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Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9
Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337
Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336
Subscription Ext.: 2322
Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120
Website: www.kayhan.ir/en
E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com
P.O. Box: 11365/9631
Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,
Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Will the Babri Mosque Issue Be Resolved?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

A quarter century has passed, yet the scars remain fresh on the body-politic of India as was evident by the "Black Day" observed yesterday on December 6 all over the country by Muslims protesting the criminal demolition of the historic Babri Mosque of Fayzabad.

It is an irony that India, despite claiming to be the world's largest democracy and boasting of a secular constitution that guarantees freedom of religious practice to all sectors of the polyglot society, seems reluctant to redress the grievances of at least 25 percent of its population, as was evident by Tuesday's adjournment by the Supreme Court of the case of Babri Mosque, built on a vacant plot of land in 1528 by Mir Baqi Tashqandi, the Tajik Persian-speaking minister of Moghal Emperor Zaheer od-Din Babar who decisively defeated a joint Rajput-Afghan army led by Rana Sangha.

It is rather unfortunate that the culprits, who razed the magnificent edifice of worship to the One and Only Omnipresent Creator of the Universe Whom physical eyes cannot perceive, are still at large and evading justice because of the pressure tactics and Takfiri-style violence, vandalism, and wanton massacres to which the anarchist elements resort whenever the Babri Mosque is mentioned.

It is strange that since 1992, whichever political party has won the national elections to form the central government in New Delhi, has remained indecisive on the mosque issue, because of fears of the anarchist minority that falsely claims to belong to the Hindu majority by propagandizing the alleged temple that never existed on the spot where Babri Mosque was built.

If there was any temple on that spot that was supposedly destroyed by Babar, then what prevented that outspoken adventurer from mentioning it in his famous memoirs "Tuzak-e Babari", especially in view of the fact that his writings do mention what he calls "the repulsive sight of nude erotic stone statues in a Jain temple which I ordered to be defaced for the sake of protecting public morality".

Moreover, neither any ancient Sanskrit text nor any medieval Rajput work, as well as 'Ram Charit Manas' composed by the famous Hindu poet, Tulsidas, in 1575, within 50 years of the construction of Babri Mosque, have mentioned the demolition of a temple to make way for a mosque.

Is it possible to believe that Tulsidas would not have given vent to his grief had the very birth site of Ram, who is regarded as a major deity of the Hindu pantheon, had been ravaged? If Ayodhya was sacred to the Hindus, he should have included it among the places of pilgrimage.

The Hindus are a peace-loving people with respect for the religious and cultural sentiments of others, in contrast to the unprincipled and irreligious Daesh-like elements that want a temple to be built on this site in order to tarnish the image of Hinduism and its rich contributions to science, philosophy and civilization.

It is interesting to note that the recently retired President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, who as a senior Congress party member had been privy to many significant developments in modern India, has denounced the demolition of Babri Mosque in volume 2 of his memoirs titled "The Turbulent Years: 1980-96".

He has frankly revealed what transpired behind the scenes and termed the inability to prevent the demolition of the Babri Mosque as one of biggest failures of the then prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mukherjee, saying the incident "deeply wounded the sentiments of the Muslim community in India and abroad", has written: "The demolition of the Babri Masjid was an act of absolute perfidy, which should make all Indians hang their heads in shame. It was the senseless, wanton destruction of a religious structure, purely to serve political ends. It destroyed India's image as a tolerant, pluralistic nation where all religions coexist in peace and harmony."

It is also worth mentioning that senior Indian journalist Kuldip Nayyar, though not a Muslim, has time and again called for punishing the guilty, and has explicitly named BJP leaders Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and Kalyan Singh, as the main culprits who mobilised anarchic elements to destroy the Babri Mosque, as part of their plot to plunge the county in communal riots.

In view of these facts, we expect saner minds to prevail in India, especially among the government circles, by taking the bold step, similar to demonization, to close once and for all this vexing issue by reconstructing the Babri Mosque on its original site.

We are sure that Ram, who as we learn from Valmiki's lore "Ramayana", was a virtuous and obedient son of his parents, and thus an obedient servant of One and Only God, is grieved today at the mockery of his values by vandals who claim to be his devotees, just like the Takfiri terrorists' false claim to be Muslims.

IRGC Chief: Conspiracy in Yemen Nipped in the Bud



A Houthi fighter stands atop a cannon-mounted truck in front of the Sana'a residence of former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Muhammad Ali Jafari says Yemen's enemies were behind former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's armed rebellion and praised the Arab country's swift quashing of the "coup against the holy warriors".

Jafari said Saudis Arabia tried to stage a coup against Yemeni fighters and the Ansarullah movement, "but this conspiracy was nipped in the bud."

The "traitorous" Saudis, he said, have been after destabilizing Muslim nations in the region by engag-

ing in confrontation with them.

"Backed by the Americans and on U.S. orders, the Saudis are seeking to create division among Muslims in collaboration with the Israelis," Jafari said.

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched dozens of raids on Sanaa and nearby provinces on Wednesday.

Yemen's Al Masirah television station said Saudi Arabia bombed Saleh's residence and other houses of his family members which are now controlled by the Houthis. Air strikes also hit northern provinces including Taiz, Haja, Midi and Saada, it added.

Saleh was killed on Monday while

escaping from Sana'a to Ma'arib Province after launching an armed riot against the ruling council which controls the Yemeni capital and much of the country.

Saleh on Saturday officially announced the end of his alliance with the Houthi movement, which has been at the forefront of a struggle against the Saudi-led invasion of Yemen.

Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said Monday that his Ansarullah movement had foiled a major threat to the country's security by defeating "a conspiracy of treason and betrayal".

Iran Dismisses Tillerson's Claim of Destabilizing Role

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's foreign ministry denied on Wednesday U.S. accusations that the Islamic Republic is playing a destabilizing role in the region, state media reported.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said on Tuesday that Iran was carrying out "destabilizing actions" by supporting Hezbollah in Lebanon, supplying missiles to Houthi forces in Yemen and sending weapons and militia fighters to Syria.

"Repeating the groundless accusations and lies will not help solve the large and strategic mistakes America has made in recent decades against Iran and the region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said.

"While there's time remaining, Mr. Tillerson should become more familiar with the realities and history of the region and American policies, and its effects which has led to serious instability and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent women, children and people."

Tillerson also said during a visit to Brussels on Tuesday that Iran must comply with the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal under which the Islamic Republic agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of a number of sanctions.

U.S. president Donald Trump dealt a blow to the pact in October by refusing to certify that Tehran was complying with the accord even though international inspectors said it was.

Travel Ban 'Sad'

Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif slammed the U.S. travel ban on travelers from six mainly Muslim countries.

"U.S. Supreme Court defends and allows Trump's #MuslimBan to go into full effect, giving bigotry full license in USA. Sad!" he wrote.

He expressed regret that the court's move gives "bigotry full license in USA."

His tweet came in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the government could fully enforce a revised ban on travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen pending appeal, backing U.S. President Donald Trump in the year-long battle over the controversial measure.

Trump has battled to implement a travel ban since just after he became president on January 20, after having repeatedly promised during last year's election campaign to ban all Muslims from entering the United States.

Those promises have undermined the administration's argument in a series of court challenges that its policy is not Muslim-focused but rather based on security needs.

Immigration and civil rights activists maintain it still essentially targets Muslims, which would violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of religious rights.

Iranian Guard Martyred Near Turkish Border

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- An Iranian border guard has been martyred by gunmen near the border with Turkey.

The guard died in a shootout on Monday while another border guard and two engineers who were inspecting nearby water resources were wounded.

The attack happened near the town of Maku in Iran's West Azerbaijan province, about 900 kilometers, or 560 miles, northwest of the capital, Tehran.

State news agency IRNA said the gunmen were members of Turkey's separatist PKK group and that Ankara has promised to investigate.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Muhammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said.

Cavusoglu said PKK terrorists were behind the incident and that Turkish authorities were

following up on the issue, the spokesman said.

"The Turkish Interior Minister also assured Iran's ambassador to Ankara that the issue is being followed up, and the results will be announced," said Qasemi.

The area near Iran's borders with Turkey and Iraq sees occasional skirmishes with terrorist groups. Last month, terrorists martyred eight Iranian border guards in clashes there.

The Holy Qur'an



Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.

The Holy Qur'an (9.29)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:56
Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:31
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:01

Gabriel: Iran Part of Emerging World Order

BERLIN (Dispatches) – German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel says the emerging new world order is seeing the growing influence of Russia, Turkey, and Iran.

Speaking at the Berlin Foreign Policy Forum on future scenarios in international politics, Gabriel criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's foreign policy and said the power vacuum in the Middle East and Africa is being increasingly filled by other powers.

"We see that the competitors are not sleeping," he said, arguing that China had significantly increased its influence in Africa, while Russia, Turkey and Iran had carved out a stronger role in shaping developments in the Middle East.

Gabriel described last month's Syria summit between the presidents of Russia, Turkey, and Iran in Sochi as emblematic of how "the old empires are rising" again.

"The great powers who met in Sochi are no friends. But they have things in common," he said.

"Each of them promotes its historical greatness both at home and abroad. And what is different from us, they are using their own capital, to actually show it to the West.

"They are in a way ready to pay a kind of a tax for the status of being a great power ... Economic losses, diplomatic tensions, financial penalties, sanctions, many such things are accepted by them to uphold their claim to regional leadership and to demonstrate their national sovereignty," he argued.

Gabriel described Russia's policy towards Ukraine as an example of this new pattern in international politics.

He said other regional powers were also taking an increasingly assertive foreign policy.

"Turkey is also not shying away from military deployments which might lead to a confrontation with the U.S., and it defends its interests against Kurdish endeavors for independence," he said, referring to PYD/PKK activities in northern Syria.

The top German diplomat acknowledged Iran's greater influence in Syria and the Middle East, but also accused Tehran of providing support to terrorist groups in neighboring countries.