

Politics of Persecution

2018

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Parliament also declares Ahmadis as non-Muslims

Mirpur (AJK): The AJK Parliament unanimously passed Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Bill 2018, on February 6, 2018, declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslims.

The joint session of both the houses of the AJK Parliament – Legislative Assembly and AJK Council – met with speaker AJK LA Shah Ghulam Qadir in the chair. Minister for Law Raja Nisar Ahmad tabled the bill. Raja Farooq Haider Khan, the prime minister and the leader of the house, steered this consequential bill and got it cleared the same day. The PM is from PML-(Nawaz) party that controls the majority in the legislative assembly.

The ultra-right wing daily *Islam* of February 8, 2018 celebrated the occasion in an op-ed mentioning that ‘this historic milestone was passed at 47 second past 3:52 p.m.’

According to the PM, five members of the Opposition (Peoples Party) abstained from voting.

This legislation has a history. It is claimed by anti-Ahmadi activists that the credit of first proposing imposition of non-Muslim status on Ahmadis goes to Major ® Ayub ‘Shaheed’, who moved a resolution to that end in AJK assembly on 28 April 1973. It was adopted, but the government of Pakistan did not allow the AJK assembly to legislate further thereafter. Instead, Mr. ZA Bhutto the prime minister of Pakistan proceeded to implement the same in Pakistan on September 7, 1974. On February 6, 2018, most speakers paid glowing tributes to Major Ayub, the pioneer of this idea, although all of them were careful to avoid the mention that the major later perished in an earthquake. Mulla Allah Wasaya disclosed in his column that the idea had occurred to Major Ayub when he was on a visit to Harmain Sharifain (Saudi Arabia).

This report is primarily based on vernacular press reports, as no Ahmadi was present in the AJK parliament during its proceedings. The source newspapers are the *Ausaf* (4, 7, 8 and 9 February), the *Islam* (3, 8, 9 and 10 February), the *Nawa-i-Waqt* of 7 February and the *Insaf* of 8 February 2018. As this legislation will be mentioned in dispatches and history in future, it will be useful to mention some essential details here.

The committee assigned the task of preparing the bill comprised MLA members Syed Iftikhar Gilani minister of education, Mr. Ahmad Raza Qadiri, Malik P Akhtar Awan, Raja M Siddique Khan and Syed Ali Raza Bokhari. (*Islam of February 8, 2018*)

In the parliamentary session there was no debate, but there were speeches and statements. Some of these were highly inappropriate, abusive, even false; and these came not only from mere members, but also the prime minister and ministers. For instance:

Mr. Farooq Haider Khan the PM (from PML-N) said the following in his speech.

- Hypocrites are being set apart through this legislation. Qadianis lay their net in a special way.
- Now, mischief will come to end. Qadianis will not be able to play the role of serpent up the sleeve (*Fitney khatm; Qadiani ab aasteen kay sanp wala kirdar ada nahin kar sakain gay*). *The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; February 7, 2018*
- It was essential to move this Bill to differentiate between a Muslim and a Qadiani.
- No permission has been given in this law to kill any person of any faith.
- The suggestion to make changes in (school) syllabus is a good one. We'll add a few elements to the syllabi regarding religious education, end of prophethood and guidance and character building of the new generation.
- This amendment will not affect the freedom movement nor the UN resolution. It will also have no bearing on the demography of Azad Kashmir and the (Indian) Held Kashmir. We'll see who is what, after Kashmir becomes independent.

Note: While Mr. Haider called Ahmadis as hypocrites, he did not miss the opportunity to give an earful to the members on unity and kinship (*Ittehad wa yagangat*).

Also, Mr. Haider could not help referring to the death of Mr. Bhutto, the PM of Pakistan who had passed a similar law. "ZA Bhutto got hanged, not because he declared Qadianis to be non-Muslim, but because of a murder; if he is a martyr (*shaheed*), then Nawaz Sharif is also a martyr", he said. *The daily Ausaf; February 7, 2018*

Raja Nisar A Khan, the law minister was more covetous; he tried to kill two birds with one stone; "It is a great honour that this Bill of effective legislation concerning the repute of the Prophet is being moved", he said. According to the daily *Nawa-i-Waqt* (7 Feb, 2018) he also said, "We'll have to put an end to the role of these snakes up the sleeve." He accused Ahmadis of doing harm to Islam, for lack of definition of a non-Muslim in law.

Noreen Arif, minister of trade was of the opinion that, "The credit (of this law) goes also to the voters of (PML) N-League."

Sardar Atiq A Khan, a former AJK PM was delighted at the move, congratulated everybody at the occasion, and blamed Ahmadis for being busy in conspiracies to remove the craving of Love and Jihad (*Jazba Ishaq and Jazba Jihad*) from the hearts of Muslims.

The press quoted some other MLAs as well:

- This law (now) is the most sacred part of the (AJK) Constitution: Faiza Imtiaz
- The deniers of end of prophethood (KN) deserve no sympathy.
- Qadianiat is a great mischief (*fitna*).
- I send a thousand curses on those who do not believe in KN.

The members excelled one another in patting each other's back with profuse congratulations and paid tributes to their leadership. They called the day 'memorable', 'historic', 'of utmost importance', 'history making' and 'immortal (*Amar*)'. One minion expressed the opinion, "The entire Muslim Umma feels overwhelmingly proud (*sarfakharseybaland ho gia*)." Raja Siddique was overjoyed, "This honour excels the sum total of all my honours earned in the past."

This event received hardly any mention in Pakistan's English press or even the TV. It seems that on account of the absurdity and narrow political motive of this legislation of doubtful value and its relevance to the sensitive international issue of Kashmir, the authorities had advised the media not to play it up. A mulla even protested against the negligent attitude of Pakistani electronic media. However, the ultra-right extremist Urdu papers were happy over this law and expressed their satisfaction and sense of victory:

- We demand from the Azad Kashmir government that as the next step they should have a Blasphemy law approved in the Assembly so that all those wretched people who attack the honour of prophethood should be appropriately punished.

Editorial in the daily Ausaf, February 8, 2018

- Surely this legislation has shown a mirror to the few liberal activists who see some national future in the darkness of liberalism.

Editorial in the daily Islam, February 8, 2018

- This move has shut the door for ever in Azad Kashmir for the great Qadiani mischief.

Op-ed in the daily Islam, February 10, 2018

Note: The daily *Islam* of February 10, 2018 also reported, "In a statement issued in Hermain Sharifain (Saudi Arabia), the leaders of End of Prophethood have stated that this unanimous amendment to the Constitution after 45 years, by the AJK assembly, by declaring Qadianis to be non-Muslim, has hammered the last nail in the coffin of Qadianiat." It is interesting that consistently where there is talk of end of prophethood in sectarian or political circles in Pakistan, the relevance of petro-dollars always shows up.

If history has been made; it is only fair to make history-makers a part of the record. The press mentioned the following:

Mullas who played a role: Muhammad Ilyas (AMTKN), Mufti Awais Khan (JUI), Qazi Mahmud (*Sawad Azam*), Nazar Hussain Gilani, Zahid Asari, Waheed Qasmi

Attendees in Special Sitting with the PM prior to presenting the Bill:

Raja Farooq Haider, Raja Nisar Ahmad, Pir Raza Bokhari, Raja Siddique, Saleem Chishti, Abaidulla Farooqui, Irshad Qureshi, Raza Ali Khan, Shakoor Mehravi, Raja Hanif, Mushtaq Janjuha, Zahid Rajput, and Mullas Saeed Yousuf, Kafayat Naqvi, Hamid Barkati, Mahmud Ashraf, Shahid Hameed, Shabbir Bokhari, Imtiaz Siddiqui, Danial Madni, Manzurul Hasan, Hussain Chishti, Major ® Shabbir, Waheed Qasmi, Shabbir Ahmad, Mahmud Chaudhry

Mentioned in press reports for their role:

Messers Farooq Haider, Raja Nisar, Shah G Qadir, Raja Siddique, Raza Bokhari, Noreen Arif, Iftikhar Gilanee, Shaukat Shah, Chaudhri Aziz, Waqar Noor, Sardar Ateeq, Raza Qadri, Malik P Akhtar, Sardar Akbar, Mushtaq Minhas, Majid Khan, Raja Qayyum, Yasin Gul, Chaudhry Rukhsar, Saghir Chughtai, Farooq Tahir, Faiza Imtiaz, Raja Naseer, Rafaat Aziz, KhaliqWasi

Provincial minister threatens murder – personally

Lahore; January 24, 2018: On 24th January 2018, in an Urdu current affairs talk-show on TV Channel 24, Mr Zaeem Qadri, Punjab Minister of Religious Affairs asserted that he will personally strangle (*gala dabaunga*) any Ahmadi who peddles the Ahmadiyya translation of the Holy Quran.

Among other participants in this program in which Dr Danish was acting as anchor, one was Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi, the chair of the Pakistan Ulama Council. With reference to his brother (who is a full time anti-Ahmadi activist, and has been investigated by the police for criminal conduct), Ashrafi demanded Mr Zaeem Qadri to take action against Ahmadis who were marketing the Holy Quran with Ahmadiyya translation. This was a false complaint, as, because of the law, this Quran is no longer available in the market in Pakistan.

In reply to Maulvi Ashrafi's allegation, the minister said, "The mentioned Quran has been banned, police raids have been undertaken, presses have been sealed and people have been booked (by the police). ... If someone still distributes this Quran, I'll personally strangle him."

He further elaborated upon this theme and said, "... As for me, I am not prepared to give the Ahmadis even their rights granted by the Constitution to Non-Muslims."

This hate-filled dialogue was not interrupted by the anchor, who even encouraged it, and the channel management decided not to delete this content. This was serious violation of the declared state policy on sectarian issues.

New affidavits of faith and belief

It is reliably learnt that some authorities in the government are in the process of introducing affidavits of faith for their employees and recruits etc. A sample pair, one for Muslims and another for non-Muslims, is attached at the Annex IV. This step is fraught with serious, long lasting and damaging consequences. It deserves analysis and comment, even if brief in a report like this.

These affidavits are the outcome of a verdict given by Justice Siddiqui of Islamabad High Court on March 9, 2018 on the issue of *Khatme Nabuwat* (finality of prophethood).

The fact that there is one affidavit for Muslims and another one for all non-Muslims shows that the human resources in the departments/organizations are being divided in two groups based on their commitment to Islam as understood officially. These divide one Pakistani identity into two distinct and divisive categories: Muslims and non-Muslims.

While holding hearings in this case, Justice Siddiqui was reported in the media to have remarked:

1. If they (Ahmadis) wish to stay on in Pakistan, they should do so as non-Muslim citizens, and not commit thievery against Islam (*naqb na lagain*). (bbc.com/urdu/pakistaan-43288413)
2. IHC restores all 8 laws concerning the end of prophethood. "If heavens fall, I don't care": Justice Siddiqui (*The daily Mashriq; November 15, 2017*)

The language of the affidavits is bizarre – particularly for 'non-Muslims'. A negative statement is unnecessarily imposed on the deponent. He is told to state 'that I am a non-Muslim.' Why should he say what he is not? He could be simultaneously non-Jew, non-Sikh, non-Ahmadi, non-Bahai as well as non-White, non-European, non-Punjabi etc. Also, an Ahmadi is required to add, 'and belong to Ahmadi'. This makes no sense, as 'Ahmadi' is not a religion. An Ahmadi is a person who considers himself a Muslim and believes Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to be the Messiah promised in Islam.

People with no religion have no place in either affidavit. Will they be disowned by Pak bureaucracy?

The mulla insists that Ahmadis must accept the 'non-Muslim' identity and status imposed on them, and distance themselves from Islam; this is not acceptable to Ahmadis, as it violates their fundamental belief. The mulla's wish was granted and implemented by Justice Siddiqui. These affidavits not only serve as tools to open the door of discrimination against Ahmadis, but

also would thereby facilitate all sorts of social, political, professional and financial hardships and deprivations against them. This judge, in order to worsen Ahmadis, has imposed a procedure on the administration that will make millions sign unnecessary and iniquitous affidavits. The entire exercise is in fact Ahmadi-specific, and the single-judge bench did not hide his motivation.

These affidavits will trigger still more criminal charges and litigations against Ahmadis, ranging from apostasy allegations to civil suits concerning marriage, inheritance, etc. and deprivations from jobs, hardships in careers, difficulties in businesses etc. As per the mulla's understanding of Sharia the penalties could range from stoning to death, lashings in public, loss of eligibility to inherit from even parents, etc. This is not mere speculation; this is demanded incessantly by the mulla in his rallies and open conferences. Justice Siddiqui has discretely, even unabashedly, hinted the need for such discrimination in Para 4 of his judgment, objecting against Ahmadis' "access to dignified and sensitive posts resulting in accumulation of all benefits", etc.

These divisive affidavits are being imposed through departmental rules; they are not a requirement of the Constitution, even if the definitions are derived from a controversial amendment to the Constitution.

It is not only the higher social and political values that are at risk, these affidavits will directly and effectively affect the lives of millions in offices, in the field – everywhere. These will affect their social relations, dining together, lodging, career development, job environment – everything. Religion and belief will become the top factor in formulating human resources policy and its implementation. Soon, the belief factor will discriminate among Muslims for being Deobandi, Bareilvi, Shia, Ahle Hadith, Ahle Quran, Muqallid, non-Muqallid etc. This would make the state non-functional.

NADRA has already implemented these affidavits for its personnel. Reportedly it is considering imposition of these affidavits on all citizens for various purposes dealt with by NADRA.

The affidavit for Muslims requires the deponent to sign the given statement that he believes 'in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) the last of the Prophets and do not believe in, or recognize as Prophet or religious reformer, any person who claimed or claims to be a Prophet, in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after Muhammad (Peace be upon him).'

It may be noted that mere faith in the 'Finality of Prophethood' is not enough; it is the official detailed given meaning and interpretation that is equally incumbent upon the deponent to accept.

In the second affidavit everyone has to state, right in the beginning, that he is a Non-Muslim. As such, for an Ahmadi, it is not enough to declare that he is an Ahmadi; he must declare the non-Muslim status imposed upon him. This is absurd.

Brilliant Ahmadi asked to resign from Economic Advisory Council (EAC) for his faith

Islamabad; September 7, 2018: Professor Dr Atif Mian, an Ahmadi, member of EAC was asked by the government to resign his membership. It is an interesting but pathetic story that foretells the malevolence of the course of the Pakistani state in years ahead. The report was published by the daily Dawn of September 8; its extracts are reproduced below:

“Under-fire govt asks minority community economist to quit EAC

ISLAMABAD: Within three days of its rhetoric about the rights of minorities, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government bowed down to pressure from religious groups and asked a renowned economist belonging to the Ahmadi community to step down from the Prime Minister-led Economic Advisory Council (EAC) only to lose another EAC member from the private sector hours later over the controversial move.

The government decision to withdraw Dr Atif R. Mian’s name from the advisory council was made public through a tweet by Senator Faisal Javed, who is also chairman of the Senate standing committee on information, on Friday morning.

“Atif Mian was asked to step down from the Advisory Council and he has agreed. A replacement would be announced later,” Senator Javed tweeted at 8.49 a.m. Over half an hour later, information minister Fawad Chaudhary, who had strongly defended the appointment earlier this week, confirmed the development declaring that the government decided to withdraw his nomination from the EAC to avoid any controversy.

However, the controversy deepened further when another EAC member, Dr Asim Ijaz Khwaja from the Harvard Kennedy School, on Friday evening also stepped down from the council over the withdrawal of Dr Atif’s name.

Explaining the circumstances that led to his resignation, Dr Atif said the government was facing tremendous pressure over his appointment from Muslim clerics and their followers. “For the sake of the stability of the Government of Pakistan, I have resigned from the Economic Advisory Council, as the Government was facing a lot of adverse pressure regarding my appointment from the Mullahs (Muslim clerics) and their supporters,” he tweeted.

Earlier on Tuesday, the government spokesman had strongly defended Dr Atif’s appointment to the EAC on the grounds that Pakistan belongs to majority Muslims as well as non-Muslim minorities. “What is wrong with the appointment of a professional economist as a member of the EAC?” said Mr. Chaudhary while talking to the media. “He is a member of the Economic Advisory Council and not the Council of Islamic Ideology,” he remarked.

Three days later the government apparently succumbed to the pressure generated by the call attention notice submitted in both houses of parliament against the appointment of a person belonging to the Ahmadi faith and a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging his appointment.

The call attention notice was led by Maulana Asad-ur-Rehman, son of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in the National Assembly and by Maulana Ata-ur-Rehman in the Senate. The notice was signed by parliamentarians belonging to the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and even liberals belonging to the Awami National Party, National Party and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party. The Pakistan Peoples Party, however, did not support the call attention notice.

Explaining reasons for the government decision to withdraw the name, the information minister tweeted: “The government wants to move forward alongside scholars and all social groups, and it is inappropriate if a single nomination creates an otherwise impression.”

In another tweet, Mr. Chaudhary elaborated that the ideal state, according to Prime Minister Imran Khan, was of Madina and that the premier and members of his cabinet held Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in high esteem.

... Later Dr Atif, a professor of Economics and the only Pakistani to be considered among International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) ‘top 25 brightest young economists’, tweeted: “Nevertheless, I will always be ready to serve Pakistan as it is the country in which I was raised and which I love a great deal. Serving my country is an inherent part of my faith and will always be my heartfelt desire.

“Moving forward, I now hope and pray that the Economic Advisory Council is able to fulfill its mandate in the very best way so that the Pakistani people and nation can prosper and flourish.

“My prayers will always be with Pakistan and I will always be ready to help it in any way that is required.”

...

Meanwhile, Jemima Goldsmith, former spouse of PM Imran Khan, criticized the government decision in her tweet and stated: "The founder of Pakistan, 'Quaid-i-Azam' appointed an Ahmadi as his Foreign Minister."

She said: "Indefensible & very disappointing. New Pak government asks renowned & respected Prof of economics to stand down because of his Ahmadi faith."

In the same issue the Dawn wrote an editorial under the heading 'Jinnah's Pakistan' on this issue and commented as follows:

"A meritorious appointment has been undone for reasons that have nothing to do with professional competence or qualification.

... The political class will try and put the latest capitulation behind it quickly, but the effects will surely linger.

The historical record incontrovertibly demonstrates that concessions to religious zealots further erode the space for rational discourse and decision-making. ... But as security policymakers debate the political mainstreaming of some extant militant networks, there has been a question whether it is, in fact, extremism that is being mainstreamed in Pakistan.

The religious far right in the country has been mobilized in a manner that ought to worry all right-thinking citizens: short-sighted concessions and manipulations by the state will have far-reaching consequences for society.

...

A brilliant mind has been prevented from serving his country; what hope is there for the average citizen in the face of intolerance and organized hostility? Jinnah's Pakistan is tolerant, progressive, inclusive and democratic. Will Pakistan's leadership return to the vision of the founding father?"

The next day, the Dawn reported: Another jolt for EAC as London-based economist quits in protest. Dr Imran Rasul resigned the membership stated: "If there was one academic on the EAC that Pakistan needs, it was Atif Mian.... Basing decisions on religious affiliation goes against my principles, of the values I am trying to teach my children."

The mullas reaction was different and interesting. Mulla Rab Nawaz who is also an advocate and the president of Khatme Nabuwat Lawyers' Forum, said in a conference; "Mian Atif has been expelled from the EAC, but the government should explain why was he taken in the first place..." *The daily Jang; September 10, 2018*

At this occasion Human Rights Commission of Pakistan issued a press release expressing 'serious concern' over this decision of the government. Its copy is placed at Annex V to this report.

Civil society and Awami Workers Party held a demonstration outside Press club in Islamabad on September 10 and protested against exclusion of Dr. Atif from EAC.

Ahmadis and Pak politics

Pakistan Today; January 9, 2018: Ahmadiyya issue is greatly politicized in Pakistan with reference to the belief in End of Prophethood. The trend is uncommon and a cause of concern to many well-wishers of this country. The daily Pakistan Today made an editorial comment on this on January 09. We quote it below in full.

"The degeneration of political discourse

- Bringing religion into politics

The PML-N decided to appease the preachers of hate by making Zahid Hamid a fall guy. **As if this was not enough Captain ® Safdar launched a virulent tirade against the already persecuted Ahmadi community in the National Assembly.** Party leaders vied with one another in declaring Ahmadis non-Muslim. The PML-N government

in Punjab and at the center allowed the Tahrik-e-Labbaik (TLYR) speakers at Faizabad sit-in to continue their vitriolic harangues against the community day after day.

The PTI has also decided to make use of religion to advance its politics. The result is that as we approach the elections, the two parties have introduced a non-issue into the political discourse. Instead of seeking votes on the basis of their social and economic programme and performance, each one is trying to underline its religious credentials.

Recounting PTI's services at the Difa-i-Pakistan rally in Peshawar on Sunday, KP CM Pervez Khattak said he had made a chapter relating to the finality of prophethood compulsory in text books. Also recitation and translation of the Holy Quran till grade 12. Both measures he said were aimed at producing good Muslims. What is more his government had provided solar system to mosques and fixed honorarium for prominent prayer leaders. He criticized liberal forces for interfering in religious matters. PTI's ally Samiul Haq maintained that Jihad was compulsory for every Muslim in the prevailing situation, adding that the DPC was formed to counter Christian and Jewish lobbies.

The PML-N and PTI candidates fighting for a Chakwal provincial seat PP-20 have reduced the campaign to who is more opposed to the Ahmadis. The highest bidder so far is PML-N's candidate who called for expelling the Ahmadis from Pakistan. The PTI candidate on the other hand asked the voters to decide whether they stand with those who changed the Khatm-i-Nabuwwat law or with the lovers of the Prophet (PBUH).

The Punjab government meanwhile convened a gathering of spiritual leaders where both Shahbaz Sharif and Rana Sanaullah reiterated their belief in the finality of Prophethood. And still we wonder why the US has placed Pakistan on watch list for violations of religious freedom."

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/01/09/the-degeneration-of-political-discourse/>

Another report in greater detail, on this election in District Chakwal was published by the daily Dawn on January 8 under headline: **Political parties playing the religion card to woo voters in Chakwal.** It quotes the PML-N candidate Mr. SHA Khan, who was speaking in a Sunni mosque: "As my brother Zulfikar Ali Khan highlighted that Ahmadis are currently holding key posts, I feel proud that our party's Capt (retired) Safdar Sahib talked about this issue on the floor of the National Assembly for the first time. ... If Allah gives me an opportunity to reach the assembly, I would also raise this issue.

"The need of the hour is to remove Qadianis from public posts; **rather, they should be banished from the country,**" Mr. Khan added." (*Emphasis added*)

Exploit religion – trend in election campaign

Politicians do not forget that Pakistan is an Islamic Republic. They know that people generally are proud of their Islamic identity and love their religion even if their practice of it is discretionary. Political leaders themselves are of the same type. They think, perhaps with some justification, that playing religion card in elections is kosher. This perhaps could be justified to an extent if the aim and the practice is positive and in the long-term interest of public.

These elections were preceded by two major events in the last quarter of 2017. The first was the passage of the Election Act 2017 and its Amendment and the second was the rise of the extremist Bareilvi faction called Tehrik Labbaik (TLP) that subsequently blockaded the capital to the great embarrassment of the ruling party PML-N. These events spotlighted the Ahmadi issue, and while the politicians of the bigot brigade raised high the anti-Ahmadi flag, the mainstream parties, both in the government and the opposition decided to outdo one-another on this theme unbecoming of elections.

People were extensively exploited in the name of religion. Sectarian issues were highlighted knowing well that this would lead to extremism, even terrorism. This time, some politicians and a few political parties banked upon gaining votes or depriving their political adversaries of votes, in

the name of End of Prophethood. They also availed of the weeks leading to the election date, in persecuting Ahmadis in numerous ways. A short list is given below:

- The PML-N government declared that year 2018 will be celebrated as the Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) Year.
 - The TLP, a fresh entrant in elections as a politico-religious party, invested a great deal of political capital in Faizabad sit-in in the name of KN.
 - The PTI blamed the PML-N of disturbing the KN rules at the time of passage of the Election 2017 Act. It knew that the Act, prior to the later amendment, facilitated voting rights to Ahmadis. However PTI repeatedly held PML-N responsible for the attempted ‘improvement’ and declared the latter accountable.
 - Imran Khan asserted that none who does not believe the Holy Prophet to be the last prophet can call himself a Muslim.
 - The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Parliament declared Ahmadis in February this year to be a non-Muslim minority. The AJK prime minister is an affiliate of PML-N.
 - Three major KN conferences were held in Lahore in March, with more than a mere nod from the PML-N provincial government.
 - Ch. Pervaiz Ilahi of PML-Q issued a statement in support of the ‘end of prophethood’ in March.
 - Ahmadiyya property in Sialkot was destroyed by mob and a mosque was severely damaged. The mob was led by political mullas, while the administration and the police provided support – direct and indirect.
 - Freedom of worship was denied and restricted to Ahmadis in Districts Sargodha and Khushab of the Punjab in April 2018.
 - Ahmadiyya mosque in Karachi was threatened and the community members had to shift their households to avoid harm in North Karachi (April 19, 2018).
 - Ahmadiyya mosque in Deryan Wala, District Narowal was sealed by authorities.
 - After a threatening agitation by a mulla, the police booked an Ahmadi on fabricated charge of blasphemy in District Layya on July 1, 2018.
 - TLP and AMTKN held pre-polls *Ifiar* parties in Lahore to agitate the guests.
 - Capt. ® Safdar of PML-N ranted again against Ahmadis in an electoral meeting. He leaned on the usual blasphemy and end of prophethood themes.
 - Subsequent to a mulla-led agitation in District Layya, the police booked an Ahmadi for blasphemy in a fabricated accusation.
 - An Ahmadi was murdered for his faith, in Lahore on June 25.
 - A couple was shot in Jaranwala on July 7.
- Etc. Etc.

The above was indicative of the ugly trend in the election campaign, in violation of election rules. This could have got out of hand and resulted in an uncontrollable law and order situation, particularly if one or more parties, who were afraid of defeat in elections, had decided to throw up the chess board.

By mid-July it seemed that the End of Prophethood and the Ahmadiyya issue had become an important theme of the 2018 Elections. Political leaders, senior as well as junior, took up this issue in their rallies, and the vernacular media spared plenty of space for their statements.

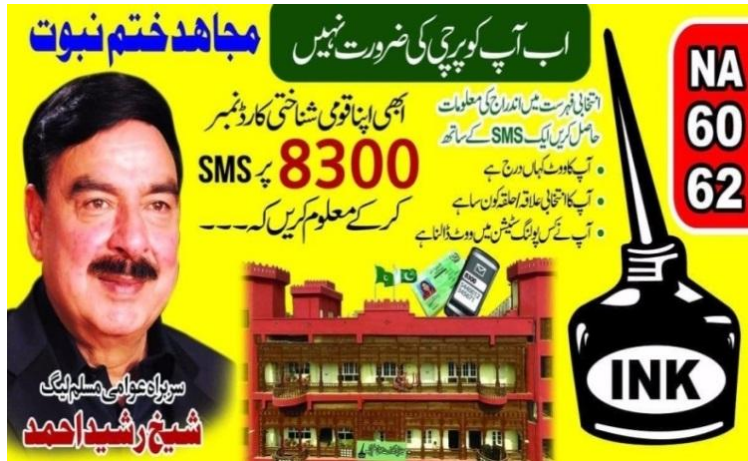
For example, Mr. Pervaiz Ilahi of PML-Q falsely accused the PML-N government of efforts to repeal the law on End of Prophethood. Fazlur Rahman of JUI-F accused Imran Khan of “promises to Qadianis of a change in Khatme Nabuwwat law”. *The daily Din, July 10, 2018.*

Pakistantoday.com.pd/2018/07/08 reported: "Imran Khan vows to defend blasphemy law. PTI Chief draws ire for exploiting Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) issue for political gain." The 'ire' of the few was apparently ignored by the Captain because for his support to the KN issue the Pir of Golra Sharif offered his support to the PTI. *The daily Dawn, July 3, 2018*. Mr. Imran Khan repeatedly raised the issue of Raja Zafrul Haq's report on who brought about the KN changes to the Election Act 2017. This was Khan's tool to worsen the PML-N, and in using it he failed to see his involvement in a religion-based issue which should not have gained the importance it did. It is indeed deplorable that not a single politician raised the question, "Why and on what basis you want to deny Ahmadis their right of vote?"

During those campaign weeks, PML-N repeatedly fired its unguided missile, Captain ® Safdar to press home strikes against Ahmadis. He pushed *inter alia* for changing the name of National Physics Centre in Islamabad from Abdus Salam to someone else. Mulla Rizvi of TLP issued a dreadful threat in a public rally to Ahmadis: "The day Islam comes to power, there will be one decision regarding Mirzais – either recite the Kalima (Islamic Creed) or accept death. There won't be anything else other than this..." *On YouTube (Translation)*. In May, after the destructive attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Sialkot, a PPP MPA proposed a motion in the Sindh Assembly to condemn the attack, but the senior leadership of PPP did not permit her to move the resolution. In this charged atmosphere of religious intolerance, a man shot Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, the Federal Interior Minister, on his election campaign trail. He survived luckily but according to him he still carries the bullet of hate in his body.



Amir Liaquat – Muhafiz KN



Sh. Rashid Ahmad – Mujahid Khatme Nabuwwat

Mr. Imran Khan's conduct deserves a bit more space on record. In one of his election rallies he proudly announced that in his government merit will be the criteria for ministerial appointments; he would not appoint any 'relative' as the finance minister, but a competent man like Professor Atif Mian. Later, when there was a rumor of some reaction, the Captain hurried to take back his commitment, saying, "Oh, I did not know that Atif Mian was not a believer in the end of prophethood."

Anyway in the elections numerous PTI nominees used the title of *Mujahid-e-Khatme Nabuwwat* (Warrior of End of Prophethood) in their election campaigns to attract the voters. PTI nominated Dr. Amir Liaquat Hussain from NA-245 as their candidate. He printed his publicity poster calling himself *Muhafize Khatme Nabuwwat*, (Savior of End of Prophethood). Sheikh

Rashid Ahmad, an ally of PTI, also mentioned himself on his publicity poster as *Mujahid-e-Khatme Nabuwwat*. Many nominees expressed their faith in Khatme Nabuwwat in a show of commitment to orthodoxy in Islam and opposition to Ahmadiyyat.

Three years imprisonment for “calling Qadiani a Muslim or preaching Qadianism”

Electronic Crimes Bill (Amendment) presented in the Senate

Lahore; September 20, 2018: The daily *Ausaf* published a news report with the above headlines (extracts) today. An extract of the report is translated below:

“Islamabad (News Agency): Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2018 has been moved in the Senate. According to the Bill, desecration of copy of the Holy Quran on social media invites life imprisonment, death for those guilty of blasphemy against the Prophethood (*Risalat*) and the false accusers of blasphemy, and three years’ imprisonment for those who insult religious personalities. The bill has been passed on to the relevant standing committee for perusal. The bill was presented by state finance minister Mr. Hamad Azhar on Wednesday. ... A Qadiani, calling himself a Muslim or preaching his belief will be punished with three years’ imprisonment and fine. The bill proposes death for one who falsely accuses another of Blasphemy. ... The bill proposes 4 years’ imprisonment and three million fine for one guilty of posting or selling pornographic (*fohsh*) material....”

Note: It is noteworthy that the state rather than curbing and restricting the laws on blasphemy etc. is taking further steps to enlarge the scope of application of these laws that have already pulverized the Pakistani society in many ways. Also, the fact that they chose to repeat specifically the anti-Ahmadi laws as well, confirms the PTI’s indirect support to bigotry and sectarian prejudice.

Penalty of death should be laid down for deniers of End of Prophethood: Siraj-ul-Haq (Amir Jamaat Islami, Pakistan)

Lahore: The daily *Ausaf* quoting its correspondent in Chenab Nagar reported the following in its issue of October 1, 2018 (extracts):

Penalty of death should be laid down for denier of Khatme Nabuwwat as well: Siraj-ul-Haq The youth should turn to madrassas to escape Qadiani designs

Chenab Nagar (Ausaf correspondent): Siraj-ul-Haq Amir Jamaat Islami while talking to Mian Abdul Qayyum Hunjra stated that as per Constitution, Qadianis the deniers of Khatme Nabuwwat are outside the pale of Islam. Penalty for treason against the Constitution is death, so a denier of Khatme Nabuwwat should also face penalty of death (*sazae maut muqarrar ki jai*)... .

Note: The above is indicative of the level of bigotry, religious intolerance and political corruption of the emir of a front-line Islamist party in Pakistan.

This demand is perhaps the ‘first ever’ made this way by a leading mulla.

Mulla Rizvi of TLYR prescribes ‘Death’ for Ahmadis

Maulvi Khadim Hussain Rizvi of TLYR (Faizabad notoriety) spoke at a Khatme Nabuwwat conference; its clip is available on YouTube. While talking about Ahmadis on the issue of ‘end of prophethood’, he expressed his anger over talking ‘peace’, and said, “...And here are we – talking about peace in Pakistan. About peace! This is the same thing (sic); that is why Islam is not allowed to come to power (here). The day Islam comes to power, there will be one decision regarding *Mirzais* (Ahmadis): Either recite the Kalima (become Muslim) or accept Death. There won’t be anything else other than this. ...”

(Translation) <https://youtu.be/pa-g8jY10d8>

Move in the National Assembly to impose Death Penalty on Ahmadis

Islamabad: We have received copy of an Adjournment Motion under signature of a JUI-F women member of the National Assembly, signed on March 26, 2018 asking for debate on the issue of people who become Ahmadis. Extracts from the applications are translated below:

Adjournment Motion under Rule 259

I put forward this Adjournment Motion on an extremely important and utmost momentous matter:

...

And these people (re-converted Ahmadis) proceed abroad and bring bad reputation to Pakistan. They blemish this country and nation, and obtain benefit in foreign countries, as Ahmadi/Qadiani. In fact, the apostasy laws apply to them. As such under what rules NADRA changes their religious identity? How many individuals' identity cards have been modified? This important issue should be debated in the parliament.

Sd –

Mme Naeema Kishwar Khan

N.A-327

Member National Assembly

200/26-3-2018

(**Note:** It is relevant to mention that according to JUI-F (the party of the applicant) penalty of apostasy is 'Death'.)

Statement by a former chief minister of the Punjab

Lahore; March 10, 2018: The daily *Express* of March 10, 2018 published a news-report about the conference held under the title of Amir Shariat Conference in Lahore. Mr. Pervaiz Ilahi, a former chief minister of the Punjab addressed the conference. He spoke against the beleaguered Ahmadiyya community in the name of 'end of prophethood'. Extracts from the report are given below:

Some elements in the government still active to repeal the law on Khatme Nabuwwat: Pervaiz Ilahi Immunity given to those who altered the affidavit proves that it was conspiracy of the N-League ...

Lahore (News reporter): Chaudhary Pervaiz Ilahi, a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-(Q) warned that some elements are still trying to abolish the law on Khatme Nabuwwat (PBUH); vicious attack on this law was undertaken in the guise of alteration in the Khatme Nabuwwat affidavit. It failed due to national resistance but the elements involved in this disgusting action are being protected by the government and their names have not been made public yet. This clearly proves that the present leadership of N-League was behind the sordid conspiracy, and they did that to please the West. While addressing the Amir Shariat Conference held in Evan-i-Iqbal by Ahrar e Islam, he said that whole nation should resolve firmly to protect the Tehrike Khatme Nabuwwat so that the like of the failed attempt made by the present government would not be repeated in future. He said that it is to the credit of the Pakistani people that they are the first who legislated measures to safeguard the Khatme Nabuwwat. Almighty Allah honoured Chaudhry Zahur Ilahi Shaheed to move the first privilege motion in the National Assembly in this regard. ...

It is noteworthy that after the elections, the PTI in the Punjab offered Speakership of the Assembly to Mr. Ilahi, who now is a coalition partner of the government.

Federal government proceeds with implementing the Agreement made with Dharna mullas of the TLYR

Islamabad; January 16, 2018: The mullas of TLYR lifted the sit-in (*Dharna*) at Faizabad, Islamabad after an agreement with the government, that the daily Dawn assessed as a ‘**surrender so abject that the mind is numb and heart sinks**’ of those who uphold the writ of the state. The agreement comprised half a dozen terms. We expressed our concern in December 2017 report as, “Ahmadis are worried. They think that while the contending parties could well renege on various clauses of their ‘agreements’ both will happily comply with those terms that will further curb the human rights and freedom of religion of Ahmadis.” Our concerns were not misplaced; the follow-up events prove.

Soon after the signing of the agreement, the federal ministry of religious affairs announced that year 2018 would be celebrated as one for ‘Awareness of End of Prophethood.’ While the mullas are accusing the government of renegeing on some of its important undertakings in the agreement, the ministry of religious affairs is proceeding full speed ahead with the Khatme Nabuwwat agenda. It advertised in the press ‘holding of a competition in writing thesis’ on the subject of: **End of Prophethood and Muslims’ responsibilities – in the Light of Teachings of the Holy Prophet P.B.U.H.**

The ad lays down basic terms and conditions for the competitors, and requires them to submit their thesis to the ministry by March 20, 2018. It advises that for further details official websites www.mora.gov.pk and www.ppra.org.pk may be downloaded.

The title of the theme of the thesis is noteworthy for its goading and aggravation. It came from a government that expressed commitment to National Action Plan!

Copy of this ad is reproduced at Annex VI to this report.

KPK government extends help to mullas

Noshehra; January 11, 2018: The daily Dunya published this report from its representative in Noshehra, (extracts): Mr. Pervez Khattak, the chief minister, while addressing a get-together at Manki Sharif on the occasion of Khatmal Quran under Jamaat Ishaat al Toheedwal Sunnat, said that the provincial government is not only determined to revive Islamic tradition and to promote Islamic teachings, but also has taken firm steps in this regard. The provincial government has made Khatme Nabuwwat a part of school syllabus so as to fortify this belief in the younger generation. As compared to other sectors, Ulama who serve the cause of religion have greater claim on our services, he said.

Punjab government nominates two mullas of TLYR on Text Books Board

Lahore; December 19, 2017: The daily Jang reported that the Interior Department of Punjab has appointed two leading figures of Tahrik Labbaik Ya Rasulullah, Usman Afzal Qadri and Noor Muhammad members of the Curriculum and Text Books Board and issued a notification.

The appointment of leading figures of TLYR on the Review Committee for school syllabus is a part of the reconciliation policy of the Punjab government with the Tahrik, the paper added.

Present day rulers and politics of religion

Lahore; January 7, 2018: The PML-N Government of Punjab held a special Mashaikh (Scholars and Custodians of Prominent Shrines) Convention at the *Aiwan Wazir Alaa* (Chief Minister House) on January 7, 2018. Its main themes according to press advertisement were: 1) Eternal Devotion for the Holy

Prophet (PBUH), 2) Faith in Finality of Prophethood (KN). It was presided by the chief minister, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif. Rana Sanaulah, the provincial law minister also addressed it. According to a press report (*the daily Jang; January 8, 2018*) more than 150 Mashaikh and a number of high government officials attended the convention.

This convention deserves special mention in our report as its themes were closely related to the Blasphemy law and the persecution of Ahmadis in the country. Ahmadis were very recently deprived of participation in elections through an amended Election Act 2017 on the basis of ‘end of prophethood’, as a bargain in the infamous Islamabad sit-in (*Dharna*). The repercussions of the *Dharna* continue to disturb the provincial and the federal governments. In fact, one of the main leaders of the protest campaign is Pir Sialwi. Holding of this convention at public expense in the CM House is of politico-religious significance. Its noteworthy proceedings are mentioned below.

The chief minister said, “End of Prophethood (KN) is fundamental to our faith; we are its guardians. We have strengthened the law further on the KN and even if someone intends, he can make no amendment to it till the doomsday (*Qiyamat*).

“... Every Muslim is ready to sacrifice his life on the issue of Honour of the Prophet and the End of Prophethood. There are no two opinions about it that one who has no faith in *KN* is outside the pale of Islam. ...”

Rana Sanaulah, in his address, emphatically said, “Belief in KN is part of my faith, and I sincerely think that one who does not believe in the Latter Day Prophet (*Nabi Akhar al Zaman*, PBUH) is outside the pole of Islam. Qadianis are Non-Muslim. The leadership and the government of PML-N is playing its full role in safeguarding the belief in KN. The great Mashaikh are the captains of KN and we are their foot soldiers; hence there is no question of possibility of any harm to the KN.”

The speakers spoke on international relations and internal politics as well. National cohesion and social justice was emphasized. Mr. Shahbaz Sharif said, “We should examine as to what extent we have followed (Islamic) guidelines on fair distribution of wealth.” He said that it was an honour for him to attend that blessed get-together in which the greats (*Azim hastian*) had assembled. Rana Sanaulah told the Mashaikh that they (the PML-N) would continue to seek guidance from them.

At this occasion, the government of Punjab got published large size paid ads in almost all newspapers.

General Elections 2018 – from Ahmadiyya perspective

As the 2018 general elections approached, there was a continuous effort by most political parties to justify discrimination against the Ahmadiyya community to maintain or improve upon their vote bank. In this effort it became a norm with most politicians to assert their support to the blasphemy laws and the anti-Ahmadi laws. The only exception was Mr. Jibran Nasir, who refused to talk about religious affiliations during his campaign. In this process of reclaiming Islam, many politicians including PTI leader Mr. Imran Khan uttered unsympathetic statements against the Ahmadiyya community. This atmosphere, riled with opposing political stances, has seriously impacted the day to day lives of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Some of the leading politicians’ statements are mentioned below as example:

- “We are standing with Article 295-C and will defend it,” said the leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) at a gathering of Muslim leaders in Islamabad. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/09/imran-kahn-accused-over-defence-of-pakistan-blasphemy-laws>)

- Maulvi Khadim Rizvi of Tehrik Labbaik (TLYR) spoke at a Khatme Nabuwat conference and said: “The day Islam comes to power, there will be one decision regarding *Mirzais* (Ahmadis): Either recite the Kalima (become Muslim) or accept Death. There won’t be anything else other than this. ...” (*On YouTube – translation*)
- PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif proudly stated, “None involved in (KN) affidavit change was given (party) ticket.” (*The daily Islam; Lahore, July 23, 2018*)
- It will be beneficial for interim ministers to not touch the issue of Khatm e Nabuwat: Fazal Ur Rehman (*The daily Din; Lahore, July 19, 2018*)
- Imran wants Zafar’s report made public (*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, July 8, 2018*)
- Election campaign is being run through religious beliefs: Fawad Chaudhary (of PTI) (*The daily Jang; Lahore, July 3, 2018*)

Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan dissociated itself from the general elections. The spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan issued a press release giving reasons. The daily *Abtak* published its advertisement version on July 17, 2018. English translation of the press release is given below:

Ahmadiyya Community disassociates from the General Elections 2018

A separate voters list prepared for the Ahmadis alone based on religious consideration is stark discrimination

Chenab Nagar (PR): The Spokesperson of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan Mr. Saleem ud Din announced disassociation of the Community from the upcoming general elections set to take place in Pakistan on 25 July.

He said that although the elections are ostensibly being held under a joint electoral system, there is, however, a separate voters list for Ahmadis. The process for the registration of voters and the preparation of the voter-lists has been finalized by now. The forms issued for the registration of voters include the religion box and the related oath.

He expressed the view that under the current circumstances for Ahmadis to cast a vote, they first have to distance themselves from the Holy Prophet of Islam, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, and this is something to which no Ahmadi can agree.

Currently there is one voter list that includes all religious groups including Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Zoroastrians and Sikhs, whereas in the case of Ahmadis, a separate voter list has been prepared bearing the title ‘Qadiani men/women’.

This discriminatory treatment on the basis of religion is a deliberate attempt to disenfranchise the Ahmadis of Pakistan from the electoral process to all intents and purposes denying them their right of vote. Such prejudicial behavior is an open violation of Pakistani Ahmadis as citizens of the state, and goes against the vision of the founding father of the country, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and contravenes both the constitution and the very essence of the joint electoral system.

The Spokesperson said that under these circumstances the Ahmadis consider participation in the elections against their faith. And if anyone contests these elections as an Ahmadi, he cannot and should not be seen as a representative of the Ahmadiyya community, nor will any Ahmadi accept him as such.

Therefore, in view of the prevailing circumstances, the Ahmadis of Pakistan will once again not participate in the Pakistani general elections. (*Ad published in the daily Abtak; Lahore, July 17, 2018*)

It should be made clear that the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2017 reintroduced General Musharraf's Chief Executive's Order No. 15 of 2002 Articles 7B and 7C regarding Ahmadis, thereby asserting *the status of Ahmadis etc to remain unchanged* and also *requiring a voter to sign the given affidavit of faith in the end of prophethood as and when required by the Revising Authority* (See Annex IX). The affidavit in vernacular requires such a voter to state: "Affidavit on oath: I affirm on oath that, I believe completely and unconditionally in the finality of the Prophethood of the Khataman Nabiyeen Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), and that I am not a follower of any person who claims Prophethood after Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) on the basis of any interpretation of this word, neither I believe such a claimant to be a religious reformer or a prophet, nor do I belong to Qadiani or Lahori group or call myself Ahmedi." A similar declaration on oath is required from a Candidate who considers himself a Muslim.

EU Election Observation Mission stated in their Preliminary Statement that, "Ahmadis are still registered on a separate electoral roll, a clear disenfranchisement of the 167,500 Ahmadi voters in an environment of widespread sectarian violence. Pakistan is yet to fulfill its international obligations regarding equality of electoral rights to all minority citizens."(*EU Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement Islamabad, 27 July 2018 Page 13*)

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), a non-profit NGO issued a report declaring General Elections 2018 of Pakistan better than elections of 2013. According to the FAFEN report, despite complaints about vote counting process the elections were free, fair, transparent and accountable, in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Elections Act, 2017. (<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/449847-General-Elections-2018-comparatively-better-2013-polls-FAFEN-repor>)

Some interesting facts about the general elections 2018:

- Religious groups jump into electoral fray in a big way. TLP fields over 150 candidates for NA across country. (*The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 5, 2018*)
- The JuD, a front for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group launched its political wing Milli Muslim League (MML) and contested the elections.
- Another extremist sectarian outfit Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), which was banned in Pakistan, has fielded dozens of candidates including one of its top leaders, Aurangzeb Farooqi, who is on Pakistan's terrorism watch list. (<https://www.thequint.com/news/world/pakistan-elections-extremists-election>)
- The Jamaat-i-Islami, that was routed in the July 25 elections, has expelled several (20) senior members of the district *Shura* (executive council) and terminated their basic membership for violating its constitution. (*The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 7, 2018*)

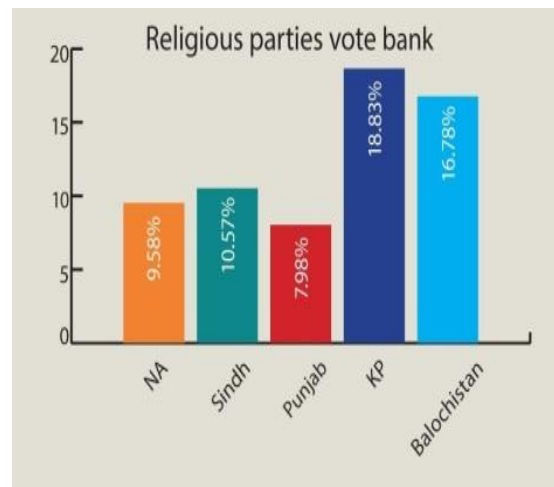
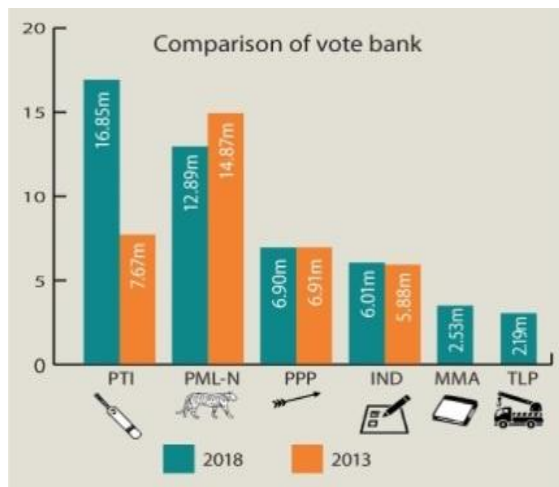
A few noteworthy election results in the Ahmadiyya context are as follows:

- Following important members of Mian Sharif family could not return to the National Assembly:
Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Captain ® Safdar, Ishaque Dar
- Maulvi Fazlur Rahman (JUI) and Sirajul Haq (JI) failed to win seats in NA.
- Zaeem Qadri was badly beaten in the contest.

- Extremist TLP won only 2 seats in Sindh.
- A Hindu won National Assembly general seat and two won provincial seats in Sindh.
- Jibran Nasir who refused to indulge in religious polemics could not win.
- Maulvi Ilyas Chinioti comfortably won provincial seat from Chiniot.
- Zia ul Haq's son met defeat.
- Ch. Nisar lost the NA seat.
- Election Commission postponed NA election at Sh. Rasheed's constituency.

The 2018 general elections followed, for the first time in Pakistan's history, two elected civilian governments completing their full terms. The elections took place against a background of allegations of interference in the electoral process by the military-led establishment and the role of the judiciary as a political actor. Media outlets and journalists suffer from severe restrictions and curtailment on freedom of expression. (*EU Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement Islamabad, 27 July 2018 Page 1*)

Some interesting statistics of the general elections 2018:



Plight of a political Pir

Sahiwal, District Sargodha; February 19, 2018: Khawaja Hamid ud Din Sialvi of Aastana Alia Sial Sharif was in the political news extensively on the issue of End of Prophethood. He led his own faction on this issue against Rana Sanaullah and the Punjab government early this year and demanded that Sharia be imposed in the country within one week or there shall be consequences. This agitation added greatly to the pressure on the beleaguered Ahamdiyya community. In these circumstances the daily *92 News* published the following news on February 19, 2018 (extracts):

Paralysis attack on Khawaja Hamid ud Din Sialvi. Shifted to Lahore unconscious.

Sahiwal/ Sargodha, Aminpur Banglah (reporter, correspondent, news agencies)... Pir Sialvi along with his cohorts was on his way to a Khatme Nabuwat conference in Aminpur Banglah, Chiniot. He departed from Sial Sharif at about 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. When close to Jhang his blood pressure shot up. Not well, he was taken to a private hospital in Sargodha. After examination and first aid, the doctors stated that he suffered an attack of paralysis on account of high blood pressure; he should be moved to Lahore for (extensive) medical treatment. Then Khawaja

Hameed ud Din Sialvi was shifted to Lahore in an unconscious state. After an hour's attention in an 'emergency' section of a private hospital he was shifted to the ICU. ...

According to a spokesman of a private TV channel, the Pir was perturbed over the government's breach of faith on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat; this caused the attack. ... According to Khuda Bux Tiwana, a spokesman, the Pir considered Shahbaz Sharif (CM) a very good friend. Sharif made a number of promises to the Pir on the issue of End of Prophethood but did not honour them. He was very distraught over the breach of faith by the government. This put immense pressure on him, which resulted in his ailment. Pir Sialvi has never made a compromise on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat.

The reality about Captain ® Safdar

Captain ® Safdar become very relevant to the Pakistani Ahmadi community when he indulged in a malicious attack against Ahmadis in the National Assembly on October 9 last year. The daily Dawn commented on it, "It was a diatribe both repugnant, not only in what was said but also in terms of the wider ramifications...."

Captain Safdar is an MNA of PML-N. He is married to Ms Maryam Nawaz, and is thus son-in-law of Mr. Nawaz Sharif, former prime minister.

In February National Accountability Bureau wrote a letter to the federal Ministry of Interior, No. 3-1(1)(14)L/NAB/D. Dir(ECL) dated 14th February 2018 regarding five accused including Captain ® Safdar, as follows, (extract):

Subject: Placement of Names on ECL – Investigation against Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Hussain Nawaz Sharif, Hassan Nawaz Sharif and Capt® Muhammad Safdar relating to Avenfield properties, United Kingdom

The undersigned is directed to convey that the Competent Authority while considering the equal treatment in the eyes of law for all accused has recommended placement of following five accused persons on ECL. (ECL Placement proforma, duly filled are enclosed).

Name and father's name : Mohammad Safdar S/o Mohammad Ishaq
CNIC No.35200-7820163-6
Address: Mohallah-H, House No. 180-181
Model Town Lahore Tehsil Lahore Cantt
District Lahore

Allegation: In compliance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan dated 28.7.2017 in Constitution Petition No. 29/2016, investigations, on the allegation of corruption and corrupt practices and amassing assets beyond means, against the subject accused were conducted and references filed in the Accountability Court at Islamabad, which are pending adjudication. Further investigations are under process while the accused persons did not join the proceedings at NAB despite service of summons and there is every likelihood that they can flee abroad to avoid the process of law.

This bigot was most impressed by Justice Siddiqui's rulings (reported at some length in chapter 1A) and demanded that IHC judgment as related to the end of Prophethood and Ahmadis should be made a part of the Constitution of Pakistan. (*The daily Jang; March 16, 2018*)

A few weeks later, In follow-up of his corruption scandal the daily Mashriq reported in following headlines:

Follow-up of corruption scandal. Decision taken to open up fresh reference against (Capt.) Safdar.

Nawaz Sharif gave Rs 9 billion to his son-in-law, in violation of rules. NAB obtains record of 9b worth transactions: Sources

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, May 2, 2018

During the election campaign weeks, PML-N repeatedly fired this unguided missile, Captain Safdar, to press home strikes against Ahmadis. He leaned on the usual blasphemy and end of prophethood themes. Column-writers took note of his conduct and commented, for example:

The bigots of politics

...Among all the members of mainstream political parties who have expressed bigoted views about the faith of political opponents or religious minorities. Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, Captain Safdar, tops the list. From paying homage to Mumtaz Qadri's bravery and extolling the virtues of vigilantism against alleged blasphemers to venting outrage against Ahmadis in parliament, he has never shied from flaunting his bigoted views....

Ali Arqam in Monthly Newslines: <https://newslinesmagazine.com/magazine/the-bigots-of-politics>

Eventually Safdar was sentenced to 1+1 year of imprisonment by an accountability court over corruption and fraud. He went into hiding to avoid arrest. Couple of days later he decided to emerge. Prior to arrest he is seen in a video on internet addressing his supporters, "... I am a political prisoner. I am going to be imprisoned for the honour of Prophethood (*Namus Risalat*). I am proud of this. I would have been ashamed if... ."

Now after his pre-arrest statement offering his arrest for the sake of honour of Prophethood he was severely and most harshly taken to task by TV commentators for his deceit, villainy and depravity to use religion for political gain.

Ulama board to help amend school curriculum – and a great deal more in the Punjab

Lahore: The daily *Dawn* published the following story in its issue of January 26, 2018:

Ulema board to help amend school curriculum

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to empower the Muttahida Ulema Board to help the government amend the curriculum.

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan told a meeting of the board here on Thursday that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics' board helping the education authorities in preparing school curriculum.

The education secretary has also been asked to get clearance from the board in case of adding or deleting any text regarding Islamic injunctions, he said.

The minister also directed the secretary to consult the clerics before induction of reading material in text books regarding creating awareness among the children about their physical safety. The board meeting had been convened to reset the requirements of education of children in the light of Quran and Sunnah, a press release said.

It was attended by board chairman Sahibzada Fazalur Raheem, Dr Raghav Hussain Naemi, Allama Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Dr Muhamamd Hussain Akbar, additional chief secretary (Home) Azam Suleman, secretaries of auqaf, special education and Textbook Board.

Mr. Sanaullah urged the clerics to help the government raise awareness in society on crimes against children and bringing a positive change in accordance with religious requirements in the academic curriculum of children.

This is the same Ulama Board at whose call the provincial government has already banned all the written works of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community. The board has been instrumental in banning

the Holy Quran published with translation by Ahmadis. The chairman of the Ulama Board mulla Fuzlur Raheem had all the Ahmadiyya periodicals banned even those meant for Ahmadi children and women. This gagging is blatant violation of the Constitution and is against the federal policy of free press and freedom of religion, even though very limited, of Ahmadis. The provincial Home Department most probably has instructions to do all that these mullas of the board 'recommend'. Now the Education Department is told to follow suit.

It is noteworthy that the law minister promised the mullas that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics' board in this regard. This amounts to handing over to them the education text books policy and implementation. This was more than even what the KP government had done where Jamaat Islami was part of the governing coalition.

After entering into a dishonorable agreement with Mulla Khadim Rizvi of TLP at the Faizabad sit-in, some bigots and timorous elements in the government went beyond the requirements of the imposed agreement. They declared that the year 2018 will be celebrated as one of Awareness of End of Prophethood. The ministry of religious affairs initiated a competition in writing thesis on the subject of 'End of Prophethood and Muslims' responsibilities in the light of teaching of the Holy Prophet PBUH'.

The Punjab Government entered into its own peace with the dissidents of the TLP of Faizabad. The sit-in and the government's inability to handle its lifting completely made them faint-hearted and compliant. The chief minister in Punjab held an End of Prophethood conference on 7th January at CM House in Lahore where a large number of even petty Mashaikh and mullas were invited, assured and feted at great public expense.

Mulla Allah Wasaya of a Khatme Nabuwwat organization had gone to the Islamabad High Court on the issue of end of prophethood. There the pious judge, finding the government on the defensive and on the run, issued his moot judgment even telling the Parliament to "also take measures which can completely terminate those who scar this belief (in end of prophethood)." Sky is the limit.

Since long a section of the local intelligentsia and majority of the international community have noticed with concern that all is not well with educational syllabi in Pakistan as some of its content promotes inter-communal hatred, even violence. Past federal governments had reluctantly acknowledged the need for the revision and steps were taken discreetly to revise the most unacceptable parts. However, the Punjab government (the biggest province) has decided to take a major leap backward to worsen the present position regarding curriculum and text books.

Some political analysts expressed the view openly that the PML-N, particularly its disqualified prime minister were prepared to go to any length to maintain and perpetrate their political hold on the country. Rana Sanaullah's homage to the Ulama Board was a part of that policy.

Believe it or not: Orya Maqbool Jan was proposed by PTI as Punjab Caretaker CM

Lahore; May 31, 2018: TV channel ARY flashed, and the press reported the next day that the Punjab Leader of Opposition, Mr Mahmood ur Rashid of PTI put up a new list of their candidates for the post of caretaker Chief Minister of the Punjab, and it contained the name of Mr. Orya Maqbool Jan as well. Rashid must have obtained endorsement of the proposal from party chief, Imran Khan.

Orya is known as an ultra-right wing brain. He has some following in the country and among the expatriate community. Sometimes ago he assessed the Taliban rule in Afghanistan as an Islamic model for this era. He is also seen in a video supporting the practice of wife-beating, on grounds that 'women

like it'. He also forcefully recommended death for anyone who claimed to be a prophet, or while claiming to be a Muslim followed such a person after the Holy Prophet. In his video he asserts (translation):

"...We are of the opinion that anyone who professing to be a Muslim declares himself to be a Prophet, he commits robbery against the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet. There is only one way (*Sunnat*) with us, it is the way of our mentor Abu Bakr Siddique i.e. chop off his neck (*gardan uraa do*) like that of Musailma, the Liar; chop off his neck like that of Aswad Ansi.... There is no other way." He was referring to Ahmadis in his passionate style.

People who know Islamic history know that Orya here twisted facts and misquoted history to suit his purpose. Musailma and Ansi, both raised armies and indulged in armed attack on the nascent Muslim regime. Abu Bakr (R.A.) had no choice but to defend the state by defeating them. Their claims to Prophecy had little to do with these battles.

The Holy Prophet of Islam is on record to have foretold:

"[A time will come when] there will be nothing left of knowledge. People will make the ignorant their leaders and will seek guidance from them in matters of religion. These leaders will issue Fatwas without any knowledge. They will themselves be misguided and will lead others astray.

(Mishkat, Kitab ul Ilm, chap.3 p. 38)

However, it is noteworthy that the attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in Sialkot was also led by a PTI activist, Hafiz Hamid Raza. Although subsequently the PTI distanced itself from the grave sacrilege, the party took no action against the lead miscreant.

Prior to elections PTI leader, Imran Khan made a number of moves that belie his liberal credentials. In fact, these betrayed his very shaky commitment to liberal values. His 5-year partnership with Jamaat Islami in KPK government, his participation in Khatme Nabuwwat conferences organized by extremist mullas, KPK government's award of huge purse to Mulla Sami ul Haq's madrassah, and then after PTI's hews and how's over Punjab CM nominee the proposal to install Orya as the chief minister of the country's largest province was perhaps the last nail in the coffin of expectations of PTI being a party of higher liberal and secular values that would retrieve Pakistan from the clutches of religious bigotry and hate.

The learned and undaunted Aysha Siddiqua wrote in her op-ed for The News in December 2017:

"A historic overview of the country where religious groups of one hue or the other have played their role with the state to turn it into a hybrid theocracy of today.

"...Now it does not matter anymore if Shariah is formally applied or not. But between Khadim Rizvi and Orya Maqbool Jan, the state is theirs to claim."

PTI spared these fellows the effort to claim the state; it offered them on a platter.

TLP (TLYR) uses religion card in election campaign

July 2018: TLP *aka* TLYR remained very active against the Ahmadi community in the election campaign. This politico-religious party is led by Maulvi Khadim Hussain Rizvi. Rizvi stated: "The day Islam comes to power here, there will be only one decision regarding the *Mirzais* (Ahmadis): either recite the *Kalima* or accept death."

Rizvi visited Karachi on July 1. Although he himself was not a candidate, his party fielded numerous candidates in the mega city. Rizvi addressed a number of corner meetings and rallies wherein he targeted the Ahmadiyya community and made hateful speeches. His disciples followed the policy and they agitated the audience against Ahmadis through hateful speeches.

A TLP mulla from An-Noor Society excelled others in using bad language against Ahmadi elders. He said that if TLP came to power in Pakistan, it will annihilate the Ahmadiyya community.

On June 30, activists of TLP in Nishat Colony Lahore spray-painted hateful sketches on the outer walls of the house of Mr Israr Ahmad, Ahmadi. Mr. Ahmad reported the incident to the police. As a result, during the night someone partly effaced the hateful sketches. It is not known what action the police took, if any.

On July 17, TLP held an election rally at Mughalpura, Lahore. The candidate, Muhammad Yusuf and other speakers asked the people to vote for TLP in order to crush Qadianis and shield Muslims from their influence. They declared their object of uprooting Qadianism. They shouted slogan: One who is a friend of Mirzais is a traitor, a traitor.

Penal action by Ahmadi-bashers subsequent to Ahmadiyya boycott of elections

An ‘announcement’ was published in the dailies Abtak and the Frontier Post declaring that as Ahmadis had been placed on a separate electoral list despite Joint Electorate and also to be eligible for voting they were required to sign an affidavit delinking themselves from the Holy Prophet, they would boycott the elections.

Subsequent to this, mullas made efforts to implicate Ahmadiyya leadership in the country in a criminal case. Two writs were moved in courts at Lahore and Lalian in District Chiniot.

Mullas applied to the police as well to register criminal cases against Ahmadi leaders, but as there was no justification for that, the police refrained from the requested follow-up.

The opponents subsequently moved a writ petition against Mr. Saleemuddin, the Ahmadiyya director of public affairs, in the court of Addl. Session Judge Lahore Mr. Azhar Iqbal Ranjha. The judge initiated preliminary hearings. Similarly a writ petition was moved with the Addl. Session Judge Chiniot for registration of a case with police.

Hafiz Saeed’s statement concerning Ahmadis

Lahore; September 10, 2018: Hafiz Saeed is a known figure from Pakistan. He is emir of his politico-religious party, Jamaat ud Dawa which is banned, and he is accused of indulging in acts of terrorism. His views on Ahmadi Jamaat were published in the daily Ausaf on September 10, 2018. Extract:

“Qadianis are open enemies of Islam and Pakistan, their appointment on important posts is intolerable.

Qadianis, by masquerading as Muslims are bringing a bad name to Islam and Muslims: Amir Jamaat ud Dawa

Publishing blasphemous sketches is a daunting conspiracy. Muslim rulers should pressurize UN to legislate against blasphemy against prophets.

Lahore (Political reporter): Professor Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Amir Jamaat ud Dawa said that Qadianis are open enemies of Islam and Pakistan. Their appointment on important posts is not at all acceptable. They should be removed from important posts forthwith and should be barred from anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan activities. Faith in the End of Prophethood is fundamental to the faith of all Muslims. He was talking to delegations of workers and officials. He said that Qadianis were nurtured by the British and this plant of great mischief was planted by them. Ahmadis intend to accomplish their conspiratory plans through influence in the government. Qadianis have accelerated their activities with the incoming of the new government. The government should take cognizance of foreign interference and it should take effective action to block Qadianiat.

Hafiz Saeed added that by posing as Muslims, Qadianis are bringing a bad name to Muslims. The entire Muslim Ummah will have to take united stand to fight back conspiracies against Islam and Muslims....”

Hate speech by leader of a political party

Allama Khadim Hussain Razvi, chief of Tehrik Labbaik (TLP) openly indulged in hate speech against Ahmadis. He accused them of blasphemy for denying the Khatme Nabuwwat, although they also believe in the finality of prophethood, with slightly different interpretation. The mulla told the police as well to provide no protection to Ahmadis. Extracts (English translation of his Punjabi):

“... I want to advise police officials that job is not everything, faith also does matter...Tell (your superiors) clearly that we can't protect them (Ahmadis)... Had you said this, Mirzais would have been dead the day they were born... Offer no protection to the rebels of the Prophet (PBUH)... Leave the job and be assured that the Master will take care of your livelihood... I also quit the job of Imam of the Pir Makki mosque because they stopped me from making speech on the honour of prophethood, but I left the job and God gave me money in one year that was equivalent to my income from twenty years' service ... This is our country... There is no pardon for the rebels of the Prophet here. Those who love Mirzais, they should take them to their homes and mansions... High police officials should be Muslims, as also the lower ones... also the army personnel, the DCs, judges, advocates, all should be Muslims; non-Muslims may stay here, we have no problem with their stay, but the honor and prestige should be due only to Muslims... Muslims should be above and all others below (them) ... Yes non-Muslims can be a subject, not in authority over us. Non-Muslims may stay here, surely but as sweepers ... No objection to that, but there is no leniency for one who would talk against our Master (pbuh).” (On Youtube in October 2018)

As per law PPC 153-A, this speech would earn this mulla 5-years' prison sentence. But the authorities postponed any action till the TLP became rabid and mounted a devastating attack on the judiciary and the army a few weeks later.

Jamaat Islami holds anti-Ahmadiyya 'Jurists Conference' in Islamabad

Islamabad; September 27, 2018: Jamaat Islami, one of the leading politico-religious parties, held a so-called Jurists Conference in Islamabad, in which the main themes were the Khatme Nabuwwat laws and the Blasphemy law. Many days later, its detailed reports were published in the far-right vernacular newspapers, the daily Ausaf of October 14 and the daily Insaf of October 19, 2018. It can be presumed that these reports were compiled by the conference organizers. We reproduce here a few extracts of these reports and add our brief comment at the end.

“Under the auspices of Jamaat Islami and under the chairmanship of its Amir Senator Sirajul Haq a conference was held in Islamabad over Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) and the Honour of Prophethood (Blasphemy). It was attended by retired chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhary, Ahmar Bilal Sufi, retired justice Manzoor Gilani and a number of retired judges, advocates and civil society activists. It was decided in the Conference to hold international jurists conferences in Geneva and London in January 2019 to lobby for framing international laws on Blasphemy and End of Prophethood.

“Sirajul Haq stated that the Senate should clear no bill that proposes any change in the existing PPC 295-C, also the recommendations of Raja Zafarul Haq Committee as well as the verdict of the (*dismissed*) Justice Siddiqui of IHC should be implemented word by word.

“The conference was addressed by “highly regarded international jurist Mr. Ahmar Bilal Sufi” among others.

“Pakistani constitution has clarified the position of Qadiani mischief (*fitna*), but they have not accepted this constitutional amendment and remain busy asserting their Muslim identity,” said Sirajul Haq.

“Former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhary (*now accused of corruption through his discredited son Arsalan*) said that Jamaat Islami has done well to hold this Jurists Conference. He applauded the 1974 National Assembly for being first to provide definition of a Muslim to the Islamic world. He rejected the proposal to award death penalty to false accusers of Blasphemy. He supported the move that Justice @ Siddiqui’s verdict regarding Qadianis should be implemented. “We should not let international conspiracy against KN laws succeed; we have no right to be alive if we are unable to safeguard the end of prophethood law,” he asserted.

“The post-conference declaration included, *inter alia*, that the participants condemned any changes to the Blasphemy law and its implementation procedure, and resolved to resist powerfully any such attempts. The speakers demanded that the definitions of Muslim and Non-Muslim should be widely publicized to remove any doubts, and till the Qadianis accept their non-Muslim status they should be denied all key posts and membership of policy-making bodies.”

Note: Jamaat Islami is a far-right political party with Islamist agenda to grab political power. Its founder Maududi was known for his fascist and extremist views, as also for his frequently changing expressed opinions on important religious and political issues, in efforts to adjust to ground realities to attain his goal of political Islam wherein he would be the Supreme Jurist.

A brief note on this party and its founder is available in our monthly report for October 2018.

Thrashed Jamaat Islami turns its guns on Jamaat Ahmadiyya

Lahore: Jamaat Islami was beaten badly in July elections this year. Even its national Amir, Siraj ul Haq failed to win himself a seat in the National Assembly. He was opposed by one of his own party men in the constituency. A general in-party revolt resulted in expulsion of approximately 20 senior members of a district Shura from the party.

Jamaat Islami, although claiming to be a political party has always taken anti-Ahmadi stand in political as well as religious fields. It poses to be an enlightened and open-minded Islamic party, but shows its true colours on Ahmadiyya issues. In the last week of November, Mr. Siraj ul Haq, its Amir fired broadsides against Ahmadiyya Community on two occasions in Lahore. We produce below headlines and extracts from national newspapers:

- **Ministers and advisors should abstain from patronizing Qadianis and show regard for their oath**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, November 26, 2018

- **Treason against the Constitution is not acceptable at all. Ministers and advisors should abstain from patronizing Qadianis. Servants of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) will not let anyone play with the Constitution.**

The daily Khabrain; Lahore, November 26, 2018

- **The nation can forgive every failing of the government but will not tolerate at all government officials’ familiarity and overindulgent treatment of Qadianis.**

The daily 92 News; Faisalabad, November 26, 2018

- **Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Senator Sirajul Haq has warned that until and unless Qadianis accept their constitutional status, the society would not accept them. Qadianis are posing themselves as true Muslims whereas they are hijacking Islam and cheating against 1.7 billion Muslims, therefore, it has become inevitable to show their true face to the world.**

The daily The News, November 28, 2018

- **The society would not accept Qadianis, until and unless they accept their constitutional status.**

The daily Ausaf; Lahore, November 28, 2018

- **Sirajul Haq alleged that the government was unable to discharge its responsibilities towards safeguarding Namoos-i-Risalat and the concept of Khatme Nabuwwat, adding people would be compelled to take law in their own hands on those highly sensitive matters.**

The daily The News; Lahore, November 28, 2018

Jamaat Islami has played religion to support its politics for the last 71 years. Its leader has learnt no lesson from people's near total rejection of its politics in general elections.

PTI government holds a sectarian moot

Islamabad; November 21, 2018: The daily The News International in its issue of November 8, 2018 published a news in the following headline:

Govt to hold two-day Khatme Nabuwwat moot

Its correspondent reported that this Conference would be held in Islamabad and high ranking ulama from abroad would be invited to attend. The decision was reportedly taken in a meeting between Minister for Religious Affairs Noorul Haq Qadri and Prime Minister Imran Khan at the PM office.



Mr. Imran Khan presiding over the moot

It is a common practice in the Sub-continent that at the occasion of the birthday of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) conferences are held to highlight different aspects (*Seerat*) of his life. This was also mentioned in the above report, however to call it a Khatme Nabuwwat conference was unusual, because in recent years the mullas in Pakistan have used the term Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) as a code-word for anti-Ahmadiyya activism. It seems that the high command was aware of this aspect. They found a reprehensible solution.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony published a sizeable ad in national newspapers regarding this moot of November 20 - 21, 2018. Therein the moot was called ‘*Rahmat ulil Alameen* Conference’; however the topic was mentioned as “Khatme Nabuwwat and Muslims’ Responsibilities – in the light of the Prophet’s teachings (*Khatme Nabuwwat aur Musalmanon ki zimmadarian ...*)”. *The daily Jang; November 16, 2018* (See Annex VII)

So, the government either arranged or agreed with the mulla to assure that this Seerat Conference, although held in the name of *Rahmat ulil Alameen* (Mercy for the Universe), would focus on the end of prophethood (anti-Ahmadiyya, as understood by the mulla). The proceedings of the conference proved that this apprehension was not mere imagination.

On the day of the moot, mulla Ahmad Ali Siraj, of Pakistan origin, reportedly now a lecturer at the Madina University in Saudi Arabia came to the rostrum and harangued the large crowd assembled in the Jinnah Convention Centre. Mr. Imran Khan, the Prime Minister was seated only a few feet away in the presidential chair when this mulla stated the following at this auspicious and blessed occasion, (extracts):

“PM Imran Khan, you deserve plaudits that you claim following the Islamic State of Madina, and in that state the first consensus was to launch an armed operation from Madina against one who claimed to be a prophet In this campaign 1200 Companions were martyred in the name of Khatme Nabuwwat and the honour of Prophethood. I am making you register that in a single action in support of the end of prophethood, fought against Musailmah the liar, 1200 Companions were martyred to destroy him, as per decision of the State. In these words, Mr. Prime Minister, our responsibilities are to make the people conscious (*sha’ur*) of Khatme Nabuwwat... . With these words I request the Prime Minister that the country is descending into chaos; we need to make the population aware (*sha’ur*).

“In this (drive for) awareness my foremost demand is that whatever restrictions are imposed on Qadianis in our Constitution should be implemented by the Prime Minister; also he should implement the penalty (*of death*) imposed on blasphemers as per the law of 295-C. We are with him; our prayers are with him...”

This mulla, in a huge public conference, with the Prime Minister seated only a few feet away, directly and indirectly demanded and exhorted him to launch an armed operation against a small peaceful group of citizens and nationals of Pakistan and to shed blood. Mulla Siraj told him of the high priority merited by this issue if he was sincere about his aim of following the *Riasat Madina*. The mulla assured him total support in this.

When this mulla moved away from the podium, nobody, neither the Prime Minister nor his minister of religious affairs told this mulla and the audience that he had quoted the campaign against Musailmah out of context and with no relevance. Musailmah had risen in armed rebellion against the nascent State of Madina. His claim to prophethood was only ancillary in nature. That situation was not even remotely the case in Pakistan.

Thereafter, another notorious mulla, Tahir Ashrafi, disputed chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council took the stage and fed the audience with unadulterated falsehood and fabrication. He authoritatively told the audience that Ahmadis while reciting the *Kalima* (Islamic creed) consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani to be the Muhammad of the wording “*Muhammad ur Rasul ullah*”. He asserted that the Mirza, in all his books, had told his disciples to always bear that in mind. This was a news to Ahmadis, as no Ahmadi goes by this fabrication attributed to Ahmadis and their founder. This mulla availing this expensive state function and celebration misguided a vast crowd and millions who were watching the PTV, to believe his assertion that was false, fabricated, sectarian and hateful.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the leading mullas attending this conference, while Aasia Bibi’s acquittal was a hot issue, asserted that it was the duty of the state to put blasphemers to death. Nobody

suggested that a judicial verdict on the guilt of such an accused should be respected. Also, nobody in this ‘Mercy for the Universe Conference’ had the courage to suggest that the country’s Blasphemy law should be revisited by this Islamic state in the light of the Holy Quran and the Sunnat of the ‘Mercy for the Universe’.

The PTI cabinet would be well-advised to carefully examine in future in depth all proposals for religious programs and policies, as the harm the mulla inflicts on this country is difficult to undo.

Ulama board to help amend school curriculum – and a great deal more in the Punjab

Lahore: The daily *Dawn* published the following story in its issue of January 26, 2018:

Ulema board to help amend school curriculum

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to empower the Muttahida Ulema Board to help the government amend the curriculum.

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan told a meeting of the board here on Thursday that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics’ board helping the education authorities in preparing school curriculum.

The education secretary has also been asked to get clearance from the board in case of adding or deleting any text regarding Islamic injunctions, he said.

The minister also directed the secretary to consult the clerics before induction of reading material in text books regarding creating awareness among the children about their physical safety. The board meeting had been convened to reset the requirements of education of children in the light of Quran and Sunnah, a press release said.

It was attended by board chairman Sahibzada Fazalur Raheem, Dr Raghav Hussain Naeemi, Allama Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Dr Muhammad Hussain Akbar, additional chief secretary (Home) Azam Suleman, secretaries of auqaf, special education and Textbook Board.

Mr. Sanaullah urged the clerics to help the government raise awareness in society on crimes against children and bringing a positive change in accordance with religious requirements in the academic curriculum of children.

This is the same Ulama Board at whose call the provincial government has already banned all the written works of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community. The board has been instrumental in banning the Holy Quran published with translation by Ahmadis. The chairman of the Ulama Board mulla Fuzlur Raheem had all the Ahmadiyya periodicals banned even those meant for Ahmadi children and women. This gagging is blatant violation of the Constitution and is against the federal policy of free press and freedom of religion even though very limited for Ahmadis. The provincial Home Department most probably has instructions to do all that these mullas of the board ‘recommend’. Now the Education Department is told to follow suit.

It is noteworthy that the law minister promised the mullas that the government would amend the relevant law(s) to formally empower the clerics’ board in this regard. This amounts to handing over to them the education text books policy and implementation. This is more than even what the KP government had done where Jamaat Islami was part of the governing coalition.

After entering into a dishonorable agreement with Mulla Khadim Rizvi of TLYR at the Faizabad sit-in, some bigots and timorous elements in the government went beyond the requirements of the imposed agreement. They declared that the year 2018 will be celebrated as one of Awareness of End of Prophethood. The ministry of religious affairs initiated a competition in writing thesis on the subject of ‘End of Prophethood and Muslims’ Responsibilities, in the light of teaching of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)’.

The Punjab Government entered into its own peace with the dissidents of the TLYR of Faizabad. The sit-in and the government's inability to handle its lifting made them faint-hearted and compliant. The chief minister in Punjab held an End of Prophethood conference on 7th January at CM House in Lahore where a large number of even petty Mashaikh and mullas were invited, assured and feted at great public expense.

Mulla Allah Wasaya of a Khatme Nabuwat organization had gone to the Islamabad High Court on the issue of end of prophethood. There the pious judge, finding the government on the defensive and on the run, issued his moot judgment, even telling the Parliament to "also take measures which can completely terminate those who scar this belief (in end of prophethood)." Sky is the limit.

Since long a section of the local intelligentsia and majority of the international community have noticed with concern that all is not well with educational syllabi in Pakistan as some of its content promotes inter-communal hatred, even violence. Past federal governments had reluctantly acknowledged the need for the revision and steps were taken discreetly to revise the most unacceptable parts. However, now the Punjab government (the biggest province) has decided to take a major leap backward to worsen the present position regarding curriculum and text books.

Some political analysts have expressed the view openly that the then ruling PML-N, particularly its disqualified prime minister were prepared to go to any length to maintain and perpetrate their political hold on the country. Rana Sanaullah's homage to the Ulama Board was a part of that policy.

For archives: some news in July 2018

July 2018: In July there were news in media that have a significant link with the Ahmadiyya issue in the country. It is of historic value to place on record important extracts of these news items. Here we quote a few, along with their source, as reference:

I. Avenfield case

NAB arrests Safdar after high drama

Sharifs son-in-law stages rally in Rawalpindi before being held

The national Accountability Bureau (NAB) has taken Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law Capt @ Safdar, convicted in the Avenfield properties case, into custody and announced initiating legal proceedings against all individuals who sheltered and helped him evade his arrest.

Capt @ Safdar was sentenced to a one year jail term on July 5 by an accountability court.



Praising Mumtaz Qadri who murdered former governor Punjab Salman Taseer, Safdar shouted slogans in his (Qadri's) favour. He insisted that he was being victimized for openly supporting the cause of Khatm-e-Nabuwwat.

When the rally arrived at the Sixth road, the number of his party supporters had dwindled down to just 300.

After his arrest, the NAB issued a statement expressing displeasure over the Sunday's turn of events.

"If he (Safdar) was a law abiding citizen, he should have surrendered himself before NAB soon after the judgment was announced against him. He is a convicted and corrupt person who is posing himself as a pious individual", NAB's statement read.

"NAB will start legal proceedings against all those who provided illegal shelter to a convicted person and (helped him evade his) arrest," the bureau stated.

The bureau accused Safdar of indulging in hate speech.

The Express Tribune; Lahore, July 9, 2018

Note: This is the same Capt ® Safdar who on October 9, last year mounted a vicious and wrongful attack in the National Assembly, on the Ahmadiyya Community on a point of order. He called Ahmadis a 'threat to the country'.

II. Disgraceful rejection of Mr Zaeem Qadri in general elections 2018

Lahore: Mr Zaeem Qadri was the Minister of Religious Affairs in the Punjab PML-N government. In that position, rather than caring for religious minorities, he spoke rabidly against Ahmadis on TV Channel 24 on January 24, 2018. He said, "The mentioned (Ahmadiyya translation of the) Quran has been banned, raids have been undertaken, presses have been sealed and people have been booked (by the police). ... If anyone still distributes that Quran, I'll personally strangle him. ... As for me I am not prepared to give the Ahmadis even their rights granted by the Constitution to non-Muslims."

Prior to the general elections, the Punjab Government was replaced by a caretaker government. The PML-N high command, while distributing their tickets to candidates, decided to overlook Mr Zaeem Qadri. This upset him greatly, and he decided to rise in revolt and contest the election as an "Independent".

The News International published election results after the event. Syed Zaeem Hussain Qadri met a humiliating defeat in that he got only 1953 votes, while the leading candidate and the runner-up got 89,678 and 77,231 votes respectively.

III. Between a wall and a narrow path

A report from the daily Dawn: It is 10:30 p.m. and Ahsan Iqbal is winding up his election campaign for the day in a rural neighbourhood of this border district. Towards the end of his speech he talks about accusation that his party and leaders have gone soft on the issue of Namoos-i-Risalat, a refrain his main rival, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) Abrarul Haq, is also using to take the National Assembly seat (NA-78) from him.

"Namoos-i-Risalat is our faith," thundered Mr. Iqbal, who survived an attempt on his life during a rally in early May. The gunman who shot and wounded him is alleged to have links with an ultra-religious group.

The amendment to a law related to the Khatm-i-Nabuwwat had led to countrywide violent protests and lockdown in Islamabad last winter. The change was later retracted and law minister Zahid Hamid was forced to resign his job as a result of the government's deal with the protesting group brokered by the military.

"No one in the world has a right to issue a certificate of faith against his fellow Muslims. It is for Allah to decide who is a good Muslim and who is not," he argued before reminding the crowd that his mother Nisar Fatima was one of the key movers of the blasphemy law.

“Today we are being forced to prove our credentials as Muslims. This whole thing has created hatred in our society. I’m carrying the bullet of hatred inside me. We need to fight and win this war against religious hatred if we want to make progress.”

His supporters say Mr. Iqbal is forced to talk about the issue of Namoos-i-Risalat because his Tehrik-i-Insaf rival Abrarul Haq is using it against him.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 10, 2018

IV. Sharifs’ trial ends, tribulations begin

- Nawaz, Maryam and Safdar found guilty in Avenfield property case
- Nawaz gets 10 years, Maryam seven years, her spouse one year imprisonment

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 7, 2018

V. SJC approved open trial of Justice Siddiqui’s reference

... The decision was taken at a meeting of SJC, which was presided over by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar. Justice Siddiqui has been facing a reference before the SJC for alleged misconduct for the past 18 months.

The daily The News; Lahore, July 8, 2018

VI. Sharifs in Jail; jury out on future

With Lahore put on lock-down amid protests and election rallies, former premier Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz were arrested just after their flight landed at Allama Iqbal International Airport, flown to the Islamabad on a private plane before being shifted to Adiala Jail in a convoy of security vehicles late Friday night.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 14, 2018

VII. SJC holds first open trial of high court judge

Dismisses Justice Siddiqui’s three applications; tells him to trust the council.

The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, July 31, 2018

CJP reprimands Justice Siddiqui as SJC begins open trial.

The daily Dawn; Lahore, July 31, 2018

VIII. Ishaque Dar (a close relative of Nawaz Sharif and former Finance Minister) seeks asylum in the UK.

The daily Mashriq; Lahore, July 11, 2018