in the next two months. In such a situation, this revelation has created a major crisis for the political survival of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Four major opposition leaders of Israel have issued a joint statement demanding an impartial investigation into this allegation.

Ethiopia in the grip of civil war again

Urdu Times (September 25) reports that the flames of civil war have flared up once again in Ethiopia. The rebel organisation, Tigray People's Liberation Front, launched a sudden, major attack on the government army. In the beginning, the rebels captured military bases and airports in Mekelle, Shire, and Axum, prompting Ethiopian Airlines to immediately announce the

suspension of its flight services to these regions.

According to foreign news agencies, a fierce war has broken out between rebel groups and the government army in the border areas of Afar and Amhara. Both sides are making claims of their respective victories. The government has sent heavy tanks, cannons, and new military



contingents from the capital Addis Ababa to the war-torn regions.

Soldiers are being dropped via parachutes from Air Force aircraft, and drone and air strikes have been intensified on rebel positions. As a result, government security forces have recaptured Tigray's capital Mekelle and the airports there from the control of the rebels.

The main reason for this rapid escalation in rebel activities is that seven

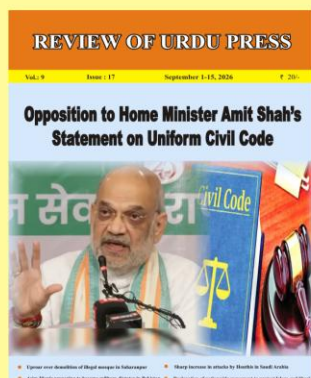
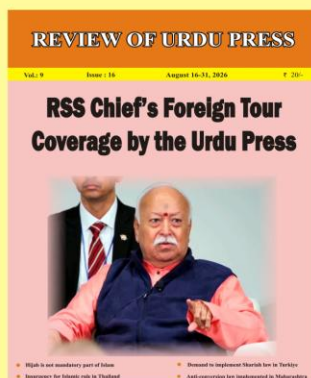
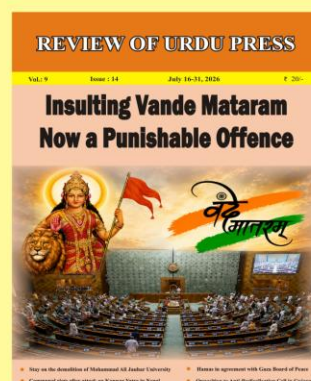
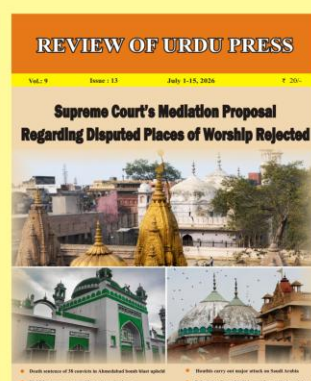
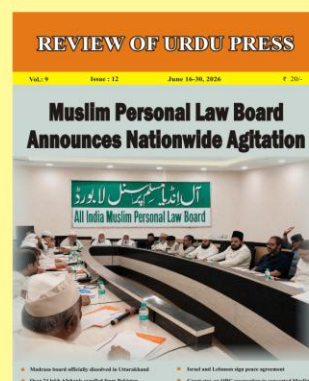
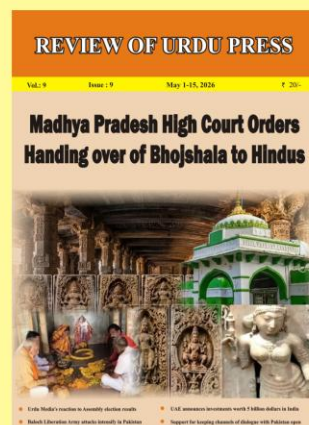
major armed groups have formed a new alliance to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, which has been named 'Alliance for Survival'.

It is significant to note that a devastating civil war raged between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the government of Ethiopia from 2020 to late 2022, in which lakhs of people from both sides were killed.

Following this, an agreement was reached between both sides in South Africa in November 2022. Currently, the rebels have declared this agreement completely invalid, leading to the resumption of a fierce war between both sides. The Ethiopian government alleges that these rebel groups have the support of neighbouring countries such as Eritrea, Egypt, and Sudan.



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