

# Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

## Monthly Report

December 2020

### Blasphemy and the Chief Justice LHC

During hearing of a complaint by an advocate on alleged blasphemy on Google and Wikipedia, related to some Ahmadiyya issues, Lahore High Court CJ M. Qasim Khan's following remarks and observations were reported by the daily *Dunya* on December 31, 2020 (translated):

Action against blasphemy should be taken as against those involved in conspiracy against the country:  
CJ Lahore High Court

Personal interest should not be preferred over national and religious interest. FIA should not unnecessarily delay registering a criminal case.

After all, what is the problem in declaring proclaimed offenders those who have uploaded blasphemous material on Google: The court hearing postponed till January 20, 2021.

Multan (Court reporter; APP)  
Chief Justice Lahore High Court  
Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan remarked, "What was the problem in declaring 'proclaimed offenders' those who uploaded blasphemous material on Google? We should not give preference to personal interest over national and religious interest.

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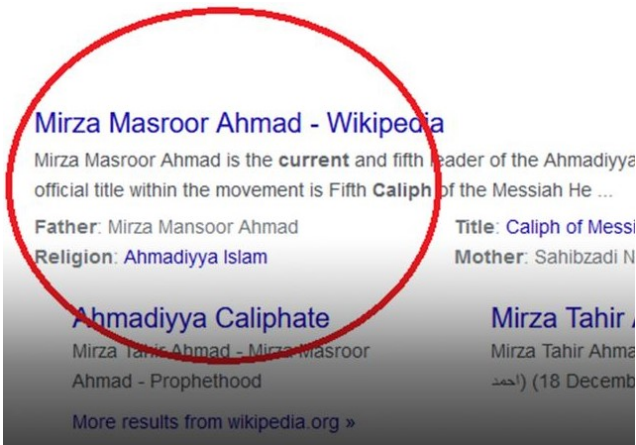
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FIA should not unnecessarily delay registration of a criminal case against the accused. A case can be registered under Section 154 on receipt of information. Inquiry and evidence are issues thereafter.” Chief Justice Lahore High Court Muhammad Qasim Khan heard the plea for removal of blasphemous material on Internet, on Wednesday in High Court, Multan Bench. Mr. Asad Ali Bajwah, the Deputy Attorney General had come from Lahore to Multan to pursue the case. Mr. Wajid Zia the DG FIA, Mr. Abdul Rab Director Cyber Crimes and other officials presented themselves as well. The court had asked for a report from the FIA regarding removal of blasphemous material from the internet. Chief Justice remarked that the blasphemy accused also should be proceeded against as those who conspire against Pakistan. At this occasion, the Chairman PTA stated that a number of objectionable websites have been shut down, but it is not possible to efface them entirely; in addition, 19 websites of the community that spreads hatred, have been shut down. The Chief Justice postponed the next hearing till January 20, at the request of the Deputy Attorney General... .

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## PTA issues notice to Wikipedia, Google



**December 25, 2020:** The daily *Dawn* issued the following story concerning PTA and the Ahmadiyya Community.

### PTA issues notices to Google, Wikipedia for 'disseminating sacrilegious content'

By Javed Hussain, 25 December 2020

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued notices to Google Inc. and Wikipedia for "disseminating sacrilegious content" through the two platforms, it emerged on Friday.

In a press release, the authority said it has been receiving complaints regarding "misleading search results associated with 'present khalifa of Islam' and an unauthentic version of the Holy Quran uploaded by the Ahmedi community on Google Play Store".

Being a matter of a very serious nature, the PTA has approached Google Inc. with directions to immediately remove the unlawful content, the statement said. "The platform has been issued the notice under the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguard) Rules 2020 to remove sacrilegious content to avoid any legal action by the regulator."

The authority added that complaints were also received regarding hosting blasphemous caricatures of Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and dissemination of "misleading, wrong, deceptive and deceitful information" through articles published on Wikipedia portraying Mirza Masroor Ahmad as a Muslim.

"After extensive communication on the matter, Wikipedia has been finally served with the notice to

remove the sacrilegious content to avoid any legal action", the statement said.

In case the platforms remain non-compliant, the PTA shall be constrained to initiate further action under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) and Rules 2020, the statement said.

**Notes** 1, No version of the Holy Quran is uploaded from Pakistan; and the Quran mentioned in the Notice of the PTA does not differ in any way from the Holy Quran published in Pakistan under the government guidelines.

2. As for 'Khalifa', the Ahmadiyya *Al-Fazl* International of December 27, published in UK thus quoted the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Community, (translation):

"A Khalifa is appointed by Allah, not by any search engine, and I have never claimed to be the Khalifa of the Muslim Ummah. My seal carries the designation: *Khalifa tul Masih*. My letters written to the world leaders were under the letter-head of *Khalifa tul Masih*".

3. On this issue, the following editorial appeared in *Pakistan Today* (extract): "... There is a presence of both rampant hypocrisy and a severe detachment from reality when on one hand federal institutions such as the PTA are issuing warnings such as the one it has and then there is an outcry from the government when the USA places the country on a religious freedom blacklist."

([Pakistantoday.com.pk/2020/12/27/pta-and-social-media](http://Pakistantoday.com.pk/2020/12/27/pta-and-social-media))

## Google, LHC, and the Chief Justice

**Lahore:** Above we have entered the story regarding PTA's notice to Google, Wikipedia on a couple of entries related to Ahmadiyyat.

According to a press report in the daily *Ausaf*, Lahore of December 22, 2020, one Advocate Azhar Haseeb had put up a complaint on this issue, and the CJ Lahore High Court



**Chief Justice Lahore High Court Qasim Khan**

Qasim Khan heard it and made the following observations:

Qadiani Khalifa's name on Google is deplorable. The government is asleep. PUBG was barred, why no decision on this issue: Lahore High Court

Here you will avail

immunity of the law, (but) what shall be your reply in the grave? It is easy to raise the slogan of Riasat Madinah, but implementation is difficult. All parties to appear in a personal capacity. It seems the top man will have to be sent for: Chief Justice

The hearing was postponed till next Monday.

The daily *Dawn* of December 29, 2020 filed the following report:

### **Can FIA file case against Google, wonders LHC**

**CJ says agency should establish wing to exclusively deal with blasphemous content**

By our Staff Reporter

Hearing a petition against the government's failure to remove blasphemous material from internet, Lahore High Court Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan on Monday asked a federal law officer if the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has the jurisdiction to lodge a case against search engine Google.

Several FIA officials were present in the court in compliance with the chief justice's directives issued during the previous hearing.

To a court query, a deputy attorney general admitted that the FIA was responsible for taking action against any objectionable and blasphemous material available on internet.

Chief Justice Khan observed that the situation was getting worse by the day. "What kind of (state of Madina) is it that the basic responsibility is not being fulfilled?" the chief justice asked.

He observed that the FIA should establish a wing to exclusively deal with blasphemous material. He asked the law officer as to what action the FIA could take if someone from outside the country was involved in spreading blasphemous material on the internet. He also directed the law officer to assist on a point whether the FIA could register a case against Google if any blasphemous material was not removed.

The chief justice would resume the hearing on December 30 at the Multan bench of the court.

Advocate Azhar Haseeb had filed the petition seeking a directive for the government to get the name of the leader of Ahmadi community as a caliph of Islam removed from Google.

After the next hearing the daily *Dunya* of December 3, 2020 published a brief story of the event as follows (translated extracts):

**Action against blasphemy should be taken as against those involved in conspiracy against the country: CJ Lahore High Court**

**Personal interest should not be preferred over national and religious interest. FIA should not unnecessarily delay registering a criminal case.**

**After all, what is the problem in declaring proclaimed offenders those who have uploaded blasphemous material on Google: The court hearing postponed till January 20, 2021.**

Multan (Court reporter; APP) Chief Justice Lahore High Court Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan remarked, "What was the problem in declaring 'proclaimed offenders' those who uploaded blasphemous material on Google? We should not give preference to personal interest over national and religious interest. FIA should not unnecessarily delay registration of a criminal case against the accused. A case can be registered under Section 154 on receipt of information. Inquiry and evidence are issues thereafter." Chief Justice Lahore High Court Muhammad Qasim Khan heard the plea for removal of blasphemous material on Internet, on Wednesday in High Court, Multan Bench. Mr. Asad Ali Bajwah, the Deputy Attorney General had come from Lahore to Multan to pursue the case. Mr. Wajid Zia the DG FIA, Mr. Abdul Rab Director Cyber Crimes and other officials presented themselves as well. The court had asked for a report from the FIA regarding removal of

blasphemous material from the internet. Chief Justice remarked that the blasphemy accused also should be proceeded against as those who conspire against Pakistan. At this occasion the Chairman PTA stated that a number of objectionable websites have been shut down, but it is not possible to efface them entirely; in addition 19 websites of the community that spreads hatred, have been shut down. The Chief Justice postponed the next hearing till January 20, at the request of the Deputy Attorney General... .

## Ahmadiyya worship place and forty graves desecrated and damaged by the police

**Shah Maskeenwala, District Nankana Sahib; December 28-30, 2020:** Shah Maskeenwala is a small village where seven Ahmadi families reside.

Mullas of Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasulullah lodged an application with District Police Officer Nankana that Qadianis of Shah Maskeenwala have written Quranic verses and *Kalima* on their gravestones etc. They named three Ahmadis, Syed Anees Ahmad (local president of Ahmadiyya Community), Syed Saadat Ahmad and Mr. Basharat Ahmad for arrest under section 295-C, the blasphemy law that prescribes death penalty.

On December 28, 2020, three policemen along with three mullas came to the Ahmadiyya worship place. No Ahmadi was there at that time. They took down a pamphlet named **‘Things to do’** from there. There is a common graveyard next to this worship place. They went there as well. A woman there told them that this graveyard is common and the verses are written on the graves of non-Ahmadis too. Later the local Ahmadiyya president got a call from Faizabad Police Station that an application had been lodged against him. The police sent for the three named Ahmadis.

On December 29, an Ahmadiyya delegation went to the police station. The police had sent for the mullas as well. After a five-hour long discussion, it was decided that the police will

not register an FIR but will take action against any writing that violates the Constitution. Ahmadis returned home at 11 p.m.

At about midnight a police squad visited the village, took down the small minaret at the worship place as well as forty tombstones from Ahmadis’ graves.

## Ahmadi’s house demolished by relatives

**Ahmadpur East; December 2020:** Mr. Muhammad Arif had become Ahmadi three years ago and faced severe opposition in the village. His uncle told him that he had apostatized and that unless he became a Muslim, he could not continue to live there. He occupied Mr. Arif’s house.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Arif had to leave the country. Now, Mr. Arif’s uncle sent for his sister and conveyed to her, "We have waited for three years, but your brother has not become a Muslim, so we have demolished his house to build a madrassa in its place. You should take away its debris."

## Problems faced in obtaining release on bail

**Lahore, December 2020:** Malik Zaheer Ahmad was following up, as friend, the criminal case baselessly registered against Mr. Rohan Ahmad and senior Jamaat officials, when he was also booked under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 109, PECA11 on September 30, 2020 and arrested. PPC 295-B prescribes imprisonment for life.

Malik Zaheer’s plea for bail was rejected by Additional Sessions Judge Lahore, Mr. Hamid Hussain on November 26, 2020.

A bail application for review of this rejection was made in the Lahore High Court. Justice Alia Neelam was to hear it on December 21, 2020. On that date, mullas proposed an advocate of their own to pursue the case. At this, the defense took the plea that as the state was the petitioner in this case, there was no room for a private lawyer to intervene. The judge, however, allowed the private lawyer, with the remark that

anyone who raises an objection in the case can enter an attorney.

The next date of hearing is January 5, 2021. By this time, Malik Zaheer, the friend of the accused, would have spent 3 months in prison.

## Sectarian justice!

**Jatoi, District Muzaffar Garh; December 2020:** Mr. Ehsan Ahmad, Ahmadi purchased a plot along with two shops built on it. His non-Ahmadi cousin occupied the plot. Ehsan took his plea to a court, but his opposite party gave it a religious color, extended threats to Ehsan and dug in.

Ehsan Ahmad owned a 5-marla plot about five kilometers outside Jatoi. His paternal non-Ahmadi cousin laid claim to this plot through his mother. He is helped in this litigation by a mischief-maker Abdul Ghafur. They approached the area chairman who sent for both the parties and had a look at the documents. The chairman then telephoned someone and asked for an edict (*Masala*), “In a litigation, one party is Qadiani but has the right, while the other party is Muslim and is in the wrong; what to do?” The chairman held back his decision.

The opponent has told his lawyer that there was a precedent — the lawyer who defended Mumtaz Qadri (who murdered Governor Taseer) charged no-fee; similarly in this case, a Muslim should be supported with no-fee. The case lies in court.

## Bail application rejected

**Goth Mongarhyo, Kombasar; Nagarparkar, Sindh; December, 2020:** A mulla and one Maluk Dal a neighbor of the Ahmadiyya Centre in Kombasar, Mithi visited the center and falsely accused the Ahmadi teacher of burning the Holy Quran. They carried a few burnt papers with them. Thereafter they went to the police station and got a case registered against two Ahmadi religious teachers, Mr. Tariq A. Tahir and Mr. Safwan Ahmad in FIR 83/2020 under blasphemy clause PPC 295-B at P.S. Nagarparker on November 25, 2020. Later Mr. Tahir was arrested.

A bail application was filed in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Naseer-ul-din Pathan by both the accused, The ASJ rejected the pleas on December 23, 2020.

## A Conspiracy against Ahmadiyya Community

**Green town, Lahore; December 4, 2020:** A person named Qasim from Okara, was accused of burning a copy of the Quran and dumping it in a sewer. A police case was registered against him under clause 295-B and he was arrested.

### 295-B

Who ever willfully defies, damages or desecrates a copy of Holy Quran or of an extract therefrom or uses it in any derogatory manner or for any unlawful purpose shall be punishable with imprisonment for life

On interrogation, he admitted the crime and reportedly claimed to be an Ahmadi. This was found to be entirely false, as Ahmadiyya Jamaat inquiry found that no such person is on their roll in Okara nor in Lahore.

After his claim, numerous anti-Ahmadiyya processions were taken out, a siege was laid to the police station and the protestors pressurized the police to take action against Ahmadis. This was a planned conspiracy against the Ahmadiyya Community; opponents tried to add to the anti-Ahmadiyya hype through this fabrication.

## Bail refused

**Nankana Sahib; December 2020:** Messrs. Sharafat Ahmad, Akbar Ali and Tahir Naqqash, Ahmadis, were implicated in a police case under anti-Ahmadi sections PPCs 298-B and 298-C on May 2, 2020 in P.S. Mangatanwala, District Nankana Sahib. All the three gentlemen are office-holders in the community.

In follow-up of the registration of this case, pleas for bail were made which were rejected, and the three accused were arrested and moved to Sheikhpura Jail.



After the arrest, Mr. Adil Riaz, the magistrate rejected their post-arrest bail on October 23, 2020, while the appeal against this rejection was further rejected by ASJ Sohail Anjum on December 8, 2020.

It is now three months that the three community officials are in prison for their faith, while still not found guilty of any offence by a court.

## Hostility at job

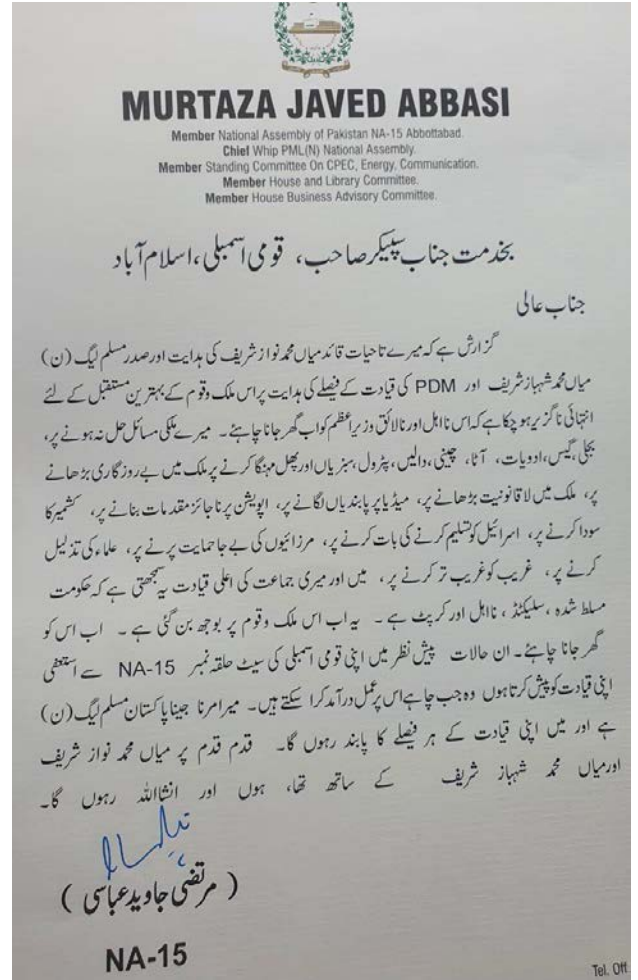
**91-A/10R, District Khanewal; December 2020:** Mr. Zahid Ahmad, Ahmadi, has been working in Millat Equipment Limited, Lahore as an electrician for nine years. When he returned to the company after holidays on September 7, 2020, he greeted his co-workers as usual, but no one responded. He learned that his co-workers' behavior had changed due to the influence of a mulla in the factory.

The next day the mulla and some staff came to Mr. Ahmad and told him that then onward they would have nothing to do with him and they would not allow him to work there, except by disassociating himself from the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. They used foul language against Ahmadiyyat in his presence. Mr. Ahmad told them that he was Ahmadi by birth and believed in the truth of Mirza Sahib.

The opponents also told his apartment-sharer to not let him stay there. Mr. Ahmad had to inform the management of the situation, but they refused any support. So, he had to leave the job and stop going to the factory to avoid any problem.

**PML-N MNAs/MPA guilty of openly exploiting religion for politics**

**Lahore; December 2020:** Anti-PTI government campaign is currently going on in the country led by a group called PDM. An important faction in the PDM is PML-N, led by Ms. Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of former prime minister Nawaz



**Copy of resignation of Murtaza Javed Abbasi MNA**

Sharif and a niece of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif a former chief minister of the Punjab.

While we hold back our political opinion on the performance of the PTI government, as also on the validity of PDM criticism, we have to take note of a gross and highly objectionable move by some PML-N leaders whereby they have blatantly and unashamedly used religion in service of their politics.

A recent decision of the PDM was to be ready to resign from their seats in the Assemblies. PML-N leadership asked their members of the national and provincial assemblies to deposit their resignations in advance with their leadership to be used as and when decided. Accordingly, a number of them complied with the instruction. Some of these resignation letters were uploaded on social media. We have four of these from PML-N's MNAs and MPA. It appears that some guideline draft was prepared for these legislators, as all these letters carried almost the same stuff with

very minor variations here and there. These letters contain a statement of commitment of loyalty to the Sharif family and a list of allegations against the performance of the PTI government.

The PTI is accused of, *inter alia*, “*Mirzaion ki beja hamayat karney par*” (undeserved support to Ahmadis). The PML-N leaders know that this is a false accusation — almost everyone knows it. However, they included this in their list only to avail of the prevailing anti-Ahmadi hate-climate which was nourished by them in the preceding five years of their own rule. The PTI government has not changed that policy. However, these PML-N leaders decided to still draw the last drop of milk from this unholy cow.

Note: The four letters available on social media are from the following senders:

1. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abban, MNA of NA-15
2. Dr. Ibadullah Khan, MNA of NA-10
3. Malik Sohaib Ahmad Bherth, MPA of PP-72
4. Dr. Muhammad Sajjad, MNA of NA-14

Community life — at what cost?

**Chakra, Dharmyal District Rawalpindi; December 2020:** President of the local Ahmadi women association dispatched her monthly report to her district senior, through courier. For some reason this could not be delivered to her and was returned to her husband’s (Mr. Abdul Qadir Chauhan) shop. As it was closed, the courier guy handed over the envelope to the nearby shop for delivery to Mr. Qadir later. This fellow opened the envelope and found the monthly report therein. He made photo-copies of this report and forwarded those to different people. This was malicious.

Thereafter Mr. Qadir started getting calls to vacate the shop. The owner of the shop told him that there was a lot of pressure on him to vacate the shop from the ‘Qadiani’. Similarly, on December 10, Mr. Qadir's neighbor's daughter told his daughter that some mullas in the neighborhood considering blockage of their

house. This, however, did not materialize. Then a meeting of the local Khatme Nabuwwat group was held on December 16, in which it was decided to expel the Ahmadi family from the area. Plans were also made to lay siege to the remaining Ahmadi homes of the neighborhood. In view of this Mr. Qadir informed the police. They summoned the leader of the opposition but he failed to report. The police then detained him and obtained a written statement from him that he would not indulge in any act to disturb the peace. He promised the same for future as well.

After that, the SP Cantt came to Mr. Qadir's house and said that if he withdrew his application, the police would surely protect him and his business. He then asked numerous questions regarding Mr. Qadir being an Ahmadi and the said monthly report. In reply to the SP’s proposal Mr. Qadir replied that in view of the promised police protection he could withdraw this complaint. The SP then told him to sign the given undertaking as under:

“I, Abdul Qadir Chauhan, son of Abdul Haq, a resident of Burmyan, Dharmyal, Rawalpindi, confess that as a Pakistani citizen, I will fully abide by the Constitution of Pakistan. I will live my religious life according to the instructions given in the constitution of Pakistan. I will not preach nor teach any kind of Ahmadiyya religion from my house. Nor will I give my house the status of a mosque. I will close down the courses ‘Siraat-e-Ahmadiyya’. The preaching activity of my religion will not reach people of other religions. I withdraw my written complaint made against Aashiq Elahi, the *Khatib* Jamia Masjid Khatame Nabuwwat Main Chakra Road. I made that request due to misunderstanding. I have no personal enmity with Mr. Aashiq Elahi. I will fully abide by all these things. I should be assured of security. I sign the above having fully understood its every word, as need for reference.”



## A lawyers' forum in the Land of the Pure

**Lahore; December 4, 2020:** The daily *Mashriq* of Lahore published the following photo of a group of lawyers with the note: "Lawyers of the Allama Lawyers Forum protest against Israel, outside the High Court".



The vernacular message written on their banner is noteworthy. Its translation:

**Qadiani, Israel, US, India, France collusion  
— Death on it**

Fire all Qadianis from key posts. Deport the traitor, Juda the journalist, fifth columnist Mubashir Luqman who is a tout of Qadianis and Israel, so that no one dares to become a national enemy. Mubashir Luqman is a cursed fellow, a beast, spokesperson of Jews, representative of Israel, man with no conscience, and black mark on journalism.

## A sample brief of societal persecution of Ahmadis

**Kasran, District Attock; December 2020:** Opposition to Ahmadis has increased here for some time. A page on Facebook named 'Apna Kasran' carries hate material against Ahmadis and anti-Ahmadi comments. A cricket tournament was held here on the second day of Eid-ul-Adha 2020. It was declared that 'Qadianis' would not be allowed to participate in the tournament. On July 22, a comment was made on the same page that 'Qadianiat' should be banned. Again for a tournament held in October participation was disallowed to Ahmadis.

*Khtame Nabuwwat* conferences are held here and foul language is used therein against Ahmadis. On September 7, an End of

Prophethood Conference was held at the Hanafia mosque. Thereafter hostile comments were made against the Jamaat on the same page. Then on September 20, another End of Prophethood Conference was held in which Ahmadis were bad-mouthed. Still another conference was held on October 17, in which it was announced that a complete boycott of 'Qadianis' would be imposed. On October 26, Qari Rauf of Hanafia mosque invited mulla Shahir Sialvi from Islamabad and a meeting was held against Ahmadis. The next day, traders of all sects were gathered at the Hanafia mosque and were asked to boycott all French products, as well as Ahmadis. After that, the shopkeepers of the village put up notices outside their shops that no trade would be undertaken with 'Qadianis'.

Now all the shops in the village are closed to Ahmadis except three whose owners did not follow the mulla.

On November 7, 2020, a rally was held against France, in which it was announced that no trade would be undertaken with Ahmadis. Also, the publicity poster of the Inter-village Cricket Tournament of November 9 to 14, carried the note that no 'Qadiani' could take part in it.

## Ahmadi denied purchase of goods

**Lahore; December 2020:** Mr. Amir Shehzad is a camera technician in Sadar Anjuman Ahmadiyya Rabwah. He went to Lahore to buy camera



**Sticker outside a shop  
Qadiani, beware. First, enter Islam, thereafter this shop.**

equipment. There, he took out his needed goods

from a shop 'CCTV World' and asked these to be sent to his address in Rabwah. The salesman asked him, "Have you come from Rabwah?" Mr. Shehzad replied in the affirmative. After that, the two people in the shop talked to each other and told Mr. Shehzad that they would not sell him the goods. Mr. Shehzad told them that he often purchased goods from there, why could he not get them now? To which they replied that he belonged to the Ahmadi religion; if he were not an Ahmadi, they would sell him the goods.

Some traders in Lahore have boycotted the Ahmadis for years. Anti-Ahmadi stickers and posters were put up in almost the entire Hafeez Center market.

Mr. Shehzad had to go to another store to buy his stuff.

**Social problems for an Ahmadi Ismailkay; District Sialkot; December 2020:** Mr. Sanaullah of this village joined Ahmadiyyat years ago. His family is the only Ahmadi household there.

Now, for some time, he is facing opposition, even animosity in the village. One, Mr. Nadeem, a member of the extremist TLP is leading this agitation. Last year, he invited Qari Afzal to the village to lead a Khatme Nabuwat rally. This disturbed the religious harmony there. A few days ago when Mrs. Sanaullah went to offer condolences at some local's home, Nadeem told her to go away and not pollute the last rituals.

Nadeem lately interfered with the gas station business of the Ahmadi family. He assembled a few mischief-makers, led them to the victim's place and indulged in disturbing the peace. This met a defensive response from Mr. Sanaullah's son. Nadeem rushed to the police station and put up a fabricated complaint.

It is a very difficult situation for Mr. Sanaullah and his family. His only hope is that the police would act fair and just.

Now, a Khatam E Nabuwat metro station



**Lahore:** All the 27 stops of the new local metro Orange Line are named, of course, after the locality/neighborhood they serve. However, last month the ultra-right-wing daily *Islam* published the news on November 12, 2020: **Ulama demand naming a metro train station as *Khatam E Nabuwat*** (end of prophethood).

Believe it or not, the news on social media this month tells us that one of the station-boards now carries the name ***Khatam E Nabuwat Station***. We do not know the official status of this name change. However, it will be a pleasant surprise if the writ of the state is made to override the writ of the mulla.

**Urdu journalism – a sample**

Vernacular press in Pakistan has played a big role in the decades-long persecution of Ahmadis, by fanning the fire of hate and prejudice. Granted that its level varies from newspaper to newspaper, but overall the vernacular press is one of the main sources of anti-Ahmadi religious violence in the country.

The *Nawa-i-Waqt* is one of the oldest and most-circulated Urdu dailies in the country. We produce below extracts from one of its op-eds in December 11, 2020 issue, written by a regular and experienced journalist Mr. Muhammad Akram Chaudhry, to give an idea of the nature and style

of such opinion makers who claim plenty of space in the Urdu print media, and educate literally millions in their societal outlook (extracts translated):

**US State Department's false report based on prejudice and narrow-mindedness**  
*(Siren, by Muhammad Akram Chaudhry)*

The mighty US has suddenly discovered that people in Pakistan have no religious freedom. Its State Department has produced a Report which mentions that in Pakistan, its citizens perhaps face difficulties in following their religion. First of all, there is need of a report on this Report that how come the State Department, located thousands of miles away, found out that Pakistani people lack religious freedom, and its citizens belonging to different faiths face problems in (practice of) their faith, belief or worship — especially when in US, leave alone religious freedom, even life itself is at risk. Consider, for example, the Black Lives Matter movement...

...There is no option but to reject and condemn this Report without reading or listening its content, and criticizing this act itself (of its production), as there is no doubt that it is not even feasible that any Pakistani could have a religious problem, (as) all Pakistani citizens of all faiths enjoy full freedom of religion...

People of all religious minorities enjoy the same opportunities of career development as the (majority) Muslims. In facts, at times, Muslims have offered their posts to those of other faiths. One would rarely come across elsewhere such religious tolerance. There is no doubt and exaggeration in this (assertion), as it is the ground reality that Pakistan is a great country for people of all faiths. You would perhaps rarely come across such religious harmony and tolerance anywhere else in the world...

...Pakistani Muslims exercise more patience, tolerance and religious harmony while dealing with people of other faiths than perhaps is the case in the US, England, Canada, Germany, France, Holland, Japan, China, Russia and other major countries of the world. Pakistan faces a different set of problems, however as for religious tolerance, a fair comparison would surely show that here people of all faiths live lives full of religious freedom....

When US State Department has time, it should talk to its department of interior and find out the present status of Black Live Matter movement....

Enemies of peace in Pakistan are ever busy in instigating Muslim communities to fight among themselves; and hostile forces spend lot of money in this effort, although mutual toleration found here among different denominations is perhaps to be found nowhere else...

This Report of US State Department is based purely on prejudice and narrow-mindedness. It is not even remotely close to reality. They surely are objecting to something else, which is clear. All this is linked to the law on end of prophethood. In this regard, we shall not accept pressure from any country. In this regard Pakistanis will not compromise on (*the Islamic creed*). It is part of our faith; in fact this is our faith as the Quran has made it clear to us (*Arabic verse*). After this we need no other argument. All countries, including the US, who want to patronize this hatred and historic mischief, should know that the brave and high-minded Muslims, who love the Holy Prophet more than themselves, their property and their children, will not let any harm to the end of prophethood of the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.). Every Pakistani Muslim is a guardian over the *Khatme Nabuwwat*, and will not allow anyone to rob it away (*Dakah dalna*), and will not spare his life on this issue...

...One wishes that the State Department would compile this Report without prejudice, and would also take notice of Modi's Hindutva — it would notice Modi's terrorism and French Satan's anti-Islam, and this narrow-minded Department would report on tyranny against Muslims.

**Ahmadis forced to vacate house and warehouse**

**Ahmadabad, Narowal; December 2020:** Some of the Ahmadis of this area now live in Rawalpindi where they have taken a room for residence, and rented a warehouse for storing wooden sawdust. A few days ago, the landlord discovered that they are Ahmadis, so he told them to vacate the house and the warehouse.

## Anti-Ahmadiyya procession in Gujranwala

**Bhiri Shah Rehman, Gujranwala; October 31, 2020:** A procession was taken out here against France. In order to increase the participation, students of neighborhood schools were pressurized to join the rally. Ahmadi students were told that those who did not join the procession are enemies of Islam and are in imposters of France. Speaking against France, Deobandi Maulvi Ehsanullah switched over to anti-Ahmadiyya theme and said that 'Qadianis' are staunch enemies of Islam. People have to come out against them and the enemies of the country. Anti-Ahmadi slogans were also raised.

## Officials visit Ahmadi community in a village

**Dherokay, District Toba Tek Singh; December 2020:** Some time ago, a few miscreants put up anti-Ahmadi banners here and agitated the public over the tombstones issue. They also lodged an application with the police against Ahmadis for using Islamic rites. The police took action accordingly and covered up the Arabic phrases on Ahmadis' gravestones, with cement.

On December 5, the Assistant Commissioner and the *Patwari* came to the village for an inquiry. They were told that the worship place was built in 1957 and was renovated in 2009 with the permission of the AC.

The AC questioned about the number of Ahmadis living there and the issue of removal of the *Kalima* from the worship place etc. Ahmadis mentioned to them their problems and complained of anti-Ahmadi actions of the locals. The opponents were also heard and the officials told one and all to go by the law. Ahmadis re-confirmed their commitment to law.

## Mullas and falsehood

**Darul Noor, District Faisalabad; December 2020:** Mr. Mohammad Ashraf, Ahmadi, runs a junk shop there. A few days ago, he was invited to a party. Some mullas had also come there.

After the party, the mullas asked him to recite the *Kalima* (the Islamic creed). Mr. Ashraf recited it to them, at which some of them raised the slogan that Ashraf had thus given up Ahmadiyyat. These mullas got themselves photographed with Mr. Ashraf, uploaded it on social media with caption that Mr. Ashraf had given up his Ahmadiyyat.

Mr. Ashraf as an Ahmadi is committed to the *Kalima* since his birth.

## Anti-Ahmadiyya sermons in Gujranwala

**Rahwali, Gujranwala; December 2020:** Irfan Burq, an anti-Ahmadiyya mulla held *Tajdar-e-Khatme Nabuwwat* conferences in Rahwali, Gujranwala. He delivered Friday sermons on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December wherein he incited the public against Ahmadis. After his sermon on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December, children of the area took out a rally and raised anti-Ahmadiyya slogans in the streets.

## JUI exploits religion

**Larkana, December 11, 2020:** For some time now Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) party is very active against Ahmadiyyat in this part of Sindh. On December 11, 2020 they held an anti-Ahmadi rally in Larkana city. The speakers bad-mouthed Ahmadi elders by name and incited the audience against Ahmadis. This was in clear violation of the laws PPCs 153-A and 295-A.

The opponents now intend to do a similar program in the town of Qambar.

## Shrine of Hindu saint vandalized

**Karak, KPK; December 30, 2020:** We mention this incident in this Ahmadiyya report, as it is of the same genre and class as desecration of scores of Ahmadi places of worship in the country. The targeted Ahmadiyya places receive little mention in the press and generally receive little sympathy from the authorities, so this brief report on Karak temple would be found useful by many who are willing to improve religious harmony in Pakistan.



The daily *Tribune.com.pk* reported the following on December 31, 2020, (extracts):

... A mob, instigated by a local cleric, vandalized a small Hindu temple and the adjacent shrine of Saint Shri Paramhans Ji Maharaj, which is pilgrimage site for the community, in the Terri area of Karak.

Meanwhile police on Thursday arrested Maulana Sharif along with dozens of his supporters who have been mentioned in the FIR registered on the complaint of Rehmatullah, the SHO Terri police station. The arrests were made in Urmar village of Karak.



Besides Maulana Sharif, Hafiz Faizullah, Qari Abdul Azeem, Abdullah Shah, Maulana Amanullah, Maulana Imdadullah, Maulana Mutiullah and Maulana Haleem have also been nominated in the FIR.

In all, 24 people have been arrested, police said, adding that the suspects had been identified on the basis of video footage of the incident available online.

"This was the samadhi of our revered saint Shri Pramhans Ji Maharaj, who had died at the site," a community leader told *The Express Tribune* by the phone from Kohat. "We can't express our concern openly. We are poor people and cannot afford confrontation with these fanatics," he added while requesting anonymity.

"It is not the first time Maulana Sharif instigated the desecration of the shrine and temple. In 1997 too, he had vandalized the same premises," the general secretary of Terri Aman Committee, Shafiq, told *The Express Tribune*. ....

"...Maulana Sharif, who is an influential cleric from the nearby village of Urmar, was not happy with the development (of peace brokered by the DC). Last Friday, he made a public announcement of his intention to raze the temple," Shafiq said, "On Wednesday, he made good on his threat.

According to him, Maulana Sharif belongs to the Maulana Fazl-led faction of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam and the area is considered a stronghold of the politico-religious party. "He had issued a fatwa that anyone killed during the attack on the shrine/temple would be a martyr," he added.

Wazir Zada, the provincial chief minister's advisor on minority affairs, visited the site on Thursday. "There was a small temple and a shrine. It was a pilgrimage site for the Hindu community, he told *The Express Tribune* by the phone from Peshawar.

He confirmed that both the structures have been demolished and reduced to ashes. "Such acts are not acceptable," he added.

However, Wazir denied the district administration was aware of the intentions of the gathering mob and that it didn't stop them from desecrating the premises. "Policemen were deployed but the mob outnumbered them," he said. "They could not stop the mob who stormed the premises." ...

The national English press gave plenty of coverage to the incident, while the vernacular press remained shy. Many people, high and low, offered their opinions on social media. For instance @fawadchaudhry (the well-known federal minister) posted the following worthy comment (translated):

"Arson against the Hindu shrine in Karak is consequence of anti-minorities mind-set. The army can fight terrorism, but the fight against extremism is that of the civil society. Nothing is done against extremism, from schools to social congregation, and we are sinking deep in this marsh."

Ms. Shireen Mazari tweeted the following on @ShireenMazari:

"Strongly condemn the burning of a Hindu temple by a mob in Kurk Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. KP government must ensure culprits brought to justice. MOHR also moving in on this. We as a govt have responsibility to ensure safety and security of all our citizens & their places of worship."

The daily *Tribune* reported that: Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed will take up the desecration of a Hindu shrine/temple in Karak district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by a mob as police on

Thursday rounded up dozens of suspects — including the cleric who had instigated the attack.

The top judge also directed the One Man Commission on Minorities Rights, the provincial chief secretary and police chief to visit the site and submit a report on the incident, according to statement issued by the apex court.

While we Ahmadis condemn the mob attack on the shrine, we find the post-incidence state response appropriate and refreshing. We take this occasion to assert that the Constitution of Pakistan gives equal rights to Ahmadi citizens as well, and all concerned would agree that Ahmadis' sensitivities and sentiments about their worship places and holy sites are the same as members of the majority or the minorities.

At this we are reminded of our locations in Dulmial, Sialkot, Kharian, Jhelum, Muridkay, etc.

## The new interior minister

**Islamabad;**

**December 11, 2020:** Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Pakistan's newly appointed Minister of Interior, held a press conference in Islamabad at this occasion. English translation of his press conference is given below (extracts):



"I will improve the law and order situation in all the four provinces. I am a soldier of Islam and a *Mujahid* of the end of prophethood. In the era of Imran Khan, if Allah wills, the flag of *Qala Qala Rasulallah* (The Prophet's command) will be raised. I repeat that in Imran Khan's era, the flag of Allah and His Prophet's *Qala Qala Rasulallah* will fly high.

"...As Minister of Interior, I want to tell all Islamic forces that I am your voice. All the religious madrassas are towers of Islam. ...This country has been threatened

from within. Foreign investment is being made in this country to spread chaos in the country. Those who want to spread chaos from within will fail. It is fun to perform in difficult times. Allah is hearing our calls. O Allah, help me through your Prophet so that the truth lives and is honored, and may He defeat those who are in the business of politics and are active in securing their ill-gotten wealth. ..."

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjwMLcIW2r8&ab-channel=DunyaNews>)

## Ahmadis behind bars

1. A contrived case was registered against four Ahmadis, Mr. Khalil Ahmad, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad, Mr. Ihsan Ahmad and Mr. 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 three years. These three Ahmadis are in prison for 6 ½ 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 for more than three years.
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 Waqar allegedly sharing Quranic material on social media, under cyber crime law on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019, with FIR No 152/2019 of



Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes 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.

4. A fabricated police case was registered against Ms. Ramzan Bibi of Chak no. 120 RB Cheleki, District Nankana under blasphemy clause PPC 295-C. She was booked on April 30, 2020 in police station Sadr Sangla Hill with FIR Nr. 275/20, arrested and sent to Central Jail Shekhupura. Bail was denied to her. She is fifty-five years old.
5. Mr. Rohan Ahmad, Malik Usman Ahmad, Hafiz Tariq Shehzad and unknown persons composer, proof reader, writer, computer operator and owners of phone no. 0333-6708729, 0322-4374750, 0333-6678820 were booked for Rohan allegedly sharing a WhatsApp message regarding essay writing and general knowledge quiz competition on May 26, 2020 with FIR Nr. 29/2020 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 120-B, 109, 34 R/W, 2016-PECA-11. Pakistan's Cyber Crimes Department that works under Federal Investigation Agency conducted a raid on the house of Mr. Rohan Ahmad of Wapda Town, Lahore, arrested and tortured him. He is currently at Camp Jail, Lahore. If declared guilty, he could be imprisoned for life.

On September 29, 2020 Malik Usman Ahmad, Hafiz Tariq Shehzad, Malik Zahir Ahmad, Imran Ahmad Virk and Mudassir Ahmad were also arrested in this case. Mr. Imran Ahmad Virk and Mudassir Ahmad were released.

Malik Zahir Ahmad was booked under PPCs 295-B, 298-C, 109, PECA-11 with FIR Nr. 77 at Police Station FIA Cyber Crimes Wing, Lahore on September 30, 2020.

6. Mr. Abdul Majeed s/o Mr. Abdul Waheed resident of Shaheen Muslim Town, Taj

Chowk, Phandu Road, District Peshawar, aged 20, was accused of blasphemy by a minor named Mr. Imran Ali. The police succumbed to the pressure of the mullas and registered a fabricated case against him under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 which carries sentence of death, on September 10, 2020 with FIR Nr. 648 at police station Phandu, Peshawar. The police traced Mr. Abdul Majeed to his place of refuge, raided it on 13.09.2020 at 03:00 and arrested him.

7. Mr. Sharafat Ahmad, Mr. Akbar Ali and Mr. Tahir Naqash were booked under PPCs 298-B and 298-C at police station Mangatanwala, District Nankana on May 2, 2020. The Lahore High Court rejected their application for pre-arrest bail on October 2, 2020. They were arrested in the courtroom and sent to Shekhupura Jail.
8. Mr Tariq A. Tahir and Mr. Safwan Ahmad were booked in FIR 83/2020 under blasphemy clause PPC 295-B at P.S. Nagar Parker, Sindh on November 25, 2020. Mr. Tahir was arrested.

## From the media

- **PTA issues notice to Wikipedia, Google (over *Khalifa* of Islam issue)**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 26, 2020*
- **28 Qadianis convert to Islam in Peshawar. The end of Qadianiat is at hand: Dr Abdul Razzaq Sikandar**  
*The daily Islam; Lahore, December 16, 2020*
- **Qadiani family accepts Islam (in TT Singh)**  
*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 27, 2020*
- **US places Pakistan, nine others on violators of religious freedom list**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 9, 2020*
- **Clerics reject US report on religious freedom**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2020*
- **Karak villagers vandalize shrine of Hindu saint**  
*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 31, 2020*
- **As per Senate Secretariat Notice, dated 28 December 2020 a meeting of the**

**Functional Committee on Human Rights was to be held on 31 December 2020 in Committee Room 1. The agenda included:**

**1. The DPO Nankana to brief the Committee on the murder of young Ahmadi doctor, Mr. Tahir Ahmad**

- **Chenab Nagar: Open manholes threaten residents' lives**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, December 3, 2020*

- **Full freedom to minorities. Reports of compulsory conversion are baseless: Foreign Office**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 31, 2020*

- **Qadiani lobby is busy in conspiracies to foment sectarian riots: Maulana Abdul Naeem (AMTKN)**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 13, 2020*

- **Nawaz Sharif's passport cancelled: Sh. Rasheed**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 31, 2020*

- **Two SSP activists get death for killing lawyer on sectarian grounds**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 12, 2020*

- **President, PM urge nation to follow in Quaid's footsteps**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 26, 2020*

- **The Ummah that is unable to do much about Blasphemy against the Prophet (PBUH) deserves to die: Chief justice Lahore High Court**

*Express R.S.S, December 3, 2020*

- **Mandviwala (Deputy Chair Senate) vows to get NAB black-listed internationally**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2020*

- **Media needs to highlight violations of fundamental rights: speakers (at PATTAN Development Organization and TDEA in Islamabad)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 27, 2020*

- **Muslim countries should break relations with France and boycott its products: Khatme Nabuwat Conference (at Lahore)**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, December 7, 2020*

- **British government declares Professor Salaam's house national heritage site**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 14, 2020*

- **Pakistan gets US presidential waiver to avoid sanctions (as violator of religious freedom)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2020*

- **India: For change of religion, apply to the district authorities. Ten years imprisonment for fraudulent change. Amendment to the law approved.**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 14, 2020*

- **The new law in France is not anti-religion: French ambassador in Islamabad**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, December 13, 2020*

- **Ban on headscarf declared unlawful in Australia**

*The daily 92 News, Lahore, December 12, 2020*

- **Sweden: Ban on hijab retracted**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 2, 2020*

- **Zulfi Bukhari (Special Assistant to PM) vows to protect Khatm-e-Nabuwat (PBUH)**

*The daily Nation; Lahore, December 15, 2020*

- **Maulana Khabir replaces Mufti Muneeb as Ruet-e-Hilal chairman**

*The daily Nation; Lahore, December 31, 2020*

- **None, who does not recognize the constitution is holding any important post: Tahir Ashrafi**

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, December 3, 2020*

- **Misuse of the Blasphemy law has ended: Tahir Ashrafi**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 21, 2020*

- **Every Muslim is a guard at belief in end of Prophethood: Asad Qaisar (Speaker NA)**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, December 4, 2020*

- **Yemen airport blasts kill 26 as govt plane arrives**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 31, 2020*

- **The young generation should powerfully defend End of Prophethood on social media: Ammar Yasir, Punjab Minister of Mines speaking to fresh graduates of Medicine and Pharmacy, University of Faisalabad**

*The daily 92 News, Lahore, December 16, 2020*

- **Fazl (JUI) accused of committing graft, inciting violence  
Ministers say JUI-F Chief using religion for personal gains, politics**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 22, 2020*

- **My principle difference with Maulana Fazl ur Rahman is over telling lies; he**

**has set all ulama on (path of) falsehood:  
Maulana Sherani**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, December 21, 2020*

- **Protest (by JUI, etc.) in Tharparkar over defiling of Quran (by Qadianis)**

*The daily 92 News; Lahore, December 13, 2020*

- **IHC declares Nawaz proclaimed offender in two cases**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 3, 2020*

- **Mrs. Shahbaz (Sharif), Nusrat declared proclaimed offender by the Accountability Court**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 9, 2020*

- **The services rendered to mosques and madrassahs in the present regime are unmatched by those in the past ten years: Tahir Ashrafi**

*Ticker on TV GNN at 1443on December 27, 2020*

- **PPP and N-League indulged in worst corruption. Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto are holding rallies to obtain NRO. Fathers of both are the most corrupt in Pakistan: PM (Imran Khan)**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 27, 2020*

- **You cannot run Pakistan, nor you will be able to. Have pity on people and leave. (I) turned out Musharraf; Imran is a petty problem: Asif Zardari**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 28, 2020*

- **Imran Government is a mixture of Qadiani and Jewish germs; it is time to cleanse the country: Fazl ul Rehman**

*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, December 21, 2020*

- **Country at risk due to governmental incapability; only ulama and Mashaikh can save it: Sirajul Haq (JI)**

*The daily 92 News, Lahore, December 20, 2020*

- **Assets of Shahbaz's wife, others attached, court told**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 23, 2020*

- **The opposition is (financially) supported from abroad: PM**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, December 9, 2020*

- **Rs 2 billion spent on security of Raiwind alone: Murad Saeed (Fed Minister)**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 22, 2020*

- **Chief Minister Punjab down with Covid-19**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, December 22, 2020*

- **Seven FC men martyred in Harnai terrorist attack (in Baluchistan)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 28, 2020*

- **Maulana Sherani forms own faction of JUI**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 30, 2020*

- **Can FIA file case against Google, wonders LHC**

**CJ says agency should establish wing to exclusively deal with blasphemous content**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 29, 2020*

- **Lahoris joined Hindus, Sikhs and the English in effort to conquer Afghanistan: Achakzai (Head PMA Party)**

*The daily 92 News, Lahore, December 14, 2020*

- **If Pakistan does not rescind religious myths, it has no future: Chomsky**

*The daily Pakistan; Lahore, December 9, 2020*

- **CJP asks lawyers to avoid being aggressive with judges**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2020*

- **Police found responsible for lawyer's abduction, murder**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 21, 2020*

- **Ten 'terrorists' killed in Awaran (Baluchistan)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 23, 2020*

- **Six Covid patients die in Peshawar for want of oxygen**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 7, 2020*

- **(Five) Police officials involved in theft, robbery arrested (in Narowal)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 10, 2020*

- **Licenses of 50 pilots cancelled after scrutiny, court told**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 20, 2020*

- **Pak scientist Asifa Akhtar nominated for German award**

*The daily 92 News, Lahore, December 12, 2020*

**Tweet: "Pakistanis..."**

"Pakistan used to have advanced science with Nobel laureates and so on..."

Pakistan has no future if it lives in religious superstition: Noam Chomsky

*December 7, 2020- @fawadchaudhry on 8.12.2020*

### **In US Congress: Speech on Floor of House of Representatives**

“In the Islamic State of Pakistan, for example people belonging to Ahmadiyya Muslim faith’ are being persecuted as heretics and apostates as if this were the middle ages. At least 5 Ahmadis Muslims have been killed in Pakistan this year alone because of their faith.”

*US Congressman Jamie Raskin. Speech on Floor of House of Representatives. December 7, 2020*

### **Review: The Bhutto Dynasty**

...His (Z.A.B’s) crowning achievement was the establishment of Pakistan’s nuclear programme, which has provided the country with the security it so badly needed. On the flip side, his most damaging legacy is the declaration of Ahmadis as non-Muslims. Zulfikar was hardly a fanatic, but he chose to appease the Islamist, and this fateful decision

has left the country with an open wound that bleeds to this day.

*Dr Zooria Hamiduddin’s review of “The Bhutto Dynasty” by Owen Bennet-Jones in the Dawn of December 20, 2020*

### **Report: Chomsky says democracy is under threat (in South Asia)**

...To the east, he added, Narendra Modi’s India was destroying the remnants of Indian secular democracy, crushing Muslim rights, placing Kashmiris under a vicious and brutal rule. Pakistan is not too far behind (Said Chomsky).

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, December 8, 2020*