Persecution of Ahmadiys in Pakistan

Monthly Report

October 2018

Mulla dares the State

Pir Afzal Qadri of TLP with mulla Khadim Rizvi seated next to him said this to their acolytes on acquittal of Aasia Bibi:

“These three (SC) judges, according to Sharia, are Wajib ul Qatl (must be killed). [The audience replied ‘of course’.] If (our) workers cannot have access to them, their drivers should kill them or their security (guards) should kill them. ...Such a big decision cannot come through without his (Gen Bajwa’s) approval. All generals who are Muslim are responsible to rebel against these generals. There should be a rebellion against Bajwa in the Army. Imran Khan has proved that he is a Jewish child. Imran Khan’s government should be overthrown immediately, and these three (SC) judges be kicked out, and a criminal case be registered against them. ...Khosa is the judge who martyred Hazrat Ghazi Mumtaz Hussain Qadri. At that time, the Ummah committed a lapse; otherwise this judge should have been killed that very day. ...”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pYOISikQic

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A ‘convert’ faces criminal charges for his faith

*Basti Punjab, District Rajan Pur; October 2018:* Mr. Arfat Qadir s/o Mr. Qadir Baksh, aged 20, recently embraced Ahmadiyyat. He is a government employee in a local office. After his switch over to Ahmadiyyat his opponents started victimizing him. They reported him to his boss. They also started a hate campaign against him on social media. Mr. Arfat remained steadfast. As last resort they complained to the DPO that Mr. Arfat was a Qadiani but acted like Muslims. The DPO inaptly told the DSP to attend to the issue. The DSP sent for Mr. Arfat and said, “You are a non-Muslim according to the constitution of Pakistan, and you can’t use Sha’air Islam (Islamic practices).” The police thereafter registered a case against him under PPC 298-C, the anti-Ahmadiyya law and sent him to a lock up. The opponents accused him of “preaching Ahmadiyyat, denying the Khatme Nabuwwat which amounts blasphemy and posing as Muslim when applying for the job.”

Poor Mr. Arfat was locked up only for his faith.

Follow-up from Sadhokey, Gujranwala

*Sadhokey, District Gujranwala; October 2018:*
Mr. Shahid Hussain undertook Qurbani on Eid ul Azha on August 22, 2018. His neighbor reported to the police that Mr. Hussain had undertaken Islamic rituals. For this the police registered a case against the Ahmadi under PPC 298-C.

Mr. Hussain’s pre-arrest bail had been obtained; however on September 11, 2018 the additional sessions judge cancelled his bail. Later, his denial of bail was appealed in the Lahore High Court, and the High Court accepted it on October 11, 2018.

Under PPC 298-C Mr Hussain could be imprisoned for three years.

Ahmadi doctors escape serious harm

*Kotli, Azad Kashmir; October 2, 2018:* Doctor Manzoor Ahmad and Doctor Imran Ahmad are serving in DHQ Hospital, Kotli. On October 2, 2018 an unknown youth attacked them while they were on duty. The assailant was carrying a pistol and was saying that he was determined to not let the Qadianis remain alive. On administration’s quick response his attack went amiss and both the doctors were saved from any harm. The assailant was caught on the spot and handed over to the police.

Another Ahmadiyya mosque locked by police unlawfully

*Goth Qamaruddin, District Noshehro Firoz (Sindh); September/October 2018:* The local mulla Saeed Chandio targeted the village Ahmadiyya mosque and succeeded in getting it locked unlawfully by the police.

Mulla Chandio had been agitating the local population against Ahmadis for weeks in his Friday sermons. The situation was getting sensitive so Ahmadis met a senior police officer at the district level and made a written complaint. The officer directed the DSP who in turn told the SHO to investigate and report.

The mulla came to know of this and he agitated the issue still further on Facebook. He met mulls of other denominations and sought help. He also approached the Bar Association and obtained assurance from lawyers.

The mulla’s activism scared the local police into compliance. The SHO was seen accompanied by the mulla’s father when the former visited the mosque and its approaches.

The SHO was informed by Ahmadis that the mosque is an old construction and was built before the anti-Ahmadi ordinance was promulgated. In any case, the mosque had been wrongfully locked from outside, but an internal entry was available to enter the mosque for worship.
The police were informed that Mulla Chandio is in fact interested in the mosque’s plot as property. He is a distant relative of an Ahmadi elder and is keen on taking over this plot, although neither per law nor per Sharia he is entitled to it.

The police were, however, unduly concerned with unrest over the issue. They locked the interior entry to the mosque as well. On what authority and on whose orders, Ahmadis do not know.

It is relevant to mention that the Constitution and the law do not forbid Ahmadis to have minarets on their places of worship.

It appears that the authorities govern this ungovernable state on the writ of the mulla, and not of the Constitution and law.

Denial of right to higher education on fabricated grounds

_Faisalabad; September 26, 2018:_ Ms Atika Shahid, an Ahmadi young lady, an M.Phil. student at National Institute of Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering was expelled by the administration from the course on September 26, 2018 without formally giving a reason. The Institute is linked with Pakistan Atomic Energy Council.

On Ms Shahid’s insistence, she was told verbally by the staff that she had not been cleared by the security agencies, and they had not intimated the reason to the Institute. It was however mentioned that she had visited her relatives in Qadian (India) in 2014. She had gone there, in fact, to attend the traditional annual gathering of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

The above is a poor excuse to deny higher education to an Ahmadi. A human right has been denied to a bright student for her faith. Ms Shahid has done her MSc in Bio-technology and was awarded Gold Medal.

_Pakistani bigots seem to know how to deprive the country of its brilliant and gifted scholars._

Another Ahmadiyya mosque at risk

_Johar Town, Lahore; October 2018:_ Opponents of the Ahmadiyya community are always on the lookout for an excuse to hurt them. Mosques are their favourite targets. Mulas are now active to close down Ahmadiyya prayer centre in Johar Town, Lahore. Ahmadis have been praying there for years but now some locals led by mulls have started making complaints against this prayer centre. Approximately two dozen locals signed an application against Ahmadis accusing them of doing unlawful activities in their prayer centre built illegally. They sent their application to the Lahore High Court and the Deputy Commissioner. The application to Lahore High Court was sent by Ihsanul Haq who is an activist of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, an organization banned for its terrorist activities. LHC sent the application to the DC for follow up.

The issue ended up with police. The SHO of the local police station came to the site one evening and acted hostile. He accused the Ahmadis of creating problems through worship and assembly for prayers.

Thereafter a mob of approximately 100 men came to the site and agitated against Ahmadis’ worship centre.

If the state provides no protection to Ahmadis’ place of worship they will lose still another mosque to the activism of bigots and extremists.

Extremists threaten LUMS

_University of consequences_

_Lahore; October 21, 2018:_ Pakistan Today reported the following (Extract):

After the Beaconhouse School System, the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) has also come under threat from the extremist elements.

A message, circulating on social media and SMS, warns the management of LUMS that a campaign will be launched against the varsity for its supposed ‘anti-Islam’ activities.
The warning message, which is making the rounds in social media, mentions a recent extra curricular visit by students of LUMS to the city of Rabwah, the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya community, as the reason for the threat.

According to the details, LUMS Assistant Professor of Political Science Taimur Rehman took one of his classes to Rabwah and to interact with the Ahmadiyya community in a bid to know the persecuted community better.

“In an environment where religious groups are spreading hate against the persecuted Ahmadiyya community, me and my students decided to go to Rabwah to express solidarity with the community” explained Prof Rehman in response to the criticism on social media.

The trip involved students interacting with the residents of Rabwah and trying to get to know and understand the community, their beliefs and problems.

However, after the local news agency of the town ‘Rabwah Times’ reported the incident, a great hue and cry was made with a number of people saying that the visit was a conspiracy meant to mainstream the Ahmadiyya movement.

This was followed by the circulation of threats against Prof Rehman, his students, and the LUMS administration.


Ahmadi loses job for his faith

Mirpur, AJK; October 2018: Mr. Khursheed Alam had been serving in a medicine company for the last fifteen years. He is 60. He was a devoted worker and his managers spoke high of him. Recently a man got service in the company; he knew that Alam was an Ahmadi, he disclosed that at the work-place. Three mulla-type workers started a hostile campaign against Alam. The situation did not take long to worsen. Mr. Alam talked to his superiors; they expressed their helplessness as according to them the whole department had turned against him. They advised him to resign or change his belief. So he had to resign from his job in the face of religion-based hostility. He is now jobless.

Ahmadi hurt in attack

Goth Ahmadpur, District Sanghar; September 29, 2018: Mr. Jamil Ahmad was going to his farm on his motorcycle on September 29, 2018. On the way two persons attacked him with rods and axe. Mr. Ahmad’s arm was fractured. The attackers tried to snatch the bike but were unable to start it. They had to leave the bike, but in their anger they hit him with axe and left him badly injured in leg. Mr. Ahmad was taken to a hospital for treatment where he received eighteen stitches on his wound.

The police was informed of the incident. Mr. Ahmad recognized one of the attackers, so the police registered a criminal case against one known and one unknown person.

Extremists come to Rabwah to hold rally

Rabwah: A two-day Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held here on October 25, 26 2018. It was attended by thousands, 11,500 in the last session. In almost every way it was a replay of such conferences held in Rabwah in the past. So we shall not mention all that in any detail; we produce here only the English translation of the gist of mullahs’ speeches to show what the mullahs say on these occasions with the consent and permission of authorities:

First session

- Mulla Aziz-ur-Rahman Jalandhari said that those who defend the Blasphemy and End of Prophethood laws are divinely appointed servants of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Pakistani Muslims are duty bound to persevere against the enemies.
- Maulvi Amjad Khan said that Qadianis are agents of Zionists, imperialists and Israel. Dr Salaam stole Pakistan’s
Atomic secrets and passed them on to the West.

- Maulvi Ehsan Ahmad used filthy language against the founder of Ahmadiyyat; so did mulla Abdul Wahab of Bahawal Nagar.
- Maulvi Mahmud Riaz Chinioti said that the Qadianis are the greatest mischief of the present age; stop all dealings with them and boycott all their products.
- Qari Yasin of Faisalabad told Qadianis that they were Kafir, he invited them to the prophethood of the Holy Prophet to save themselves.
- Maulvi Mazhar spoke very hostile against the Ahmadiyya community, while Arshad Madni declared to confront them worldwide.
- Maulvi Soomro of Larkana asserted that there was no greater Kafir and rebel on the face of the earth than Qadianis. Be tough with them, don’t be lenient, he directed.
- Maulvi Ghulam Hussain of Jhang told the audience that Qadianis are not allowed to say ‘Salaam’ in public; if they do, get them booked under PPP 298-C. Also do not permit their burial in your graveyards.

The Second Session (2:15 p.m. onwards)

- Its presiding mulla Mehtab of Madrassa Khatme Nabuwwat Chenab Nagar spoke venomously against Ahmadis.
- Mulla Abdul Qayyum Haqqani from KPK intimated to his audience that the Holy Prophet is awaiting for a crazy fellow to rise and shut up these Kafirs and put an end to their blasphemous practices.
- Maulvi Jamil ur Rehman Akhtar accused Qadianis of living off Pakistan and still speaking against it. These people have no right to stay here, he concluded.
- Maulvi Ayub of Daska told the participants to shout the slogan in support of the truth (Haq) so boldly that Qadianis are unable to sleep peacefully.
- Maulvi Jamil Ahmad of Sukkur stated that Qadianis flee abroad from here in search of peace, but we’ll continue to pursue them there to show that there is no hiding place for them anywhere (in the world).
- Maulvi Munir Mahmud accused Ahmadis as a group of committing blasphemy against the Holy Prophet. This group is openly an enemy of Islam, he said.
- Maulvi Rizwan Aziz used grossly unspeakable foul words against the founder of Ahmadiyyat.

Third Session (7:45 p.m. to 01:50 a.m.)

This session was attended by high ranking mullahs from Punjab, Sindh and KPK. Maulvi Fazl-ur-Rahman (JUI-F), Sajid Mir and Awais Noorani were also there to speak.

All these mullahs said the same sort of things as said earlier by others, adding a novelty occasionally. For instance:

- Qadianis’ life has become hell (in Pakistan).
- If anyone commits dacoity (Dakah dalna) against the Holy Prophet’s ‘end of prophethood’, we shall destroy the government (eent sey eent bajadein gay).
- If End of Prophethood law is disturbed, the end result will be ‘bad’.
- Pakistan Army is the best army in the whole world.
- No Muslim can join the Israeli Army except Ahmadis.
- Qadianis are agents of Christians and Jews.
- Pakistan is not for Qadianis; they have been declared kafir.
- Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a false prophet, and he is an enemy of Pakistan.
• Pakistan Army is an excellent army; (but) its high posts are filled by enemies of Islam and End of Prophethood.
• Qadianis hold the life-line of Pakistan; they aim at paralyzing us, but we shall uproot them altogether.
• Maulvi Fazlur Rehman’s focus was politics – in the garb of religion. He said that the Qadianism was planted by the British. Now with the installation of a new government, Qadianis assembled to devise a new strategy. Karachi is the centre of their network. Imran is pro-Jews (Yahudiat nawaiz). Foreign powers want Islamic laws to be revised; we shall not let that happen. Imran Niazi is a nephew of his uncle General Niazi who surrendered to India, in Dhaka (Haath milaya).

Fourth Session (9 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.)
In this session Mufti Ahmad Khan and mulla Abdul Razzaq represented Balochistan.
Following was also said:
▪ Qadianis should be nose-stringed. If they do not desist, they have no right to live here.
▪ We are the finest people (on earth); as we have been assigned the task of safeguarding the end of prophethood.
▪ We shall sacrifice our lives to protect the end of prophethood.
▪ Qadianis’ base is treason. Etc.

The Last Session (2:10 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.)
This session was presided by Qari Haroonur Rashid of Rawalpindi.
Five mullas spoke in this session. They used extremely foul language against Ahmadiyyat in their speeches. Hafiz Zulfiqar Naqshbandi indulged in slander and ridicule against the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

Resolutions
Resolutions to the following effect were moved and passed at this rally:
▪ Visit of students from the LUMS Lahore to Rabwah was termed a robbery against the faith of the youth and the worst pro-Qadianism.
▪ The cursed Asia is planned to be freed; this is unbearable to Islamiene Pakistan.
▪ To defang the Blasphemy law is unacceptable. The bill should be removed from the Senate agenda.
▪ Pakistan Army’s motto is Jihad; therefore Qadianis should not be granted commission in the Army.
▪ The penalty of apostasy as recommended by CII (death) should be implemented.
▪ Gohar Shahi was a blasphemer; it should be banned forthwith.
▪ Anti-encroachment drive in Rabwah is hunting Muslim vendors (Rehri ban); it is Qadiani conspiracy, it should be stopped.

Etc. Etc.
(Note): Within a week, violent demonstrations by another group of mullas did vast damage to property (Rs. 150bn by one estimate) and brought great distress to the people of Pakistan – to protest imagined Blasphemy. You reap what you sow.

Asia Bibi’s acquittal and TLP’s violent response
In June 2009, Asia Bibi was accused of blasphemy after an argument with Muslim co-workers while collecting fruit in a farm. She was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. In November 2010, a session court sentenced her to death. The verdict was upheld by the Lahore High Court.
On October 31, 2018, the Supreme Court of Pakistan acquitted Asia Bibi of the charges. She had spent more than nine years in prison on death row. The decision sparked protests led by Islamist parties especially Tehrik Labbaik
Pakistan (TLP) in major cities of the country. Radical Islamists of TLP mounted rallies against the verdict, blocked roads and burned vehicles in protest as they demanded Asia’s execution.

We produce here only two quotes from Mr. Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa’s concurring opinion in the SC Judgment:

“20. The glaring and stark contradictions in the evidence produced by the prosecution …. It is equally disturbing to note that the courts below had also, conveniently or otherwise, failed to advert to such contradictions and some downright falsehood. All concerned would have certainly done better if they had paid heed to what Almighty Allah has ordained in the Holy Qur’an: …”

“25. It is unfortunate that …. It appears that after an altercation taking place in the field of falsa a feast of falsehood had followed and the Muslim members of the complainant party led by Qari Muhammad Salaam complainant had paid little heed to the following command of Almighty Allah in the Holy Qur’an:…”

The TLP leader Pir Afzal Qadri addressed protestors in Lahore and spoke the unspeakable against the Supreme Court, the Army and the Government. Extract: “These three (SC) judges, according to Sharia are Wajib ul Qatl (must be killed). [The audience responded “of course”.] If (our) workers cannot have access to them, their drivers should kill them or their security (guards) should kill them. (Now) Gen. Bajwa is in no way acceptable to us. Such a big decision cannot come through without his approval. All generals who are Muslim are responsible to rebel against these generals. There should be a rebellion against Bajwa in the Army. Imran Khan has proved that he is a Jewish child. Imran Khan’s government should be overthrown immediately, and these three (SC) judges be kicked out, and a criminal case should be registered against them. They have defiled the Quran-e-Kareem and Hadees-e-Pak, as also the Namoos-e-Risalat. Khosa is the judge who martyred Hazrat Ghazi Mumtaz Hussain Qadri. At that time, the Ummah committed a lapse; otherwise this judge should have been killed that very day. Do not accept Imran Khan at all. Do not accept Asia at all. Do not accept these three judges at all. We may be jailed for this; of course, we are ready to be locked up. Even if we are shot, we are ready to get shot.”

The daily Jang of November 4 assessed the damage to national economy approximately Rs. 150bn. On November 2, 2018 the government signed an agreement with Tehreek-e-Labbaik which according to some commentators amounted to ‘surrender’. This was undertaken while the prime minister was away in China. Prior to departure, he had warned the protesters that the state will be tough with those who indulge in rioting.

It is noteworthy that a woman accused of blasphemy, eventually acquitted of the charge, had to wait for nine years in prison on death row to have justice, in our land of the pure.

**Striking doom of an ‘untruthful’ judge**

**Islamabad; October 11, 2018:** On October 11 Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui, senior puisne judge of the Islamabad High Court was recommended to be removed by the Supreme Judicial Council. The President “was pleased to remove him with immediate effect” the same day. Ministry of Law and Justice denotified the IHC judge immediately and TV stations broadcast the news the same evening.

Justice Siddiqui will be remembered for a number of cases, proceedings of trials, verdicts, inter alia his 172-page Judgment Sheet on the Ahmadiyya issue. A very brief résumé is in order. Justice Siddiqui took up writ petition (W.P.No. 3862/2017) of a mulla Allah Wasaya and three such others, early this year, conducted the proceedings on fast track, invited a number of mullas and advocates of his choice and delivered his Order Sheet on March 2018. He compiled his Judgment Sheet in the next few weeks and issued it in the first week of July 2018. His directions to the government included, inter alia, compulsory affidavits of statement of
faith for joining the Civil Service, Army and Judiciary. He ordered that in future change of religion would be undertaken and notified only through a court. He told the Parliament to "also take measures which will completely terminate those who scar this belief (in end of Prophethood)". He required the Parliament to ensure protection of Prophethood finality etc.

Renowned human rights experts called the verdict "very dangerous", "enabling and inciting violence", promoting "religious apartheid", "unnecessary", paving "the way for religious persecution at the state level and more intolerance in the society", etc. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan called on the government to appeal the verdict.

Four month later Siddiqui issued his voluminous Judgment Sheet giving reasons etc for his verdict. He profusely quoted his amici curiae whose interpretation of Islamic religion and history was highly controversial and bigoted in essence, against non-Muslims. His own comments and observations were largely lies, distorted facts, half-truths, slander, vilification, conjecture and gossip. The judgment was as if written by a mulla, not a judge. No wonder he came to the conclusion, inter alia, that Ahmadis should be made to add the affix derogatory Mirzai or Ghulam Mirza to their names for self-identification.

The Judgment was so offensive and wrongful that Syed Ali Zafar, a caretaker federal minister announced in public that the government will challenge the judgment. It didn’t, for its own obvious reasons.

Ahmadis turned to Allah in their prayers against the very hurtful verdict. Three months and 7 days later Siddiqui was sent home, never to return to preside over a court hearing, as the Supreme Judicial Council headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan summed up their judgment on Siddiqui, in these words, in another case:

"Article-II of the Code of Conduct demands that the judge should be abstemious, truthful of tongue, wise in opinion, cautious and forbearing and always preserving calmness, balance and complete detachment." The daily Dawn; October 13, 2018

Siddiqui will be remembered for grossly violating all provisions of this Code in his anti-Ahmadi Judgment Sheet as well.

Lahore High Court reserves decision on anti-Ahmadi plea

Lahore; October 16, 2018: The daily jang reported that the Lahore High Court reserved its decision regarding a writ, worthy of hearing or not, about the implementation of the Khutme Nabuwwat law. Justice Shahid Waheed heard the plea, of one Abid Hussain, who took the position that the ‘end of prophethood’ law was not being implemented strictly which gives rise to blasphemy incidents; so the court should order the government to mention non-Muslim status of Qadianis in their ID cards.

A senior mulla exposes another senior mulla

Chiniot; October 2018: Maulvi Ilyas Chinioti, a PML-N MPA from Chiniot was confronted by authorities about an issue of land-grab for his madrassah. We do not go into that, but reproduce here only an extract from a statement issued by Maulvi Khalil Ahmad Ashrafi, manager of the madrassah Jami Arabia Chiniot challenging Ilyas Chinioti and blaming him for telling lies, and exposing the latter’s normal operating procedure, (translation):

"Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Chinioti MPA Chiniot is bent upon telling lies. He uses an excellent tool to blackmail officials by calling them pro-Ahmadi. Also, he dubs his opponents as pro-Ahmadi. Maulana Muhammad Ilyas, for how long will you persist in telling lies, and will continue to blackmail officials by dubbing them pro-Ahmadi? A day will come when you will be presented in Divine court where you will be exposed fully. I say it again; if you are truthful, have a prayer duel with me. This is an open challenge. Also, stop blackmailing officials and the public in the name
of Khatme Nabuwwat (end of prophethood). Allah hits hard without making a sound (Lathi be ayawaz hai)."

Unfortunately the above is not applicable only to Mulla Ilyas Chinioti; it is applicable to a vast number of ulama and others who play politics in the name of end of prophethood.

**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 army personnel, the DCs, judges, advocates, all should be Muslims; non-Muslims may stay here, 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)."

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 3 weeks later.

**Ahmadis’ plight in the Punjab during Mian Shahbaz Sharif rule – a brief resumé**

Lahore; June 2013- May 2018: Mian Shahbaz Sharif (PML-N) took over the Punjab once again as Chief Minister in June 2013 after the elections. His elder brother ruled the country from Islamabad. The next five years of Shahbaz’s rule in the province were rough and gravelling for Ahmadis. It is appropriate to list briefly some important events of his tenure to draw some valid conclusions.

- Armed contingents of police were ordered to launch an unlawful, unwarranted, hideous raid on Ahmadiyya central offices in Rabwah on December 5, 2016. Such a raid was first ever against Ahmadiyya community; even General Zia did not undertake such atrocity during his rule.

- Authorities were told to raid the only book-shop in Rabwah where they arrested its octogenarian proprietor, booked him under anti-terrorism law, arranged a speedy trial for him and had him sentenced to 8 years’ imprisonment. The decent old man is still in prison three years later.

- The provincial government banned more than 90 books and publications of the Ahmadiyya Community on the recommendations of a board of mullahs. These include the entire written works of the founder of the community.

- Publication of all the Ahmadiyya periodicals, also the daily Al-Fazl was stopped. Even the children’s and women’s monthly magazines have been shutdown. Perhaps there is no country in the world where a democratic...
government has deprived a religious community of its periodical in such a ruthless manner. Apparently the Home Office had orders to implement whatever recommendations the Board of mullas made concerning Ahmadis.

- Ahmadiyya mosques were targeted specifically. A number of these were attacked, destroyed, damaged, handed over to others or sealed. The attacks on Ahmadiyya mosques in Dumlial, Chakwal, Jhelum, etc all happened in Shahbaz’s tenure. The Assistant Commissioner, in whose jurisdiction Ahmadiyya mosque in Sialkot was almost destroyed in police presence, was awarded a cash prize by the Chief Minister, some days after the incident.

- Ahmadi-owned factory in Jhelum was destroyed in his watch. An anti-Ahmadi riot occurred also in Gujranwala where the police in uniform were among the spectators. There, three Ahmadi females including a 7-month old suckling were killed in arson attack. Eight homes and four shops were looted and gutted. All 125 Ahmadi residents of the neighborhood had to flee for safety.

- The Rawalpindi administration did not allow Ahmadis offer their Eid prayers in their own centre in the Satellite Town in 2013, because a mulla-type bully demanded that. The restriction has apparently become permanent, as, in the next five years Ahmadis could not assemble there even for weekly congregational prayers.

- Ahmadis also undertake Qurbani (sacrificial cattle on Eid ul Adha) as a religious rite but mullas, supported by Lahore Police, made raids in some neighborhoods to deny Ahmadis their religious practice. In fact, during these five years Ahmadi residents of this provincial capital felt perpetually vulnerable and at risk of their lives and well-being. Earlier when 85 Ahmadis were murdered here in their mosques in a terror attack, Mr Shahbaz Sharif the CM did not have the courtesy to make a condolence visit to Ahmadis.

- A delegation of senior Ahmadi community officials requested time from Shahbaz to call on him and talk to him on problems faced by the community. Shahbaz refused to spare time for them and told Rana Sanaullah to receive the delegation. He did, but as expected, no relief was promised. Nevertheless Ahmadis have assurance of an open door and permission to call from a mighty being - Allah. So they turned to Him in prayers and surely enough:

  - On July 25, 2018, the election day Mr Shahbaz Sharif lost majority in the provincial assembly, and on October 6, 2018, the daily Dawn reported in banner headline: NAB snares Shahbaz as grilling turns into arrest.

  - Thereafter the daily Jang reported on September 25, 2018: Shahbaz Sharif's son-in-law Ali Imran Yusuf has fled abroad, he should be declared proclaimed offender: NAB prosecutor's request to Accountability Court.

  - Recently on October 26, 2018, The Friday Times described Shahbaz’s circumstances in a sympathetic report as follows:

The indignity of it

We’ve heard disturbing details of The Man of Steel’s Talented Bro’s(Shahbaz’s) incarceration in the NABbers’ slammer in Lahore. There are many in the Punjab (at least half of it, if the Election 2018 result is anything to go by) who feel that this sort of treatment is unwarranted. The former and successful chief executive of the province is kept in a cramped cell, with no windows and a barred padlocked door, which he has to rattle every time he needs to visit the washroom. This is particularly distressing at night, when a man who is a cancer survivor and battles with
constant back pain, has to wait before his call can be answered. The indignity of it is something our current rulers should keep in mind, and alleviate. Talented Bro gets home cooked food, mercifully, and books to read. We hear he’s made short shrift of Ibn-e-Khaldun’s “Muqaddima”, Hugo Chaves’ autobiography, Dr Ayesha Jalal’s account of the partition, and is currently reading Henry Kissinger. All this by the light of the single bulb which adorns his cell.

The above reminds one of Adolf Hitler’s observation and his finale:

“I go the way that Providence dictates with the assurance of a sleep-walker.”

Social boycott imposed by mulla

Gulshan Jami, Karachi; October 2018: We reported earlier in May report that a mulla here became hostile to Mr. Muneeb Ahmad Khan, Ahmadi, harassed him severely and called him Wajib-ul-Qatl.

More recently, Mr. Khan called an electrician to his house for some repairs. He asked for water. The same mulla happened to come there and he started abusing the founder of Ahmadiyyat. He told the workers there that these people are Qadianis and eating and drinking with them is forbidden. Mr. Khan did not respond in kind and stayed calm. The mulla went away after creating that scene.

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 Nabuwat (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 provided at Annex to this report.

**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. 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 at the suggestion 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. The Court has not found time to hear him in over a year.

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 nearly three years to hear his plea.

3. 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. He is under trial.

4. Mr. Javed Ahmad Ghumman was charged in a fabricated blasphemy case under PPC 295-C in police station Chobara, District Layya on July 1, 2018 in FIR Nr 288/18. His interim bail was cancelled on July 14, 2018, he was arrested and sent to Layya Jail. Rai Yasseen Shaheen the Additional Sessions Judge Layya refused his post-arrest bail on August 6. Later, on October 2, 2018 his bail application was also refused from High Court (Multan Bench) by Justice Sarfraz Ahmad.

**From the Media**

- To take students on a visit to Qadiani centre is treason against Islam and Constitution: Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat (AMTKN)
  *The daily Jang; Lahore, October 21, 2018*

- All Qadianis on key posts in civil and military service should be removed: Ulama Karam
  *The daily Pakistan; Lahore, October 27, 2018*

- Inclusion of end of prophethood affidavit in school admission forms demanded: AMTKN
  *The daily Islam; Lahore, October 26, 2018*

- Any revision of blasphemy and end of prophethood laws amounts to playing with fire: KN conference
  *The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, October 26, 2018*
- Qadiyaniat is in attack mode on Muslim Ummah in every sense: Fazlur Rehman
  The daily Jang; Lahore, October 27, 2018
- Presence of deniers of end of prophethood (Ahmadis) in state institutions is cause of anxiety: Khadim Rizvi (TLP)
  The Prime Minister will have to stand at Prophet’s door and recognize Ghazi Mumtaz Qadri (assassin of Governor Taseer) as his hero.
  The daily Ausaf; Lahore, October 27, 2018
- Naming Orange train’s Shah Noor station as Khatme Nabuwwat station welcomed
  The daily Insaf; Lahore, October 3, 2018
- TLP threatens to paralyze country if Asia Bibi is acquitted
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 13, 2018
- 26 Kanals of land with Rs. 4bn recouped from (mulla) Ilyas Chinioti: MPA of PML(N)
  The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 17, 2018
- MPA should speak the truth. Officers should not be blackmailed in the name of Khatme Nabuwwat nor by calling the pro-Ahmadis. Maulana Khalil (of Chiniot)
  The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 17, 2018
- (PM) vows to protect rights of minorities and ensure equal opportunities.
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 10, 2018
- Huddle: The PM holds a meeting with the Christian delegation. PHOTO
  PM Imran Khan on Tuesday assured country’s Christian community that incumbent government would protect at every cost all the rights the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees them.
  The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 10, 2018
- Man claiming to be ‘11th Caliph’ held
  The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 9, 2018
- SC reserves ruling on Asia Bibi’s appeal
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 9, 2018
- Bangladesh sentences 19 to death over 2004 attack
  The daily The Nation; Lahore, October 11, 2018
- Ex-minister’s (Mr Ishaque Dar’s) properties to be confiscated
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 16, 2018
- In opposition to penalty over false accusation of Blasphemy, JUI and PTI members walk out of Blasphemy Law Amendment Bill
  The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 11, 2018
- Saudi Arabia pledges $6bn. package to Pakistan
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 24, 2018
- Khashoggi’s body parts found at Saudi envoy’s home
  The daily The News; Lahore, October 24, 2018
- Israeli minister’s rare visit to UAE mosque
  The daily The News; Lahore, October 24, 2018
- Indian firing, explosion kill 14 in held Kashmir
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 30, 2018
- Three million Afghans in ‘urgent’ need of food
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 22, 2018
- Israeli PM’s wife goes on trial for fraud
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 8, 2018
- She (Minister Shirin Mazari) lamented the non-implementation of the National Action Plan
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 15, 2018
- NAB snares Shahbaz as grilling turns into arrest
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 6, 2018
- NAB summons Shahbaz’s sons
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 24, 2018
- No new syllabi for madrassahs: Asad Qaisar (NA Speaker)
  The daily The News; Lahore, October 29, 2018
- Decision made to indict Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Babar Awan in Nandipur Project Reference
  Express RSS on October 3, 2018
- PTI to oppose changes to blasphemy law: (NI Qadri, Minister of Religious Affairs)
  The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 13, 2018
- Ex-minister’s properties to be confiscated
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 16, 2018
- In opposition to penalty over false accusation of Blasphemy, JUI and PTI members walk out of Blasphemy Law Amendment Bill
  The daily Express; Faisalabad, October 11, 2018
• Five soldiers martyred in Awaran (Baluchistan) blast
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 3, 2018
• 3 officials killed in attack on IG FC convoy at Washak, Quetta
  92 News October 26, 2018
• Justice Siddiqui removed on SJC’s advice. Former IHC judge is accused of displaying conduct unbecoming a high court judge.
  The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, October 12, 2018
• SC rejects Aamir Liaquat’s apology in contempt case
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 31, 2018
• Asma wins UN human rights prize
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 27, 2018
• Supreme Court orders (Hindu) Katas Raj pool to be filled up within 20 days
  The daily Jang; Lahore, October 18, 2018
• PU ex-VC, four others held for corruption
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 12, 2018
• PIA’s operational losses stand at Rs 2bn a month
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 18, 2018
• Billions discovered in bank accounts of even a dead man. Iqbal Arain died in 2014. Transactions of a sum of Rs. 4.6 billion were done after his demise.
  The daily Jang; Lahore, October 16, 2018
• Over 10,000 properties of Pakistanis detected in UK, UAE
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 6, 2018
• Lawyers lock (session) court’s gates in (Lahore) in protest against suo motu (by the Supreme Court)
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 9, 2018
• 5,492 housing schemes illegal, SC told
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 18, 2018
• President Punjab Co-operatives arrested with 7 others; accused for arson in office.
  The daily Jang; Lahore, October 20, 2018
• Buses collide; 19 dead, 35 injured in DG Khan
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 22, 2018
• Pakistan is required to pay back $3.5bn per month. In these three months it has to pay back $10.5bn of loans and interest
  The daily Jang; Lahore, October 24, 2018
• Rupee sees record plunge as turmoil grips markets
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 10, 2018
• Stocks tumble 880 points
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 13, 2018
• CJP irked by facilities given to Shahrukh (of Shahzad murder case) in jail, orders his shifting to death cell.
  The daily Dawn; Lahore, October 28, 2018

Op-ed: Sacking a Judge

…There is his verdict in the case of controversial changes in the legislators’ oath. Instead of restricting himself to the case, he ruled that citizens applying for jobs in the judiciary, civil services, and the armed force must declare their “true faith”. According to him, since Article 5 of the Constitution demands that all citizens remain “faithful” to the state, it follows that all citizens whether Muslim or non-Muslim must declare their “true faith” failing which they could be guilty of betraying the state and exploiting its Constitution”. Thereby suggesting that members of minorities could betray the state. This is indeed an outrage against the Constitution that guarantees “fundamental rights, including equality of status, of opportunity and before law, social, economic and political justice, freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association, subject to law and public morality.” Besides, discrimination against minorities in any shape or form or way is a kind of persecution, unacceptable in any civilized society.

Siddiqui also frequently overstepped the line between judicial and legislative/administrative affairs, like when last May he ordered that Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority to stop transmission or programs like ‘Nelaam Ghar” and those “appearing like a circus show” for the duration of the holy month of Ramazan, and also ensure
airing of the call to prayers five times a day. He gave that order over and above the law. He had no qualms either about making a show of his sense of piety, openly crying while hearing a case about a religious issue. In acting the way he did, the judge repeatedly rode roughshod on an established principle of law that holds judges should speak through their verdicts not public speeches. They are also expected to exhibit respect for the other institutions’ turf; leveling allegations, like in the present instance, undermines democracy and the rule of law.

Op-ed: A never ending ordeal

...Christians and Ahmadis have been displaced within Pakistan and other have had to either flee the country or seek asylum elsewhere due to the lack of protections and the constant threat of blasphemy laws pending over them. ...

Despite decades of activism by civil society organizations, journalists and legislators to amend the blasphemy laws to protect the right to freedom of religion and expression for all, Pakistan authorities seem reluctant to bring laws in line with international law and have preferred to stay in the past. In the meantime, the list of victims who fall prey to blasphemy allegations keeps growing.

Rabia Mehmood in The News of October 16, 2018

Op-ed: 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....


Op-ed: license to kill

... The (Khashoggi) case has riled me up no end because for one I have little time on my hands these days, but for another I am sick of everyone pretending Saudi Arabia isn’t at the root of much that is going on in the world today, and especially in Pakistan. Most of our leaders (civilian or not) tend to flee there for refuge, handouts and benediction. Even a cursory glance at our map should alert you to the strange fact that we have no real working relationship with Iran despite the fact that we share most of our borders with them. The Saudis’ vile extremist vision of religious ideology has nearly irreversibly metastasized through the very fabric of our society.

Fayes T Kamtanwala in The Friday Times of October 26, 2018

Annex: Jamaat Islami and Abul A’la Maududi

(A brief)
Jamaat Islami and Abul A’la Maududi

(A brief)

JAMAAT ISLAMI (JI) is important to Pakistan for its past and present role in country’s politics. As an Islamist party its ideological position(s) and activities in the past 70 years have been significant and partly responsible for making Pakistan what it is now in 2018. It is a long and painful story and can be told here only very briefly.

Jamaat Islami was formed during the British Raj, in 1941 by Maududi (1905-1979). He was scion of a scholarly and religious family. On growing up, he did not initially grow a beard and would wear a tie. He developed fast as a journalist and at a young age became editor of a periodical Al-Jamiah an organ of Jamiat ul Ulama Hind that was largely funded by Indian National Congress. Maududi thereafter turned to religion; his writing style was very persuasive for an average literate Muslim, although recognized Islamic scholars were not impressed by his rather shallow connaissance of Islamic theology. This remained unchanged for the rest of his career, even though his message was taken seriously by a sizeable number of fair-to-middling literate Muslims in the sub-continent.

In pre-WWII years Maududi was impressed by success of fascist and communist leaders of Europe. So he approved them and declared their governing style fit for his own idea of an Islamic state. He did not think much of democracy. He adopted ‘Islam’ and ‘Shariah’ as the battle cry for his political scheme.

The idea of Pakistan and life-style of its leaders like Jinnah went against his religious and political grain and he condemned them in no uncertain terms. He was opposed to the modern concept of nation-state. However, his Islamic concepts were swept away by the tsunami of Muslim League/Congress politics, and Pakistan came into being. Maududi had to leave India and seek refuge in Lahore.

Once in Pakistan, a country teeming with majority of Muslims, he found here plenty of space for promoting his politics of implementation of Sharia law (Nifaz Shariat), Imposition of Faith (Iqamat Deen) and Islamic State (Hakumat Ilahiya). It is interesting that four decades later ISIS nearly succeeded in the fertile crescent of Middle East to implement Maududi’s ideas.

Use of force, violence and Jihad were important and essential to Maududi’s scheme of things, so he propagated these powerfully in the name of Islam. He even quoted, though
wrongfully, the Holy Prophet in his support. Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, later Khalifa-tul-Masih IV, could not bear up with this enormity and wrote an effective rebuttal to Maududi in a book “Murder in the name of Allah”.

In many ways JI is Pakistani version of Egyptian Ikhwanul Muslimeen. Maududi and Sayyid Qutb were twins in thought if not in action. For Taliban and Al-Qaeda both were ideological masters. Some are of the opinion that Maududi aspired to be a Sunni Khomeini.

Maududi was less religious and more pragmatic. He went to the extent of edifying sanction of untruth and falsehood if circumstances demanded. This was a great disservice to Islam, as thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of his followers took to lying at first opportunity.

In formative years of Pakistan, Maududi felt free to put forward his ideas of an Islamic state, society and polity. He condemned the practice that Muslim women work in hospitals and be nurses, etc. He insisted that penalty of apostasy was death in Islam. He even postulated that quitting Jamaat Islami was a sort of apostasy (Irtidad). Ironically, when he died years later in the US, one such apostate (Murtad) Dr Asrar Ahmad led his funeral prayer.

Jamaat Islami vigilantes in its student wing Islami Jamiat Talabah love fascist techniques and tactics. Violence was and is their first preference in dealing with others. To impose their will on press they attacked the office of the daily Frontier Post and destroyed it.

The intensity of anti-Ahmadi riots in Punjab in 1953 by Ahrar and their accomplices made Maududi apprehensive that he might be left behind from the victory parade, so he hurriedly authored a booklet ‘Qadiani Mas’alah’ and dropped it like a bomb in the fray. As a result, the then provincial government broke down, and martial law had to be imposed in Lahore. Maududi was arrested. A military court sentenced him to death. However, when peace returned, Maududi was released.

Maududi was notorious for coming up with bizarre ideas, assertions and edicts. In the high level judicial inquiry in 1953 riots, he replied to a question from the judges, with: “I should have no objection even if the Muslims in India are treated in that form of Government as Shudras and Malishes and Mannu’s laws are applied to them, depriving them of all share in the Government and the rights of a citizen...” A more sinister, harmful and idiotic statement to the detriment of Muslims (or any religious minority) by a prominent theologian is still to be discovered.

There was internal reaction to Maududi’s administration and his ideas, and a large number of his prominent disciples left him and quit the Jamaat after a conclave at Machhi Goth in 1957.

Holding regular party elections goes to JI’s credit. After Maududi’s’ death, various elected leaders headed the party. It was Jamaat’s consistent policy to support military regimes. General Yahya was supported by Jamaat’s vigilantes in East Pakistan where they committed a
host of atrocities against people, for which some of those in leadership positions have been hanged decades later. Similarly Jamaat Islami enthusiastically became B team of general Zia’s regime. Zia ordered his administration to treat JI with special consideration. However, when Jamaat leaders eventually realized that they were being used as tools by the military regime and Zia had no intention of passing on the power to them, they decided to distance themselves from him.

In 1980s a great and promising opportunity arose for the Jamaat when Americans decided to confront the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The US, Saudi Arabia and Zia’s Pakistan decided to undertake a Jihad in that country to throw out the Soviet troops. The former two agreed to pour in money and weapons, and Pakistan offered itself as the base and the facilitator for Mojahideen. This dollars-loaded jihad suited JI’s thinking entirely. Its leadership and workers acted as proxies of the Zia regime. This arrangement was a great success and the Jamaat Islami was so happy and loaded that it protested strongly against cessation of hostilities between the major powers in Afghanistan, negotiated in 1989.

During the so-called Jihad in post-Soviet Afghanistan, JI was close to warlords like Gulbadin Hikmatyar who played havoc against other Afghans, killed more countrymen and destroyed more property than any other party had done before. Hazaras of Mazar Sharif were told to either ‘accept Islam’ or ‘leave Afghanistan’; also, “We’ll chase you wherever you’ll go”. Gulbadin was deeply involved in the drug trade also. This was the era of extensive rape, murder and extortion in that unfortunate land. As a result of this ‘Jihad’ Taliban took over Kabul in 1996, and ruled for five years as an ‘Islamic Emirate’.

Jamaat Islami has never succeeded in forming a government. It shared political power with generals when the Army usurped the rule and occasionally in coalition governments, for instance in KPK with Imran Khan’s PTI. It still has some appeal for a section of urban middle and lower middle class people who get motivated in the name of Islam and are impressed by the persuasive style of Maududi’s writings. Scholarly and academics tend to quit the Jamaat sooner or later. They are the ones who subsequently expose the faults and failings of this Jamaat. Their list is long.

It is a very interesting fact that none of Maududi’s six sons is a member of Jamaat Islami. Maududi himself discouraged them in their youth to participate in the activities of Islami Jamiat Talabah. Once a staffer of the daily Nation interviewed Dr. Haidar Maududi, the founder’s son, on this issue and he replied, “I think my father was aware of the dangers of the drug he was distributing for free. Indeed his attitude was that of a heroine peddler. He would never allow his wife or any of his nine children to read any of his books.” The Nation; January 26, 1999

November 01, 2018