

Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

Monthly Report

January 2020

An op-ed: The five capital curses

The intolerance displayed by the Multan Bar has been manifesting itself in various forms.

The smell of rot in the state can be detected from a long distance. The communication gap between Pakistani rulers and the ruled continues to widen. The former claim the process of national decline has been reversed, the latter maintain the country is sinking deeper into the abyss of poverty, lawlessness and despair.

It seems the people are suffering because of five capital curses that are affecting their lives, their thoughts and their conduct: intolerance, hypocrisy, selective memory, premium on nonsense and the culture of obedience.

Some days ago, the Multan District Bar Association issued a press release regarding a resolution adopted by the Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat conference organized by it. According to the resolution, read out by Syed Athar Shah Bukhari, former Multan High Court Bar Association president, no non-Muslims, including 'Qadianis', will be allowed to take part in the district bar elections. The candidates will be obliged to file an affidavit about their being Muslim. The government did not repudiate this uncalled for assault on the rule of law and basic rights. Even if it didn't agree with the resolution it was probably afraid of taking on the preachers of intolerance. ...

I A Rehman in the daily

Dawn of January 23, 2020

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PTI Special Committee decides to ban the Ahmadiyya daily *Al-Fazl*

Lahore; January 10, 2020: The daily *Dawn* published the following news report (extracts):

'Blasphemous contents' PA body bans three books, a daily, social media accounts

LAHORE: A Punjab Assembly committee has decided to ban distribution of three books by different authors, besides a daily newspaper, and initiate legal action against more than hundred social media IDs for allegedly containing blasphemous contents.

The Special Committee-6, which met at the assembly secretariat here on Thursday under the chair of Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja, decided to ban publication and/or distribution of *The First Muslim* and *After the Prophet*, both works by foreign author Lesley Hazleton, and *History of Islam* by Mazharul Haq. It also decided to ban publication of daily '*Al-Fazl*'.

Those who attended the meeting included Punjab Mines Minister Hafiz Ammar Yasser, MPAs Mian Shafi Muhammad and Muhammad Ilyas, representatives of school education, law, home, higher education and information technology departments, Punjab Textbook Board (PTB) as well as advocate-general.

It is relevant to mention that the daily *Al-Fazl* used to be published in Rabwah, Pakistan. Its publication is already barred by the government of the Punjab. Recently, the community decided to start publication of its e-version from the UK. The Punjab Assembly committee has apparently moved to bar the same.

We make here only one comment on the Committee's report. Would the Committee please release a few extracts from the daily *Al-Fazl* that it regards as blasphemous, so that everyone knows if the Committee's decision has any merit at all and also about the yardstick and the definition of blasphemy conjectured by the worthy members of the PA's special committee—also it would help determine if the

Committee is acting independently or it is only a lackey of some ulama board.

Frontal attack of religious bigots on Islamabad and Multan Bar associations

Islamabad and Multan; January 2020: Bar associations in these two cities came up with resolutions and actions on the issue of End of Prophethood, that would surprise most of their own past and future members. These reports are indicative of the *laissez faire* attitude of the lawyers' community to religious issues and their apathy towards the onslaught of religious bigotry on their profession and professional community.

Multan: ANI released the following report on January 11, 2020; it is reproduced in original; comment is neither called for, nor offered:

Multan Bar Association bars non-Muslim lawyers from elections

Punjab (Pakistan), Jan 11 (ANI): In yet another example of subjugation of minorities in Pakistan, Multan bar association passed a resolution which forbids non-Muslim lawyers including Ahmadis to participate in the Bar council elections in the city, local media reported.

The resolution was presented by the lawyers of district bar association of Multan. It stated that the lawyers contesting bar elections will also need to submit an affidavit to prove their faith in Islam, Naya Daur reported.

Pakistan has been condemned internationally for cracking down on its minorities.

Islamabad has also reportedly been discriminating against its religious minorities, manifested in various forms of targeted violence, mass murders, extrajudicial killings, abduction, rapes, forced conversion to Islam among others, making Pakistani Hindus, Christian, Sikhs, Ahmadiyyas and Shias one of the most persecuted minorities in the region.

The condition of minorities is deplorable in Pakistan. They have always been mistreated and

suffered injustices from fellow civilians and the administration. Pakistan administration has always patronized religious, ethnic, cultural and racial disagreements to further their regime. (ANI)

...

Recently, a resolution named 'Tahaffuz-e-Namoos-e-Risalat' was unanimously passed by lawyers of Multan bar association. According to that resolution, no non-Muslim lawyer including Ahmadis will be able to participate in the bar elections of Multan.

The resolution was presented in a Tahaffuz-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwwat conference organized by the lawyers of district association of Multan. The resolution stated that the lawyers contesting bar elections will also need to submit an affidavit to prove their faith of Islam. All the participants then took oath that they believed in the finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

At the end of the conference, books regarding the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were distributed among the lawyers.

Islamabad: According to a press release of the District Bar Association, Islamabad, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of its president, Mr. Zafar Malik on January 15, 2020. It was decided that as per some earlier decision of the General Body to amend Associations rules, 2019, member were to declare their religion, and if they claim to be Muslim, they have to submit an affidavit of belief in *Khatme Nabuwwat* (end of prophethood) by 31 January 2020. Defaulters would have their membership suspended and a list to that effect would be posted on the notice board, they were told.

It is learnt that some worthy members protested over the amended rule. Mr. Mustafa N Khokhar, Advocate plainly refused to comply. Within a few days, the Association management withdraw the Notice.

Azad Kashmir High Court joins the coterie

Kotli; January 29, 2020: In the recent past Justice Shaukat Siddiqui of Islamabad High Court issued his 170-page implausible verdict on the Ahmadiyya issue, in response to a move by Mullah Allah Wasaya of Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat. Then, in March last year, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan wrote his 40-page verdict on Quran Act 2011 (and Ahmadis, primarily) in response to a writ petition by Mulla Hasan Muawiyah, a rabidly anti-Ahmadi activist. Both verdicts are 'recommended readings'. Now, there is a report in the press that Azad Kashmir High Court has issued a verdict over an appeal by Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat. We translate below headlines from the daily *Sada-i-Chanar* of January 29, 2020, published from various locations including Rawalpindi, Kotli and London:

"The Court issues verdict on appeal of Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat. The Azad government is directed to undertake (required) legislation through the Assembly.

"A separate record should be prepared of non-Muslims including Qadianis: Order of Azad Kashmir High Court

"Separate voter lists; separate right of representation should be accepted. The verdict was announced by (Acting) Chief Justice Azhar Saleem Babar and Justice Shiraz Kiyani.

"Mirzais were declared Non-Muslim in 2018; but separate political rights of Non-Muslims were not recognized. Now after this Court verdict, Mirzais will not be able to benefit from joint political rights."

The government and political parties in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) take the credit of declaring Ahmadis non-Muslim in 2018, and the territory's religious parties are clapping over obtaining this verdict from their High Court, that would effectively bar Ahmadis from participating in elections, raises the question that in what way AJK is any better than the IHK in

granting freedom of religion and expression and civil and political rights to their people. The AJK media, politicians and mullas often complain about the world community's apathy towards the Kashmiris' cause, but fail to look inward at the alternative they offer to the people across the LOC. It is decades since one ever heard of a single statement in favor of freedom of belief, worship and expression for Kashmiris across the board.

Ahmadi told to shift, in Karachi

Model Colony, Karachi; January 16, 2019: Malik Mubashar Ahmad, an Ahmadi, has been living here in a house on rent for many years at 9-C Bakery Stop, Karachi.

The landlord's grown up sons were opposed to Ahmad for his faith. But the owner was a nice person, he was happy with Ahmad as his tenant. Some days ago he died and his sons sent Mr. Ahmad an eviction notice.



Mr. Ahmad arranged an adjacent house on rent. But under the pressure of locals the landlord returned him his advance payment. Mr. Ahmad is very upset as he has no place to live. Due to prevalent hostility, Ahmadis face difficulties in renting a house in Model Colony and Gulshan Jami.

Ahmadi denied burial

Chak 40-RB, Sangla Hill, District Nankana; January 4, 2020: Mr. Muhammad Anwar S/O Mr. Muhammad Ismail of Hamraj Pur, Chak 40-RB died on January 4, 2020. His grave was dug in the common cemetery of the village where his parents were also buried. At this, some miscreants called the police and protested the burial of the Ahmadi in that cemetery. The



Police arrived at the site, and a huge crowd gathered there.

The dispute was referred to the village chief by the police. He told Ahmadis to bury Mr. Anwar elsewhere to defuse the issue, and promised a separate plot for Ahmadiyya cemetery in future. Ahmadis had to agree.

Opposition—with no scruples

Islamabad; January 2020: It is learnt that a movie "Zindgi Tamasha" has been produced by Sarmad Sultan and was to be launched on January 24, 2020. As per press reports, some religious groups objected to its contents, and raised objection. The censor authorities got cold feet, ordered a stay and referred the film to IIC for their opinion.

In the meantime, the hostile critics launched a propaganda war against the film, and undertook false and baseless accusations against it. They issued ads on social media wherein they claimed, of course falsely, that the film was promoted by 'Qadiani atheists'.

The post contained the following statements:

- Qadiani atheists acted (promoted) this film.
- It openly associates Islam, mosques and madrassahs with terrorism, and a 'Mehfal Naat' has been ridiculed.
- On the other hand, the beliefs of Qadiani atheists have been promoted in every scene.
- We robustly demand of the Government of Pakistan and Pemra to block the screening of this film.

- As evidence of your commitment to faith (*ghairat*) in Ummate Muslimah, share this post (with others).

We are not sure of the authenticity of comments made above but we categorically affirm that comments referring to 'Qadianis' are entirely false and fabricated.

Ahmadiyya mosque under threat

Chanderkay Mangolay, District Narowal; January 2020: Opponents lodged an application against the local Ahmadiyya mosque stating that it has minarets and *Kalima* (Islamic creed) inscription, which are illegal according to them. This caused a lot of trouble for the local Ahmadiyya community. Ahmadis had to respond to queries of the police and the Special Branch. They told the authorities that this mosque was built approximately 55 years ago, and minarets etc were built at that time.

The district administration handled the problem with fairness and wisdom. The non-issue is at rest.

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 Sheikhpura under PPCs 295-A, 337-2 and 427 on May 13, 2014 in Police Station Sharaqpur. Two days later Mr. Khalil Ahmad was murdered by a madrassah student, while in police custody, 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 was then made to the Lahore High Court. The Court has not found time to

hear them for two years. These three Ahmadis are in prison for over 5 years.

2. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Waraich was charged on a false complaint of blasphemy under PPC 295-C with FIR Nr. 645 in Tandlianwala police station, District Faisalabad on January 20, 2018. He was arrested a day earlier. He is under trial.
3. Mr. Waqar Ahmad student of Jamia Ahmadiyya, Syed Mubashir Ahmad Ayaz Principal of Jamia Ahmadiyya and Mr. Muhammad Azhar Mangla lecturer in Jamia Ahmadiyya were booked for sharing Quranic material on social media, under cyber crime law on 12th November 2019, with FIR No. 152/2019 of Police Station FIA Cyber Crime Wing, Lahore under anti-Ahmadiyya law PPC 298-C, blasphemy laws 295-B and 295-A, PECA-11 and PPCs 120-B, 109 and 34. Mr. Waqar Ahmad was arrested and investigation is underway.

From the Media

- **Ban proposed on non-Muslim lawyers contesting elections: Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat conference in Multan Bar**
The daily Jang; Lahore, January 10, 2020
- **'Blasphemous contents' PA body bans three books, a daily (*Al-Fazl*), social media accounts**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 10, 2020
- **DSP among 15 martyred in Quetta blast**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 11, 2020
- **TLP chief's brother, nephew among 86 jailed**
The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, January 18, 2020
- **Federal minister Noor ul Haq Qadri rejects American report on religious freedom**
The daily Pakistan; Lahore, January 18, 2020
- **Declaration of faith to be accepted on face value: SC**

Top court decides matter related to inheritance on basis of faith.

The daily Express Tribune; Lahore, January 14, 2020

- **ME on knife-edge as US kills Iran's feared general**
Khamenei promises 'severe revenge'
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 4, 2020
- **Stampede kills 56 at Iranian commander's funeral**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 8, 2020
- **UN court orders Myanmar to prevent genocide of Rohingyas**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, Jan 24, 2020
- **US deplors detentions, internet ban in India-held Kashmir**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, Jan 10, 2020
- **10 sentenced to death in BD for bomb attack on communist rally**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, Jan 21, 2020
- **2.8m Afghans live in Pakistan, senators told**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 8, 2020
- **PA (Punjab Assembly) resolution seeks most stringent anti-blasphemy law**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 1, 2020
- **Accountability court sends Ahsan Iqbal to Adiala jail**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, Jan 21, 2020
- **Religious Education Directorate established to bring 30 thousand madrassahs in mainstream**
The daily Khabrain; Lahore, Jan 19, 2020
- **Federal Govt stops release of *Zindagi Tamasha*: Punjab and Sindh have already stopped exhibition of film**
The daily The News; Lahore, Jan 23, 2020
- **140,000 government servants were receiving funds (from Benazir Income Support meant for the destitute): Sania Nishtar**
The daily Jang; Lahore, January 16, 2020
- **Rs 50 million per month bribery (*Bhatta Khuri*) in Punjab prisons; mobile, meetings, home-cooked food, all**

available at a rate

The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, Dec 5, 2019

- **Pakistan falls three spots on corruption perception index (compared to last year)**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, Jan 24, 2020
- **Man booked for 'selling' minor daughter for Rs. 500 (in Kasur)**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 6, 2020
- **Matriculate appointed education minister in KP**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 5, 2020
- **No govt department more corrupt than railway; the entire department is busy in politics: Chief Justice SC (Justice Gulzar Ahmad)**
The daily Jang; Lahore, January 28, 2020
- **Two polio vaccinators shot dead**
The daily Dawn; Lahore, January 30, 2020

Tweet: Corruption in BISP

Sania Nishtar (@Sania Nishtar) tweeted at 3:05p.m. on Sat Jan 18, 2020: 4 grade 17 BISP officers dismissed from service on charges of corruption & misconduct as they got their wives enrolled as BISP beneficiaries fraudulently, using their position in BISP. ..."

(Note: BISP is Benazir Income Support Program meant to provide some support to extremely poor in society).

Short Read: Under attack

After 14 years of reporting in India, journalist Rana Ayyub thought she'd seen the worst. Then she saw police standby as masked men attacked university students. "The first week of the new decade marked a remarkable low for law and order in India, a low for our justice system and our political leadership", she writes.

The weekly Time; January 27, 2020

Tweet: Islamabad Bar Association

Adil Najam (@AdilNajam) tweeted at 10:01 AM on Sat, Jan 18, 2020:

The notice by the Islamabad Bar Association to apply a faith-based 'purity' test to members is not just wrong, it's a disgrace. Not just crass

bullying, it's thuggery. Not just bigotry, but an
affront to the teachings of the Prophet. Let us all,
again, hang our heads in
shame.<https://t.co/txPCNoBZrk>

([https://twitter.com/AdilNajam/status/121839798
3353528321?s=03](https://twitter.com/AdilNajam/status/1218397983353528321?s=03))