Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir said in the Assembly while moving amendment to the Constitution:

- 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.
- 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 (etc.).

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From the media
Azad Jammu and Kashmir Parliament also declares 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 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.

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).
- 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 covetuous; 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 (sarfakhar sey baland hogia).” 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 HermA 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:

Mentioned in press reports for their role:

**A High Court Judge in action on End of Prophethood (KN) front**

**Islamabad:** Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has been in the news and mentioned in dispatches in the past few months on various issues including Khatme Nabuwwat (KN). Recently the media reported his decisions, observations and actions; these are reported here without any comment.

1. The daily Dawn reported the following in its issue of February 22, 2018 (extracts):

   **IHC asks scholars to assist in identifying non-Muslims**

   ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has appointed four Islamic scholars as amicus curiae and sought their assistance on six questions regarding the identification of non-Muslims.

   IHC Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui during Wednesday’s hearing of a petition filed on the identification of non-Muslims in government, semi-government and autonomous organizations, who have not identified themselves as non-Muslims, posed six questions to the amicus curiae....

   The court has appointed Prof Dr Hafiz Hassan Madni from Punjab University, former Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) member Dr Moin Naqvi, CII member Prof Dr Sahbzada Sajidur Rehman and Mufti Mohammad Husain Khalil Khel.

   The questions are: ‘Whether an Islamic state could evolve a law to determine identity of Muslims and non-Muslims’, ‘Whether non-Muslims should be allowed to introduce themselves Muslims,’ ‘Whether such concealment falls into the ambit of fraud’, ‘What is the responsibility of the state in such a situation’, and ‘Whether it is a violation of fundamental rights if the state inquires about the religion or religious beliefs of citizens’.

   The court also directed the scholars for their availability from February 26 onwards.

2. The daily Pakistan reported the following in its issue of February 21, 2018 (extracts):

   **Islamabad High Court orders separation of Khatme Nabuwwat and Faizabad Sit-in (Dharna) case**

   ....Khatme Nabuwwat case will be heard on daily bases

   Islamabad (On line, NNI, INP): ...The Constitution of Pakistan does not recognize Qadianis as Muslims. If Qadianis are to stay in Pakistan, they should do so as citizens and not indulge in thievery (naqab) in Islam. We’ll not make any compromise on the issue of End of Prophethood. Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of IHC made the remarks in court when the other day Deputy Attorney General could not present Raja Zafrul Haq Committee Report, that he was playing a strange game with the court, why he should not require the
No one can change his religion without court permission (Hukm)

Islamabad: Islamabad High Court while hearing a case of Khatme Nabuwwat in relation to Election Act issued a stay order (Hukme Imtinaee) regarding change of religion, ordering that no one can change his religion without authorization of a court.

As per detail, a plea was heard in Islamabad High Court on Khatme Nabuwwat with reference to Election Act. The hearing was held by single bench of the High Court, Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddique.

NADRA, on court orders, presented a record of registered Qadianis…. Important disclosures were made regarding Qadianis through NADRA records. NADRA report stated that there were 1,67,473 registered Qadianis in the country. 10205 Muslims switched over to Qadiani status with change in their CNIC. Their data was presented in a sealed envelope.

Justice Shaukat Siddiqui asked the Acting Chairman of NADRA whether NADRA can change religion of a Pakistani Muslim. The Acting Chairman NADRA told the court that NADRA system had no such option; those who change their religion to present a false oath (Half Nama) at the time of application for a CNIC.

Justice Shaukat Siddiqui remarked that all this was the biggest fraud with the state and the Muslim Ummah. Qadianis in order to join government service, tell a lie and pose as Muslim, and they revert to their real faith on retirement.

The court issued a stay order on change of religion and ordered that no one can change his religion without court order; after the stay order now NADRA cannot change any one’s religion (entry in records).

Subsequently the judge held hearings in presence of amicus curiae and state witnesses. A few reports from the media are copied below (sources are mentioned at the end of this story):

- Earlier the National Data Base Registration Authority (NADRA) submitted a report before the court according to which 10,205 persons had changed their religious status from Muslim to Ahmadi. The (Single) bench then directed NADRA to provide details on how many got new passports after changing their religion. (Pakistan Today)
- During the hearing, Justice Siddiqui directed Nadra to provide name, father’s name, age and details of foreign trips of those persons in a sealed envelope to the court. (Nation 27 Feb)
- The FIA on Wednesday sought time from the Islamabad High Court to provide travel history of 6,001 persons who changed their religious status from Muslim to Qadiani on their CNICs. (Nation, 01 March 2018)
- Justice Siddiqui remarked that there were several youth who changed their religious status to get foreign citizenship. (Nation, 01 March 2018)
- Mohsin Naqvi (a.c.) added that law for apostates in Pakistan is not clear and that it should be properly implemented. To this Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui responded that proper “amendments have not been made in the Constitution regarding Ahmadis”. (Pakistan Today)
- “What will be status of people converting to the Ahmadi faith after retiring from public service? Aren’t these people fooling the state?” Siddiqui asked, adding that to fool an Islamic state is tantamount to treason. He said that the biggest problem of Pakistan is that instead of majority rights, there is more focus on minority rights. (Pakistan Today)
- Both the bench (Siddiqui) and the amicus curiae expressed that the September 7, 1974 legislation through which Qadianis
were declared non-Muslim has several lacunas in it. The bench said that this exercise is aimed at providing the legislature with recommendations to cover those lacunas. Sajid ur Rehman (a.c.) said the non-Muslims could not be allowed to participate in the matters that are related to the interests of Muslims. The collective wisdom should decide that what official posts and authorities should be reserved for Muslim, and non-Muslims should not be appointed over these. (The News)

Prof. Dr Hafiz Hassan Madni of the Institute of Islamic Studies, the University of the Punjab assisted the court as amicus curiae and said, “A person who converts from Islam to another faith is an ‘apostate’ and deserves a penalty prescribed for this.” (The News)

He said Ahmadis were more dangerous than non-believers as they were neither Muslims nor Christians and, in fact, they had covered themselves under Islam. (Nation 27 February, 2018)

He (Mulla Madni a.c.) said the oath of Khatme Nabuwvat was an essential part of oath for president and prime minister. This oath should be duly included in the amended law, besides making part of the oath of federal ministers, Senate Chairman and other officials.

Justice Siddiqui asked Madni if there was a condition for a judge to be a Muslim. He replied Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has said that a judge should be a learned person both in terms of religion and worldly affairs. A recommendation should be made that a non-Muslim should not be appointed a judge, he said. (The Nation/27-Feb)

Sajid ur Rehman (a.c.) said that if a Qadiani pretends himself to be a Muslim for getting a job, it amounts to cheating and fraud with the state and also tantamount to treason. Referring to the incidents from Islamic history, Sajid ur Rehman said that for concealing the real faith, major penalty could be imposed on such persons. Sajid ur Rehman said the state should include into its list when scrutinizing particular posts.

To a question by the court that there were instances when fingers were pointed at some persons that they changed their religion for some benefit, Sajid ur Rahman said that there should be a board of Ulema who should decide about the faith of a person. (The News)

In a subsequent hearing Judge Siddiqui directed the Pakistan Electronic Media regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to provide details on the Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International TV Channel. (Pakistan Today 2018/03/02)

Advocate Akram Sheikh was assisting the court as amicus curiae. He was of the view that Ahmadis could not be permitted to adopt Islamic ways and teachings.

In reply to a question whether to install filters and checks, acquiring knowledge about personal faith of citizens can be termed as infringement to any fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, he replied that as installation of filters and checks requires knowledge about the personal faith of individuals, which may become a tool in the hands of the administration and is capable of being misused, with this note of caution, and with the intent to protect minorities, such data could be collected by making declarations necessary….

He further said, “Hence neither a member of a majority group nor a member of a minority group can change sides, to avail benefits accorded to sects other than its own; and if this is done, it tantamount to a plain fraud on the law, liable to be visited such penalties provided under the law. It should be clearly understood that Qadianis, Ahmadis and Lahori group are admittedly a distinct and separate
religious (minority) sect, having been declared as such by the Second Constitutional Amendment, followed by corresponding changes brought about in the law. They themselves consider and declare members of other sects of Islam as non-believers/non-Muslims,” the lawyer added. (Nation, 03-March-2018)

Also, “Addressing the court the lawyer suggested a strict action” against those who changed their religious status from Muslim to Ahmadi.”…Sheikh being concerned over the revelations in the government report said that “Ahmadies can’t be allowed to exercise Islamic rituals as it could “hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims.”… The lawyer suggested that one should submit an affidavit on the finality of prophethood mandatory for issuance of a CNIC (Identity Card). (Pakistan Today, 2018/03/02)

Note: Judge Siddiqui invited no Ahmadi scholar or advocate to present a different view on issues under consideration of the court.

References:

Ahmadiyya prayer centre under scrutiny

Peelovains, District Khushab; February 2018: Ahmadies inaugurated their newly-built prayer centre and started worship in it. This was intolerable for local mullas. They complained to the police that Ahmadies had built a mosque. The police arrived to investigate and asked for a No Objection Certificate for the mosque. They were told that this was not a mosque, only a room where Ahmadies assemble for prayers. Moreover the government does not issue such NOCs to Ahmadies, nor was it needed under such circumstances. The police went back and reported the matter to the Deputy Commissioner.

Ahmadies under serious threat in Multan

Multan; February 2018: It is learnt from official sources that Ahmadies and their worship places in Multan are under threat. Extremists have plans to kidnap two well-known Ahmadies Rana Nadeem Ahmad, Rana Fareed Ahmad and their families. They have carried out recce for this purpose both of their residence as also of schools of their children. The police has appointed guards at Ahmadiyya mosques. Ahmadies are alarmed in the city and have been advised to exercise extreme precautions.

‘Hundreds of thousands’ sacrificed for Khatme Nabuwwat!

Vehari; February 19, 2018: The daily Ausaf of February 19, 2018 reported the following from Vehari, Punjab, dispatched by its correspondent:
Hundreds of thousands sacrificed their lives for Khatme Nabuwwat law, amendment will not be tolerated: Maulana Rafiq Jami (of AMTKN)

Mullas of the end of prophethood factions seem to admire an observation of Adolph Hitler from his book Mein Kampf: “The broad masses of the people… will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one.”

It is true that during the 1953 riots on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat, the authorities had to resort to tough measures to control the riots. As a result some rioters succumbed to police and army firing.

The prestigious document Munir Inquiry Report, long out of print, is again available in the market. It is published by NIAZAMANA PUBLICATIONS, Lahore. Soon after the riots were brought under control by the martial law authorities, the government, appointed Punjab Disturbances Court of Inquiry, Lahore with M. Munir (Chief Justice LHC) as its president and M.R. Kayani (Judge LHC) as member. This Court of Inquiry submitted a detailed report after almost a year of hard work and inquiry. It also recorded all the deaths of rioters in different cities at the hand of law enforcement agencies that included the army and the police. The judges recorded the following deaths:

Lahore – 23; Sialkot – 5; Rawalpindi – 1; Faisalabad (Lyallpur) – 7; Sahiwal (Mintgomary) – 1. These add up to a total of 37. The mullas have quoted in the past different figures on different occasions, the highest being 30,000 dead, but they seem to have generally settled on the figure of 10,000 – i.e. 26.900% increase over the actual total. However, now they have taken a huge leap forward and quoted the figure as “hundreds of thousands” (lakhon janon ki qurbanian deen).

Follow-up report from Tandlianwala – Blasphemy charge

Tandlianwala; District Faisalabad; February 19, 2018: On January 20, 2018 a false police case under PPC 295-C was registered against Mr. Saeed Ahmad in Tandlianwala.

Actually Mr. Ahmad had an argument with a local shopkeeper over an anti-Ahmadiyya sticker. At that time both parties made peace. However, later on opponents consulted the local mulla, and went to the police station. The police obliged the bigots and registered a fabricated case.

The Sessions Judge of Faisalabad assigned this case to the Additional Sessions Judge of Tandlianwala. The president of the Ahmadiyya Community Faisalabad requested the Sessions Judge that the case was registered under 295-C, and the situation in Tandlianwala was not suitable for its hearing, so it should be heard in Faisalabad. At this, the judge retrieved it from Tandlianwala and assigned it to the Additional Sessions Judge, Faisalabad city.

Quotable quotes by the Chief Justice of SC Pakistan

Islamabad; February 20, 2018: Mr. Saqib Nisar the Chief Justice of Pakistan described the Parliament as supreme but said the Constitution was above that and had set the limits. This and other comments on law-making powers of the Parliament are very relevant to the anti-Ahmadiyya laws and the Constitutional Amendment Nr. II. We reproduce below the quotes as reported in The News International on February 21, 2018 (extracts):

Constitution above parliament: CJ
Says document sets limits; any legislation against fundamental rights can be struck down; given powers will be used with full authority
Any legislation found in contravention of the fundamental rights of the citizens could be struck down, he added.

The chief justice said it was conveyed the other day that the court could not intervene in the process of legislation. “But I reiterate in front of senior media persons that the Parliament is supreme but there is a Constitution above it, which has prescribed our limits”, the chief justice said.

The chief justice said any legislation made by Parliament and found in contravention of fundamental rights of the citizens could be struck down in accordance with law.

“We will not transgress our authority unless any provision of the Constitution relating to fundamental rights of the citizens is violated,” the chief justice remarked.

The petitioner, Hamid Mir, however, submitted that the chief justice had not named anyone, saying some people were bent upon making it an issue and hence the chief justice should not take that into account. “By no mean, we are giving any explanation nor are we bound to give explanation. We are also not scared but the power given to us by Allah and Constitution will be used with full authority,” the chief justice remarked.

Women mobilized on anti-Ahmadi front

Chiniot; February 2018: Having sufficient funds (in petro-dollars) and enjoying permissive policy of the government the sectarian Khatme Nabuwwat Centre in Chenab Nagar held a one-week course for women only, on the issue of End of Prophethood. The daily Pakistan reported on the course on its termination, in its issue of February 23, 2018. Following was reported in this story, inter alia:

- 46 women participated in the course.
- The concluding ceremony was addressed by:
  1. Qari Rafiq Nafeesi, Chairman Anwaar Khatme Nabuwwat Trust
  2. Haji Mehboob Ahmad, of IKNM
  3. Qari Abdul Karim Naqshbandi

  The speakers said:
  - The belief in End of Prophethood (KN) is life and death issue of the Muslim Ummah.
  - Defense of KN is not of intellect, it is (of heart) related to love and devotion to the Holy Prophet.
  - Any change in KN laws is playing with fire and blood.
  - Die-hard Qadianis in government service exploit self-serving faithless politicians. These politicians who pride in befriending Qadianis should know that their friendship is more dangerous than their enmity.
  - No evil power, including the US, can make any change to constitutional position of Qadianis.

Rabwah town’s civic situation – described by a non-Ahmadi journalist

The daily Islam published a report on Rabwah (official name Chenab Nagar) the Ahmadiyya headquarters town in Pakistan, on February 16, 2018, prepared by its reporter, Qari Salman Usmani. Extract of the same is translated below.

Chenab Nagar is located in district Chiniot. For a long time roads in Chenab Nagar have broken down due to the negligence of its elected representatives. It has become difficult for pedestrians to walk due to the rush of push-carts. They are all over the roads, and the administration sits idle. Riazabad road has become dilapidated very badly, although it is the only link road with suburbs. It got ruined due to lack of repairs and through negligence. Uncompleted water supply system has failed to supply water to (all) citizens. Nobody asked where the money had gone; why the work was not completed. Everyone took his share and kept silent. Crimes are common because of no street lights in dark streets, while the councilors and police do not act. Sewerage water pools dot the streets for lack of a drainage system. This produces mosquitos and deadly...
diseases. Excess of encroachments has become a big problem for citizens. Traffic jams, as the railway crossing closes, remain for hours, after it opens. Teenage rickshaw drivers stop their rickshaws for passengers wherever they want while the traffic police is busy collecting bribe. The problems remain even after a passage of over sixty years. …

Similarly Chani Qureshian is an old village of Chenab Nagar but it is receiving step-motherly treatment. The MPAs of this area spend its grant somewhere else. Its condition makes one cry. There is no sewerage system. Three times a grant was provided for the sewerage but nobody knows where it was spent. Drains spill over dirty water. Many young rickshaw drivers in Chenab Nagar cause frequent accidents in the town, they make it difficult for citizens to walk. The police seem to be helpless. These numerous drivers are the cause of accidents, and many people get their legs broken, causing big loss. Most rickshaw drivers do not have a driving license; they are ignorant of traffic rules, and they upset the traffic system. This causes frequent accidents, and passengers, mostly women and children, get hurt. The traffic police has failed to control and check the teenage rickshaw drivers who cause frequent accidents.

The state of the health department is the same. The slaughter house has a leaking roof, broken floor, damaged taps and no electricity. The meat of sheep is sold at the rate of goat meat. Slaughter the animals, put the stamps and go ahead – butchers enjoy open permission from doctors. This is obvious negligence of the slaughter department. Floors (of the slaughter house) are dilapidated. Holes are plenty and are lined with offal. This offal reaches the humans through animals, and diseases spread. An uncovered water tank supplies dirty water to wash the cattle; this is injurious to health. Eight of the installed water taps are damaged, the only one functional is insufficient for the entire slaughter house. Electricity wiring has burned out, only one bulb is operative. Butchers face great difficulty while slaughtering the cattle in darkness. Its roof leaks badly; it can come down any time and cause loss of life. Bricks of its boundary walls and its door have been taken away. Now, wild dogs sit there day and night and spread filth. Butchers slaughter animals at will, stamp it themselves and move on, due to the negligence of the department. With doctor’s negligence sheep are slaughtered and sold as goats.

Encroachment mafia has spread its tentacles. Citizens are wary of traffic jams. Students, women who come for shopping, and office goers have become hostage to the encroachment mafia, while no responsible official takes notice of the consequences. With rascals present in every street, ward, market, squares and crossroads one feels sorry for the district administration. Had they exercised their authority, the public would have been at peace and the mafia set aside. Pity, alas! there is no official who has the courage to act. Citizens have requested the divisional officers and the chief minister to pay attention to these problems.

A noteworthy conference in Lahore

Lahore; January 28, 2018: The press reported a sizable conference in the provincial capital. It was held in the state-owned Alhamra Hall and was presided by Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, well-connected in official circles. Following was reported by the press (for instance The News; January 29, 2018):

- The conference was named Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (safeguarding the End of Prophethood) and Istehkam-i-Pakistan (Pakistan Stability) Conference.
- Approximately 1000 ulama and Mashaikh attended.
- Participants condemned US President Donald Trump’s tirade against Pakistan, placing Pakistan on U.S. Watch List over religious freedom, etc.
- The joint declaration condemned bid to remove column of religion for CNIC, endorsed the fresh national narrative ‘Paigham e Pakistan’ and demanded that Raja Zafarul Haq

- The conference decided to celebrate Khatme Nabuwwat Day on February 7.

Any assemblage of 1000 ulama in Lahore is a huge and expensive undertaking. Who footed the bill? – not Maulana Ashrafi!

Hateful anti-Ahmadiyya conference and rally in Lahore

Mullas are free to indulge in anti-Ahmadi sectarian and extremist activities in the provincial capital of the Punjab. These violate government’s policies under the National Action Plan and Paigham e Pakistan. Only two of such events are reported below.

1. Ahle Hadis Youth Force, (a Wahabi group) Lahore organised an ‘end of prophethood seminar’ on January 14, 2018. This lasted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mullas Abdul Ghaffar, Tariq Mehmood Yazdani, Hafiz Naeem ud Din and Ibtisam Ilahi Zaheer spoke in this. They said, “The belief in the end of prophethood is always truly secured by the Ahle Hadis. We will not let Qadiani mischief prosper. This country was founded in the name of Islam; Qadianis have no business (to stay) here. The biggest threat to our country is from Qadianis. We all should get together and confront them. Remember the sacrifices of your elders, and be united. If we die tomorrow, how can we face the Holy Prophet (PBUH) while Islam is in severe danger? Qadianiat is a cancer. Be united and take wholesome action against them. We all should unite and take a grand action against Qadianis. We are planning accordingly and will let you know of it very soon. You are to act accordingly and stop the Qadianis.”

2. On January 20, 2018 a visit and conference at Data Ganj Baksh shrine, Lahore was called by Majlis Dawat Islamia Qamariya Lalamusa, under the leadership of Pir Hameed ud Din Sialvi. Approximately ten thousand people attended. The caravan departed from Lalamusa at 9 a.m. and reached Lahore in the evening. Addressing the crowd Pir Sialvi said, “We do not accept this government. These people are impudent to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). We will not tolerate an attack on the belief in Khatme Nabuwwat.” Other mullas made similar speeches, and targeted the Ahmadiyya Jamaat and the government.

Paigham e Pakistan (Message of Pakistan) – an excellent document launched in the capital

Islamabad; January 16, 2018: A narrative and decree against terrorism and extremism (Paigham e Pakistan) issued by Muftis and religious scholars of all schools of thought with the efforts of Islamic Research Institute of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) was launched at Aiwan e Sadar in a ceremony chaired by President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain.

Unanimous fatwa by 1829 scholars condemning extremism and terrorism declared the supporters of suicide bombing as traitors, the religious decree defined jihad as being the purview of the state and disallowed the use of force to compel obedience to Islamic laws.

The declaration said the soil of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan should not be allowed to be used by any group for promoting terrorism. It also called for offering protection to the life and property of the non-Muslims in Pakistan. It called for tolerance and promotion of justice and fair play in Pakistan.

The declaration said the use of force and waging armed struggle in the name of enforcing Shariah and also acts of terrorism and sabotage in any shape exploiting linguistic, regional, religious and sectarian differences were against Shariah and un-Islamic and amounted to rebellion against the Constitution and the law.

It noted that imposing one’s views and ideology on others was against the teachings of Shariah and was akin to spreading chaos. The
declaration said that no individual and group had the right to take law into its hands or set up a parallel court system.

Religious scholars and Muftis declared unanimously that suicide attacks, armed insurgency against the state and the use of force in the name of enforcing Shariah was ‘Haram’ or forbidden in Islam, and this announcement was named as ‘Paigham-e-Pakistan (Message of Pakistan). The effort is being termed a second biggest historic consensus among all the sects after the 1973 Constitution.

The President said according to Islamic teachings, extremism, bloodshed and suicide-bombing were categorized as spreading evil on earth (Fasaad-fil-Ard) which was categorically prohibited and unjustified.

He said the decree would not only promote positive image of the Islamic teachings and Pakistani society in the world but would also help in overcoming the menace of extremism.

Ahmadiyya community finds the Paigham e Pakistan an excellent document. While one would like to agree with and wish the best to the expectations of the President, one is reminded of the fate of such past initiatives, for example the National Action Plan.

This narrative and decree is signed by a large number of ulama. Many of the prominent signatories, however, continue to indulge in fomenting sectarian hatred against Ahmadis. They have not given up on their radicalism and extremism. This shows a wide gulf between what is said and what is undertaken by these clerics. For example, the leading signatories include mulls like Munib ur Rahman, Abdul Razzaq Sikandar (of AMT Khatme Nabuwwat), Hanif Jallandhry, Zahid Mahmud Qasmi, Sajid Mir, Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianwi, Hamid Raza, Zahid ur Rashidi, Zawwar Bahadur, Shabbir A Usmani etc. All these are on record to have explicitly and publicly taken extreme anti-Ahmadi position – even anti-Shia. It is obvious that they have serious reservations over the contents of this document; however they found it convenient and self-serving to sign the Paigham

Pakistan, prompted, endorsed and launched by the Government of Pakistan.

Whatever the result and fruits of this initiative, it does great credit to the Islamic Research Institute at the International Islamic University, Islamabad to have produced this narrative and acquired the fatwa (decree) from such prominent ulama and hundreds of Islamic scholars from all over the country.

P.S. It is noteworthy that relatively few ulama from Lahore (the Punjab) signed the document.

The reality about Captain ® Safdar

Lahore; February 14, 2018: 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.

Most recently 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 proforme, 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.

‘Dr’ Aamir Liaquat, TV anchor, exposed in a court petition filed by a non-Ahmadi
Islamabad: January, February 2018: Dr. Aamir Liaquat has been mentioned in Ahmadiyya dispatches in the past. For example on 7th September 2008, a day prior to the murder of Dr. Siddiqui who was the Amir of the Ahmadiyya Community of District Mirpur Khas in Sindh, GEO TV aired a live discussion on its ‘Aalim online’ program, commemorating the 34th anniversary of Ahmadis being given ‘non-Muslim’ status by the government of Pakistan. Two mullas participated in that discussion via a live phone link. It was chaired by Aamir Liaquat, the anchor man. The three participants used highly provocative and slanderous language against the holy founder of Ahmadiyyat and promoted hatred against the Ahmadiyya community. They used the words “blood, Jihad and Duty to kill (Wajib-ul-Qatl)” etc. in this context, thereby openly violating the country’s law.

Encouraged by the lack of attention paid to his offense on GEO by the authorities, Dr Aamar Liaquat wrote an article, which was published in the daily Jang on September 12, 2008. In it Aamir Liaquat not only admitted his sectarian vitriol against Ahmadis, he also wrote that he was proud of it. He based his argument on his ‘love for the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.)’ and insisted that he would persist in his crusade against Ahmadis.

Ardeshir Cowasjee of the daily Dawn wrote a very apt op-ed in the issue of Sept. 28, 2008:

Lastly, friend Irfan Hussain, again writing eminent sense, reminded us of the damage that a free and independent media can do if it is allowed to do so by those who operate channels and by a government that sits idly by and observes without comment or action. An unstable participant, a doctor of sorts, in one of the endless talk shows incited the public to murder those of the Ahmadi faith, all in the name of the religion which guides this country. And subsequent murders there were. Such is the national mindset.

However the state and the society took no notice of this spoilt child – till recently when a citizen took him to the court for judicial scrutiny.

The daily The Nation published on January 12, 2018 a report on this court case against him. We reproduce extracts from that press report:

IHC upholds ban on TV anchor

The Islamabad High Court Wednesday upheld its verdict to put ban on anchor Dr Aamir Liaquat Hussain by turning down the petitioner’s appeal to withdraw his request for ban on him.

The petitioner stated in the petition that Dr Aamir appeared as a television personality in 2006 and over a decade conducted religious shows, one of them was “Aalim Online” and also claimed to be a scholar of Islamic Studies but subsequently it was revealed that he possessed no such certification or degree in Islamic Studies and his claim of being a scholar of Islam was nothing but a hoax in order to further his personal gains in the name of Islam and under the disguise of a religious scholar.
He added that Aamir Liaquat hosted different programmes on television such as morning show, game shows, talk show and special transmissions on different media channels wherein, he conducted defamatory media trial of certain individuals in the media industry, politicians and other personalities, mocking, ridiculing and directing severe allegations on them using religion as a weapon to harm them and a shield at the same time to protect himself.

“At many occasions he used Quranic verses against certain individuals that illustrate how a blasphemer may be punished and as we all know as Muslims, the penalty is death in a severe manner. A lot of citizens were extremely disgusted and disturbed due to his misusing religion, most importantly to the extent where he attempted on several occasions to endanger lives of certain individuals using Islam and Quran without any fear of Allah (SWT) using Islam to his own gain and advantages,” maintained the petitioner.

He continued that Dr Aamir stooped so low while conducting a show concerning MQM leader, Altaf Hussain and various individuals of the party using unacceptable and highly objectionable language, that he accused party leaders of illicit relationship with party workers, while taking the names of the women who were involved in the so-called alleged acts and apparently one of the lady worker had to get an abortion done in a local hospital in London, United Kingdom.

According to the petitioner, Hussain also referred to the party leader, Altaf Husain with degrading names and ridiculing him and made several allegations. It is unfortunate that the noble professional of journalism is being destroyed every single day, by his indecent and unacceptable journalism at his hands.

Therefore, he prayed to the court to declare that Dr Aamir has committed gross violation of code of conduct, 2015, and PEMRA Ordinance 2002, and chairman PEMRA has failed to stop and act against his violations.

He requested the court to declare that Aamir is using religion as a sword and shield at the same time to further his own gains at the cost of the safety and well-being of various individuals by conducting repeated hate speech amounting to incitement to violence due to which people have been killed while others receive death threats.

Petitioner also requested the court to declare that Dr Aamir has used electronic media and social media for hate speech, incite, abet, glamorize or justifying violence, commission of crime, terror and leads to serious public disorder and therefore he is liable to be banned lifetime on all medium including print media, electronic media and social media.

He further prayed to the court to direct the chairman PEMRA to take serious action against him and ban him from hosting, appearing in any manner, including but not limited to, as a guest, analyst, reporter, actor, in audio, video, beeper, promo/advertisement in any electronic media.

He prayed to the court to direct the chairman PTA to immediately delete/block all social media accounts of Dr Aamir on internet.

**Plight of a political Pir**

**Sahiwal, District Sargodha; February 19, 2018:** Khawaja Hamid ud Din Sialvi of Aastana Alia Sial Sharif has been in the political news extensively in the past few weeks on the issue of End of Prophethood. He led his own faction on this issue against Rana Sanaullah and the Punjab government 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 alongwith his cohorts was on his way to a Khatme Nabuwwat 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.

Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Ghulam Ahmad, Ihsan Ahmad and Mubashir Ahmad of Bhoiwal, District Sheikhupura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur for tearing an anti-Ahmadiyya poster. Mr. Khalil Ahmad was then murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, two days later on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. A year later the deadly clause PPC 295-C was added to their charge-sheet by order of a high court judge. A sessions judge sentenced them to death on October 11, 2017. Appeal against this decision has been made to the Lahore High Court.

2. Officials of Punjab’s Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai’s book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism Court dispensed 5 years’ imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years’ imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for over a year to hear his plea.

3. Two Ahmadis, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi were charged under PPC 295-A and the anti-Ahmadiyya 298-C. They were accused of preching their faith. They were arrested on March 15, 2017. A judge added terrorism clauses to the case and sent it to an Anti-terrorism Court. Their pleas for bail were rejected. Now these await hearing in a higher court. The ATA judge observed that terrorism clauses were not applicable in this case. Their plea for bail now lies in Lahore High Court. They remain behind bars awaiting trial.

4. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR no. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier.

From the media

- AJK Parliament declares Ahmadis as non-Muslims
- IHC issues stay orders: Change of religion without permission disallowed
  The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 24, 2018
- IHC summons travel record of ‘Ahmadis’
  The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 28, 2018
- IHC asks scholars to assist in identifying non-Muslims
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 24, 2018
- 7-day End of Prophethood course for women completed in Chenab Nagar. 46 attended.
  The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 23, 2018
- Qadianis should accept Islam, otherwise disgrace and ignominy (Zillat aur ruswai) will be their destiny: Speakers at Mubahila Conference
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 26, 2018
- Qadianis are a common enemy of Muslim Umma: Qari M Idrees Farooqi (JUI-F)
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, January 29, 2018
- Qadiani hand behind massacre of Kashmiris is plausible: Maulana G. Mustafa and Qari Shabbir Usmani (of AMTKN)
  The daily Express; Faisalabad, February 2, 2018
- KN issue is that of life and death: Maulana Zahid ur Rashdi
  The daily Din; Lahore, February 16, 2018
- Qadianism was planted by the British: Allama Aqil Ahmad (JUP)
  AJK Assembly has achieved a historic success by declaring Qadianis as non-Muslims
  The daily Din; Lahore, February 10, 2018
- AJK Assembly verdict on Qadianis is a glorious (tabnak) chapter of history
  The daily Islam; Lahore, February 8, 2018
- Relations with US should be on equal basis: Istehkam Pakistan Conference
  Ban on Qadiani literature; publishers of Mirza Qadiani’s translation of the Quran should be prosecuted: (Mulla) Tahir Ashrafi and others
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, January 29, 2018
- End of Prophethood issue was raised in a conspiracy to pave the way for Qadianis: Difa Pakistan Council
  The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 11, 2018
- There is no religious extremism in Pakistan: Maulana Fazl ur Rahman
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 18, 2018
- Security men martyred in suicide bombing
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2018
- Man gets life term for desecrating Holy Quran
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 1, 2018
- Bloody revolution in case of next attack on End of Prophethood: Justice ® Nazir A Ghazi
  The daily Pakistan; Lahore, February 12, 2018
- We are extending the Khatme Nabuwwat movement from district level to union council, in order to awaken the Ummah: Shamsur Rahman (rep of Pir Sialvi)
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 11, 2018
- Prime accused awarded death in Mashal case
  ATC hands down varying jail terms to 30 others; JUI-F and JI hail the 26 acquitted as Ghazi
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 8, 2018
- Pir Sialvi suffers brain haemorrhage
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 19, 2018
- Parliament has authority to make laws while we (Courts) have authority to review these. Constitution empowers us to review laws enacted by the Parliament. Legislatures have no powers outside the Constitution, nor it can make laws that violate fundamental rights. Every institution has its bounds. (Supreme Court)
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 21, 2018
- We’ve sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives for the End of Prophethood law; we can permit no amendment: Maulana Rafiq Jami of AMTKN (in conference in Vehari)
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 19, 2018
- Any change in religion, in identity documents without court permission is forbidden.
  There is need of legislation concerning apostasy: Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui’s (of IHC) remarks
  The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 28, 2018
- Varsities to have Khatm-i-Nabuwwat chairs, says minister (Sardar Yusuf, Fed Religious Affairs Minister)
- He said it was decided to hold countrywide meetings of ulama and
Mashaikh on the issue of Khatme Nabuwwat.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 12, 2018
- Khatme Nabuwwat National Council formed to nourish national unity: JUP (Noornai)
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 12, 2018
- Apex court urged (by a petitioner) to disqualify all backers of election law (Election Act of 2017)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 10, 2018
- Rs 297bn spent on war against terror in 10 years, Senate told
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 22, 2018
- Claim to piety destabilizes many a shrewd persons
For 70 years democrats were called traitors and thieves and a threat to national solidarity, but the people voted for them in every election. Saad Rafiq (PML-N)
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 22, 2018
- 90 immigrants, including Pakistanis drown off Libya when boat capsized
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 3, 2018
- London mosque attacker jailed for 43 years
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2018
- Khatme Nabuwwat oath amended to please foreign lobby: Imran
The daily The News; Lahore, February 23, 2018
- Mirzaiat (Ahmadism) is Khatarnak Fitna (a dreadful mischief). We have cleared the difference between a Muslim and Non-Muslim, for all times to come: Farooq Haider (the PM AJK)
The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 19, 2018
- Zafar ul Haq (of PML-N): The stand of Dharna (sit-in) was correct, as was the resignation of the law minister
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 11, 2018
- Rana Sanaullah explains his faith on Khatm-e-Nabuwwat to (Pir) Sialvi’s committee
The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, February 3, 2018
- Sialvi declines to accept Rana Sana’s explanation (on KN)
The daily Express; Faisalabad, February 4, 2018
- Govt submits inquiry report on change in candidate declaration to IHC
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 21, 2018
- Shahbaz Sharif is the Firaon (Pharaoh) whose time has come.
Punjab Police put 137 persons to extra-judicial death: Imran Khan address in Lodhran
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 10, 2018
- Imran Niazi has set up world records in lies and (false) accusations: Shahbaz Sharif
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 10, 2018
- Chief Minister (Mr Shahbaz Sharif) visits Sial Sharif, (Pir) Hameed Sialvi calls off protest
The daily Express; Faisalabad, February 26, 2018
- Imran Khan attended and addressed Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Mashaikh conference in Lahore on February 22, 2018. He demanded that much awaited Raja Zafrul Haq Committee report be made public.
The daily Nawa-e-Waqt; Lahore, February 23, 2018
- Niazi Sb (Imran Khan) is a captain of liars. He has set world record of U-turns: Shahbaz Sharif
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 26, 2018
- Another SC axe falls on (N) Sharif
All steps, decisions taken by ex-PM since his disqualification last year declared null and void.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 22, 2018
- Parliament and Administration are targeted in surgical strikes: Ahsan Iqbal
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 24, 2018
- Former housing minister (Rehmatullah Kakar) is behind multi-billion rupee FGEHF scam
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 15, 2018
- (N) Sharif shrugs off contempt ruling, raises ante in criticism of Judiciary.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 3, 2018
Two policemen arrested in kidnapping case
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 15, 2018

Same penalty for blasphemy accused as for false accuser: Islamabad High Court
The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 17, 2018

High Court (PHC) suspends jail terms of 25 in Mashal case
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 28, 2018

Oxford professor (Tariq Ramadan) charged with rape
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 4, 2018

Ahad Cheema is involved in corruption of tens of millions: NAB
Punjab govt statement rejected
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 26, 2018

Senior officials lock their offices to protest against arrest of Ahad Cheema (former DG LDA) by NAB
Rulers are in support of this revolt by bureaucrats: Zardari
Ahad Cheema is promoted to Grade 20
Bureaucrats’ protest against Ahad Cheema’s arrest is shameful
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 24, 2018

Person of the Year (2017): Mashal Khan
Monthly Herald Annual, 2018

Names of three ex-generals put on ECL (at the request of NAB)
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2018

17,862 children (sexually) violated in 5 years (in Pakistan). Only 112 accused punished: HRCP
The daily Mashriq; Lahore, February 26, 2018

Lawyer shoots two cousins (also lawyers) in court over simmering dispute.
The daily Dawn; Lahore, February 21, 2018

PAC: Ata ul Haq Qasimi (Chairman state TV) was paid 48.1 million rupees in pay in two years. He spent 2.4M on tea.
The daily Ausaf; Lahore, February 8, 2018

Editorial: Defenceless minorities

RELIGIOUS minorities in this country often find themselves marginalised and persecuted by both state and society. This was evident recently in the horrific case of a Christian man who was compelled to jump from the fourth floor of the FIA office in Lahore after reportedly refusing to sexually assault his cousin – an accused in a blasphemy case who is charged with posting objectionable material on Facebook. Miraculously, Sajid Masih survived with fractured legs and a broken jaw to tell his bone-chilling story. While interrogating Sajid, an FIA cybercrime team allegedly tortured him, confiscated his mobile phone and tried to force him to assault his cousin. The thought itself is utterly contemptible: how can elements of the state misuse their authority to denigrate people, defenceless minorities among them, in such a manner? How can they push them towards the abyss? Sinking to this new low of abhorrence for religious minorities is not surprising when the tyranny of an intolerant majority is visibly encouraged by certain politicians, even lawmakers. Further, the complainants in this case, the religious outfit TLYRA, recorded their statements at the same time the accused and his family were at the FIA office which is right before Sajid jumped from the fourth floor.

Therefore, the urgency for a thorough investigation to ascertain the truth behind this sordid episode and identify the culprits and instigators cannot be stressed enough. It is only when the guilty in this case, and in many other instances where injustice in the name of religious intolerance is deemed kosher, are brought to task that religious minorities in this country can heave a sigh of relief.

Editorial in the daily Dawn; Lahore, February 27, 2018

Op-ed: Imran Khan’s religious politics

Now, will Imran Khan employ even religion in campaign against Nawaz (Sharif)?

If one analyses the tragedies imposed on Pakistan through religion in politics, one would feel depressed for years. The use of religion in politics converted sectarianism into political disaster. The nation stands divided. Extremism
was introduced in politics. A culture of intolerance came into being that stopped people offering prayers jointly. Thus the prophecy of Hazrat Usman became true that he brought forth prior to his martyrdom. To seek guidance from religion and to use religion to promote political interest are two different things. …

With this approach he (Imran Khan) has raised the banner of End of Prophethood, as also (his) provincial government in KPK has provided financial aid to gain Maulana Samiul Haq’s support. My research shows that 300 million rupees were set aside in 2016-17 budget for (madrassa) Darul Aloom Haqqania. It is now learnt that additional 277 million will be provided to this madrassah. We’ve heard the news that every Imam of a mosque will be paid ten thousand rupees per month. The question is for what services they will be paid this amount. … This money is being doled from chief minister’s discretionary fund. This worries me.

National political parties spare the people the leadership of people like Khadim Rizvi who exploit their religious sensitivities in issues like end of prophethood. If these parties indulge in the same business, what will the people do?

Khurshid Nadeem in the daily Dunya; Faisalabad, February 2, 2018

Op-ed: National narrative

Following the populist-socialist Bhutto hiatus, the usurper Zia regime restored a version of the pseudo-Islamic ideological narrative, intensified and distorted to malignant proportions. The institutions he promoted and the retrograde educational systems he erected, polluted the intellectual atmosphere of the land and gave birth to today’s bigoted, obscurantist political culture and its poisonous fallouts of violent insurgency, terrorism and cold-blooded mass murder. This most retrograde of dictators ruled virtually unshaken for over eleven years, challenged only by the repeatedly martyred Bhutto family and by the women of this country.

http://www.thefridaytimes.com/tft/national-narrative/