Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan

News Report September 2017

**An Ahmadi tortured by idiotic and criminal junior officials**

***Lahore; August 2017:*** Mr. Riasat Ali was picked up by CTD personnel, taken to their hide-out and tortured to obtain information on community affairs, which is even otherwise conveniently available in print and electronic media.

There is a background to this case. On April 17, 2017 some religious bigots shot dead an Ahmadi, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad in Sabzazar Colony, Lahore. The police found out that the killer used a motor cycle that had a number 645 on its plate.

Mr. Riasat Ali, Ahmadi’s motor cycle’s registration number is LEQ645. He joined the community in 2005, and is a decent practicing Ahmadi.

The police made the required inquiries from him and his son. A lady official interrogated the women of Ali’s family. The CID/CTD personnel searched their house and shop, found nothing suspicious, but told them to remain available and not go away. Mr. Ali had no reason or design to shift.

Then, on August 18, when Mr. Riasat Ali went on his motorcycle to offer Friday prayers, he was picked up along with his bike by Counter Terrorism Department personnel. He was driven to some far off location where he was interrogated.

The interrogation was not merely verbal; it was accompanied with torture – quite unnecessarily. They asked him only one question about the murder of Dr Ashfaq Ahmad; all others were related to the functioning of the Ahmadi community.

Mr. Ali was bad-mouthed, beaten up, taken down to a basement where his raised hands were tied up to a pipe and his feet were joined by an iron anklet. He was deprived of food and normal drink for three days.

It is very relevant to mention here that the Geneva Convention unequivocally prohibits torture in all circumstance. Pakistan is its signatory. Thus these officials committed a crime by violating this law.

They asked him stupid questions like how much was he paid to convert. He was also asked: Who is your chief in Lahore, in Pakistan; whom do you proselytize; what are the names of Qadianis in your neighborhood; how often have you visited Rabwah, etc. Mr. Ali replied whatever he knew and excused himself for what he knew not.

These dense and ignorant lower staff members did not know that all the important information regarding the aims, objects, organization, functioning of the Ahmadiyya community has been made available in print and on the Internet. This community is not a clandestine group with secret agenda. Its message is universal, and it is in its own interest to make itself transparent and open. Authorities should open the blocked website www. alislam.org; there is more information on that site than they need or would like to handle.

The CTD has the noble duty of taking effective action against terrorists, their facilitators and their sponsors. By torturing Ahmadis like Mr. Riasat Ali, arresting octogenarians like Mr. Abdul Shakoor and raiding Ahmadiyya publication offices and presses they are dialing the wrong number, wasting their limited resources and time, and are thus neglecting the terror hubs from where terrorists launch their attacks on the government and people of the Punjab as they did during last one and half year: 1) 74 killedin Lahore on March 27, 2016, 2) 14 persons, including senior police officers killed on Mall Road in Lahore, 3) six persons including five troops killed in Bedian Road, 4) at least 26 killed including 9 policemen near the Arfa Karim IT Tower, all in Lahore, the capital of the Punjab.

Isn’t something drastically wrong with the priorities allotted to the role, training, deployment and performance of this important department of the government?

Arson attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque

***Muridkay, District Sheikhupura; August 28, 2017:*** The local Ahmadiyya mosque was set on fire by a deranged youth at about 3a.m. on August 28, 2017. The fire was initiated by dousing a furniture item with gasoline. It was extinguished before it spread.

It is learnt that the local mulla contacted a youth, incited and bribed him to set fire to the Ahmadiyya mosque. Five thousand rupees were offered for this heinous act. As the damage was nominal, Ahmadis did not pursue the issue further.

Ahmadis forbidden in the Punjab to publish their prime and foremost scripture

***Lahore:*** The government of Punjab took steps in 2011 to make sure that Ahmadis were not allowed to publish the Holy Quran and its translations; however it is now that the provincial authorities are actively investigating if any violations of 2011 law have taken place. This investigation is being conducted on instigation of Mulla Hasan Muaviya, younger brother of the well-known Maulvi Tahir Ashrafi, a full time anti-Ahmadiyya activist and a religious thug. The Punjab law on this subject deserves a comment.

Prior to year 2011, the publication of the Holy Quran was done under the provincial Act of 1973. This facilitated Ahmadis to publish their translations and *Tafseer*(commentaries) of the Holy Quran. In 2011, the Punjab government was moved by the mulla to enact a revised law on this issue, whose main object was to deny Ahmadis their lawful right to publish their holy book and its translation etc. Accordingly, The Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Act 2011 was promulgated. Mian Shahbaz Sharif was the chief minister.

The new law contained little new to add to the 1973 law to ensure error-free printing of the Holy Quran; however it included *Section 7* which was Ahmadi-specific without naming Ahmadis. It provided:

“**Translation or interpretation of the Holy Quran contrary to belief of Muslims** – where, in a copy or record of the Holy Quran, or in any extract thereof published in a text book, a prayer book, a religious treatise or any other book, an Ayah is translated, interpreted or commented upon by a non-Muslim contrary to the belief of Muslims, the author, the printer or publisher, or the person who prepared the record, whether or not registered under this Act, shall, unless he proves that such translation, interpretation or commentary occurred only owing to a printing or mechanical error, be liable to punishment provided for in section 9.”

This provision is highly vague and open to question as there is no authority to precisely state the ‘belief of Muslims’ and what is ‘contrary’ to it. The primary two sects of Islam differ from each other even on the text of the basic creed, the *Kalima*. Anyway, the object of the law was to stop Ahmadis, and that was achieved.

This law also provides for the government to constitute a Quran Board. It would be very surprising if any such board would act differently than the infamous provincial Muttahida Ulama Board that recommended and got all the (86) books written by the founder of the Ahmadiyya community banned last year.

Sub section 5 (7) of this Act provides: “No record of the Holy Quran which injures its sanctity, in any form, shall be prepared”. The phrase ‘in any form’ gives unlimited power to any narrow-minded member of the Board to insist that the mere fact of an Ahmadi translating the Holy Quran‘injures its sanctity’. This is not mere conjecture; most mullas insist that an Ahmadi using Islamic greetings of *Salaam* (peace) injures its sanctity. Magistrates are known to have awarded imprisonment sentences to Ahmadis for wishing *Salaam* to ‘Muslims’.

Section 3 now requires a publisher to have him registered on prescribed terms and conditions promulgated by the government. As such, it is no longer possible for Ahmadis to become registered as publishers of the Holy Quran.

The 2011Act provides that its violation entails ‘imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine of not less than twenty thousand rupees, or with both.’

Unstandably, Ahmadis can no longer publish the Holy Quran, its translations and its commentary. They and their future generations have no option but to read in Urdu the non-Ahmadiyya versions of controversial issues like Jihad, etc. The list can be long depending on the specific ‘belief of Muslims’.

As a result of this law, no print copy of the Holy Quran and its translation by an Ahmadi is available in any office of the Ahmadiyya headquarters in Rabwah, nor in the town’s main library. Incredible!

This law is an obviousviolation of both the national and the international laws on religious freedom. Article 20 of the Pakistan Constitution and Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are relevant.

Ahmadis’ ‘freedom of religion’ under foul attack. Attackers presume official support

***Various locations in the Punjab; August/September 2017:*** Mullas of the Khatme Nabuwwat (KN: End of Prophethood) factions chose the blessed occasion of Eid ul Azha to indulge in vile efforts to deny freedom of religious practice,a fundamentalright to Ahmadis in Pakistan. They declared their commitment to debar Ahmadis from offering sacrificial rites.

Their campaign was particularly paradoxical and ironic at the turn of August/September as the clerics in Pakistan were at that time furious and protesting over the maltreatment of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, but like these Buddhist monks these Islamist bigots felt no qualms about denying fundamental rights to a marginalized section in their own midst.

In their unworthy campaign they solicited police help at the highest level in the provincial capital. Mulla Muhammad Hasan, the general secretary of the Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Forum wrote a letter on August 24 to the Inspector General Police (Punjab) to deny Ahmadi the Ibrahimaic*Sunnat* of *Qurbani* (Sacrifice). In his demand, he referred shamelessly to the law PPC 298-C in his support; in fact, this law makes no mention that ‘Qadianis are forbidden the use of *‘Shaair e Islam’* as asserted by the mullas. This mulla gave his address as: Barlas Building, 13 Fan Road, Lahore; Phone Nr: 0324-3131200.

Without waiting for official response, this mulla and his bunch proceeded to implement their plan. They issued a pamphlet urging people, “Safeguarding the Pakistan Constitution is responsibility of us all.” It instructed them, “If you see any Qadiani undertaking *Qurbani*, report to the nearest police station.” For help in registration ofthe criminal case they were advised to contact the following mullas: “M K Shirazi in Lahore; Sikandar Hayat in Islamabad; Qazi Rahim in Chenab Nagar; Imran Yusuf in Gujranwala, Mr. Naqvi in Sialkot; Umar Farooq in Pasroor; Imran Ass in Narowal; Muhammad Ali in Sheikhupura; S. Izhar Shah in NausheraVirkan and M. Amir in Jhelum.” Co-producer of this pamphlet was the Khatme Nabuwwat Youth Force.

If the authorities are looking for some leading religious bullies who need disciplining under the NAP, the above listed are volunteer candidates.

Khatme Nabuwwat mullas are not short of funds. They use all means to justify their share from the purse of violent Islamism. They put up banners here and there to the same end. One such banner, whose photo is held with us, carries the following message (translation from vernacular):

**“It is our foremost duty to show regard for the Constitution of Pakistan.”**

**According to Pakistan law (PPC) 298-C Qadianis cannot practice Qurbani a Shaaire Islam. Report the violator to police.**

**From: Muhammad Gulzar, President Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat Forum Pakistan. #03234254454** (Note: The denial of this right is falsely attributed to PPC 298-C.)

This effort of the sectarian extremists did not go entirely waste. There were incidents at some places where the police was coerced to intervene and make *Qurbani* problematic for Ahmadis. For instance:

* In Adrahma, District Sargodha, mullas reported to the police that Qadianis were undertaking *Qurbani*. The police moved and contacted the local Ahmadi chief. He was asked to give in writing that the *Qurbani* will not be undertaken in the open but in a covered area.
* Mulla Irfan informed the police in Daska, District Sialkot that Ahmadis mentioned in the list provided were likely to undertake *Qurbani*. The police contacted the concerned Ahmadis and advised them to be discrete in performing the rite.
* Mr. Manzoor Ahmad, an Ahmadi in Lahore was in the process of performing*Qurbani*, when the police SHO arrived, along with his party. A mulla accompanied them. The mulla protested over the *Qurbani*. The SHO told him that he should rather be happy that this family had become a Muslim. To this, the mulla had no answer. However the police took note of the I.D. card numbers of Mr. Ahmad and his brother and took away to the police station the second goat that was the next to be scarified. At the police station, another mulla and his followers were present to push their shameful demand. The policemen handled them with tact.

On the third day, the police handed back the goat to its owner. Very nice of them.

* In Rabwah, Mulla Rahim is the resident bully and operative. He contacted the police to disallow Ahmadis the *Qurbani* rite. Ahmadis therefore had to exercise care and discretion in handling the *Qurbani* and collection of hides. Nevertheless, the mulla telephoned 15 to protest. The police told Ahmadis to be more low-key. Ahmadis complied.
* **In QiampurVirkan, District Gujranwala, the police did not permit Ahmadis undertake any Qurbani.**

In any other country where the majority practiced Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism or Judaism, their religious leaders would be happy to know that ‘others’ had taken up their teachings and practices, but in Pakistan, mulla is queer and bizarre that he runs to the police station to report that an Ahmadi had practiced Islam; even more atypical is the police response who get moving to placate the bigots.

**Hostile propaganda in Bhakkar**

***Bhakkar; September 2017***: Ahmadis installed CCTV cameras and barbed wire on the outer wall of their local Ahmadiyya mosque on the directions of district authorities. At this the opponents of the Ahmadiyya community started a baseless propaganda against Ahmadis in the vernacular press. Ahmadis reported it to the authorities.

Authorities sent for the opponent party and advised them firmly to refrain from hateful activities. Although they have refrained from using the vernacular press as before, but in their meetings they exhort the public against Ahmadis.

**Anti-Ahmadiyya conference in Ahmadiyya headquarters town, Rabwah**

***September 7, 2017:*** Mullas hold rallies and conferences all over Pakistan on September 7 to commemorate the anti-Ahmadiyya 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment was introduced by theZ.A. Bhutto government of PPP in 1974, through which Ahmadis were declared not-Muslims. This amendment opened the flood gate of persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Mullas have been holding special Khatme Nabuwwat (end of prophethood) conferences annually for the last 30 years in Rabwah – the centre of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan, Ahmadis here form more than 95% of the population. Mullas come from all over to hurl abuses against the residents of the town and the persons they respect. Every year authorities allow and facilitate this conference in Rabwah despite request from Ahmadiyya headquarters to disallow this provocative conference in their home-town. On the other hand when Ahmadis request permission to hold their traditional conference in their own centre, the authorities do not even acknowledge the receipt of the application.

This year the 30th annual Khatme Nabuwwat (KN) conference was held on September 7, 2017by the International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement (IKNM). We report its proceeding below in some useful detail along with essential comments which would be helpful to a keen analyst to understand the nature of such rallies that are claimed by their organizers to be perfectly peaceful and lawful, and even blissful spiritually. There was no surprise this year; as expected the mullas indulged in profuse slander, lies, deceit, propagation of hate and violence and made demands that blatantly violated internationally accepted, including Pakistan, norms and statutes of human rights and religious freedom. This report is primarily based on press reports which were reproduced from the press-releases of the media section of the conference management. While most of the Urdu dailies provided plenty of space to these reports, we have prepared this narrative primarily from the stories given in the daily Jang, Lahore of September 8 and 9, 2017.

This conference was announced well in advance in the press, and the public had been urged by some leading mullas to attend in large numbers. The leadership of the Aalami Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwwat placed an ad in the daily Jang of September 7, 2017 urging the ulama and prayer-leaders to address the countrymen that day to apprise them ‘of the importance and defence of the KN (End of Prophethood) and Qadianis’ belief system and their apostate activities. Mulla Abdur Rauf Makki (from Makka, Saudi Arabia) issued a statement that “this conference will prove to be a huge exposition of Ummah’s unity and will be the last nail in the coffin of Qadianiat.” (The daily Ausaf; September 7, 2017)

The authorities not only permitted holding this sectarian conference, they provided all the essential support. The organizers proudly had it reported in the press that all arrangements were perfect and rescue squad, ambulance service, bomb disposal squad, security personnel etc numbering over 950 were all available. ***They said: In view of delicate security situation in the country, fool-proof security and stringent safety measures had been adopted.*** One may ask the organizers and the authorities – why at all hold this vain and futile anti-Ahmadi conference in an Ahmadi-populated town?

At the conference, the speakers said little on the merit and excellence of the ideology of the Khatme Nabuwwat; instead they indulged in many issues and facets that violated the sanctity of the fair theme. We reproduce below samples and extracts, under specific topics.

**International politics.** The speakers said that it was not up to us but for the world to ‘do more’. International powers have failed; they should not dump the garbage of their failures, humiliation and disgrace on Pakistan. Pakistan is a great country; it is proud to possess nuclear capability. We’ll not be cowed by American threats. No Pakistani child will hesitate to sacrifice his life for the protection of the dear country. Shiekh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (of Makka Mukarrama) the deputy Amir of International Khatme Nabuwwat Movement said, “Qadianis are the tools of international Evil and Zionist powers; they are working to help the West to round off the Zionist agenda. We’ll never let this Qadiani and Zionist agenda flourish; Qadianis are busy in their evil attempts to break up the country.” Maulana Qari Shabbir A Usmani, the deputy Amir of the IKNM said, “… We strongly condemn the anti-Pakistan statement of the American president and tell him that we’ll turn Pakistan into Americans graveyard….” A doltish speaker recommended war against India.

The speakers told the participants, “Qadianis’ political bond with Israel and India is a huge conspiracy against Pakistan and the Islamic world.”*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; September 8, 2017*

**Promotion of violence.**The mullas were discrete but clear in propagating violence. For instance, Zahid Qasimi, a mulla on government pay roll said, “7 September is a day of rejoicing for Muslims. We’ll rather get slaughtered and die than permit any tampering with the finality of prophethood of our master.We shall continue to fight till our last breath on all fronts to safeguard the Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Maulana Rizwan ullah, Maulana Saleem Muaviya of GilgitBaltistan said, “It is duty of us all to crush the head of Qadianiat. We must continue to fight for the honour of the Prophet, till the last drop of our blood.”

**Lies and slander.** Maulana Sufi Akram said, “It is the duty of the government of Pakistan to fire all Qadianis who have penetrated Pakistan’s atomic program and remain busy in conspiracies to deprive Pakistan of its nuclear capability.”

Maulana Saad Kamran said, “Qadianis in official lobbies and key posts are deliberately occupied in bankrupting the dear country socially, religiously and geographically by looting the national treasury.”

Allama Shah Nawaz Farooqi, the secretary general of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis are at the back of terrorism in the country and the sectarian controversies.”

Maulana Rafiq Wajhwi said, “The mischief *(fitna)* of Qadianism was planted by the British; it is a Jewish political auxiliary organization. We’ll continue to confront them.Qadianis have always taken to aggression, violence and violation of the constitution.”

M ArshadHijazi said, “Qadianiat is bent upon cutting the roots of Islam and Pakistan.”

And still another: “The participants of the conference shed tears when told the stories of Qadianis’ atrocities on Mujahideen of Khatme Nabuwwat.”

Also: “In fact it is the Jews who are responsible for all the atrocities against Rohingyas.”

And to top it all: “Rabwah is the headquarters of all terrorism.”

**Deceit.** Maulana Yusuf Ahrar said, “Mirzais (Ahmadis) are now converting to Islam because Mirzaiat is not a religion or faith, it was only a political mischief created by the British.”

Qazi Saeedi said, “No sensible Muslim is ignorant of the Qadiani conspiracies and opposition against Islam and Muslims.”

Qari Shabbir Usmani said,“Thestature of Pakistan is that of a *Masjid* (mosque); its defence is a part of our faith.”

A mulla stated that this conference was committed to fight extremism.

**Promotion of hate.**Maulana Farooqi said, “Jews and Hindus are backing up Qadianis who are a great cancer which must be destroyed.”

JavedQasuri of Jamaat Islami said, “The traitors to Pakistan deserve no relief. National security demands that all activists busy in conspiracies against Pakistan, particularly Qadiani gang should be neutralized.”

Maulana Safdar of Pakistan Ulama Council said, “Qadianis, by not accepting their constitutional status are guilty of rebellion. They should be booked for violating the constitution and being traitors.”

**Threats.**The mullas not satisfied with their to-date achievements against Ahmadis, made known their future aims and ambitions. Qari Usmani said, “If Muslims continue to act in union, the day is not far when Qadianiat and its supporters will disappear and lose even their trace in this tsunami (of our onslaught).”

It is sardonic that while all this was being preached, the same mullas shamelessly introduced a resolution: “This gathering condemns in strongest terms the atrocities being committed against Muslims in Burma, Palestine, Kashmir and Syria. Human rights organizations should take due notice of these and have these stopped.”

At the end of the last session of the conference, numerous resolutions were moved and passed. Some of these are translated below, in abridged form. These are interesting in their blatancy in the face of universally accepted human rights norms:

* A ban should be imposed on Qadianis’ activities. They should be fired from all key posts.
* Computerized I.D. cards should mention the holder’s religion, or Muslims’ cards should be of different colors to ensure religious distinction to meet legal and constitutional imperatives.
* Sharia punishment for apostasy should be imposed as recommended by the CII *(death)*.
* Qadiani TV channel should be banned.
* Declaration (official permission to publish) of Qadiani periodicals should be withdrawn.
* The dogma of End of Prophethood should be included in school syllabi.
* Qadiani endowment (auqaf) should be nationalized.
* We condemn exclusion of Jihad, Seerat and other Islamic themes from school syllabi.
* Quranic inscriptions in Qadiani places of worship should be ‘protected’.

The mullas appear to be conscious of their extremism and violence-prone rhetoric, which violates the provisions of the National Action Plan that enjoys support of the army; therefore they have adopted the policy of verbal support to the Pakistan Army. Their press-release mentioned: “This gathering pays tribute to the patriots of Pakistan’s armed forces who from 1965 till the Operations *Zarb Azab* and *Radd al Fasad* have sacrificed their lives for the defence and security of their country. It also pays tribute to Army chief General Qamar Bajwa for his brave challenge to anti-Pakistan forces… and assures him of its full support.”

It is common knowledge that these mullas establish, manage and maintain the nurseries where the so-called mujahedeen (*aka* terrorists) are trained to harm their own people, governments and armed forces, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and casualties. The pretense, duplicity and slyness of the mulla are vast and consequently obvious.

The number of participants at the conference was pathetic – a few hundred. The management made no mention in their press release of the number of participants. The management quoted over 950 officials present to provide support; we do not know if this number is correct, but it will surely support the expenditure claim to be made in petro-dollars. The management profusely thanked the DC and the DPO for the excellence of the official support made available.

Reprehensible role of the vernacular press. As stated above, only a few hundred participants took the trouble of coming over, or being brought over to Rabwah to listen to all this bigotry, slander and ill-will, but the Urdu press came up with their unworthy help by publishing the organizers’ press releases in plenty of detail, and passed their hateful message to hundreds of thousands of readers. What the mullacould not achieve on his own, the fifth pillar of the state made it possible, while the administration facilitated it. If the country and its people come to harm as a result of such campaigns and rallies, mullas should not be the only ones to deserve the blame.

It is noteworthy that the final session of the conference was presided by “FazilatuSheikh Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki (Makka Mukarrama)”. What was this mulla from Saudi Arabia doing here by the river-side of Chenab on September 7, 2017? Why was he accepted as the patron of this conglomerate of politically ambitious priests who promote hatred, sectarian violence, theological tyranny,fanaticism, extremist agenda andviolation of human rights?

Parties and organizations who were invited or who participated were the following: Jamaat Islami, JUI (F), Pakistan Ulama Council, JUI (S), Wafaq ul Madaras, PML-(N), Minhaj ul Quran, Ahrar Islam, Pasban Khatme Nabuwwat, MTKN etc.

Mullas have imposed their ‘right’ to hold these conferences in memory of an action taken by the state over 40 years ago, though many of the political descendents of Z.A. Bhutto (PPP) now voice their regrets over it in private. Mullas held similar, sparsely attended conferences in Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sheikhupura, Jhang, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Rahim Yar Khan, MandiBahauddin, Sahiwal, Okara, Kasur, Toba Tek Singh, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Gujrat, Jaranwala, Chichawatni, Chiniot, Kamalia, etc.

Although not many attended, but the vernacular gutter rags carried their message of hate far and wide without realizing that one terrorist is enough to kill a hundred innocent persons, and terrorists are gullible and halfwit youth who can easily turn into unguided missiles.

It deserves mention that a fortnight later, at the advent of the month of Muharram, the Punjab Government took extraordinary measure to ensure sectarian security. Half-page ads were placed in newspapers to educate people on security, giving them Emergency Control Room phone numbers and telling them to simply dial 15 at anytime, of day or night to report any unpleasant incidents. The same authorities facilitated the same religious bullies to hold anti-Ahmadi conference in Rabwah.

NO wonder, neutral observers blame Pak authorities of double standards and unsteady policies in controlling extremist elements.

**Severe hostility in Nankana Sahib**

***Nankana; September 2017:*** Anti-Ahmadiyya agitation has escalated after the murder here of an Ahmadi, Mr. Saleem Lateef a few months ago.

Mr. Mubashar Ahmad of ShadbaghColony, was repeatedly harassed by a local. On September 22, Mr. Ahmad was outside his child’s school to bring him back when an unknown man approached him and told him to stay away or end up dead. At another occasion the same man came to the stationary shop where Mr. Ahmad was buying some stationary items along with his wife for his children. He forbade the shopkeeper to sell them anything as they were Mirzais (Ahmadis), and he threatened again to kill Mr. Ahmad. At another occasion Mrs. Ahmad went to the fruit shop, where the shopkeeper asked her whether she was Ahmadi? She nodded. The shopkeeper took back his fruits, and used foul language.

Mr. Mahmood Ahmad, another Ahmadi from the same locality is also facing severe hostility. He is suffering a total social boycott in his neighborhood. He had to shift his children to several schools due to faith-based hostility in schools. Once his son Usama Ahmad was returning home after evening prayers when some youths manhandled him, and nobody nearby came to his rescue. Mr. Mahmood’s daughter died sometime back, and was buried in the common cemetery. Opponents exhumed her body and Mr. Ahmad had to bury her in his own farm.

Neighbourhood hostility

***Guldasht Town, Lahore; September 27, 2017***: Here, Lahore Tehrik Khatme Nabuwwat activists bought a house in the neighbourhood of an old Ahmadi widow. They turned it into a sort of worship place and took to bad mouthing Ahmadis through loudspeakers. The Ahmadi lady now wants to sell her house at any cost. Maulvi Tahir Razaq is at the forefront of this intrigue. Earlier he inflamed an angry mob to a riot against Ahmadiyya houses in a different location in the city.

They held a Khatme Nabuwwat conference on September 7 at this house, and again bad mouthed Ahmadis.

**Hostile visit in Mughalpura, Lahore**

***Sahwari,Mughalpura,Lahore; September 4, 2017:***Mr. Ijaz Ahmad, an Ahmadi’s neighbor Mr. Sajjad Hussain put up a banner on the outer wall of Mr. Ahmad’s house. The banner conveyed, “Get a coffin for free”. A group noticed the banner and objected: “Who has put up this banner on the wall of a *Mirzai’s*house? They are infidels and irrelevant to coffins for Muslims?” They were informed that it was put up by Mr. Hussain who is the neighbor of Mr. Ahmad. “Convey to Mr. Hussain to remove it from here”, they warned.

In the evening a dozen people accompanied by the local mulla turned up at the spot. They were harsh with Mr. Hussain and told him to take the banner off. They also threatened to square up with *Mirzais* on September 8, the day after the Khatme Nabuwwat Day.

Mr. Hussain took the banner off.

The local mulla uses foul language against Mr. Ahmad in Friday sermons and provokes the worshipers against him. Mr. Ahmad has been advised to take precautionary measures.

Anti-Ahmadiyya conferences in Lahore – capital of the Punjab

Numerous anti-Ahmadiyya conferences took place in the capital of the Punjab. A few are reported below:

***Mazang; September 10, 2017:***TahrikeLabaik Ya RasulAllah took out a procession on Luton Road ChowkJanazaGah, Mazang. Khadim Hussain Razvi led it. He said in his speech that they would not tolerate any change in the blasphemy law and would not let Ahmadis live in the country.

***Mughalpura; September 16, 2017:***Another Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in the Jamia Masjid Siddeeqa. Pir Shabbir Ahmad Shafiee, Mufti JamaaluddinQalandri from Islamabad, Basharat SiddeeqHazarvi, Saifur Rahman, Haji Muhammad Siddeeq, Mian Shahzad Ahmad, Muhammad ArshadNaeemi, Qazi Waliur Rahman, Muhammad Bashir Rizvi addressed the audience. Approximately 250 men attended. The speakers provoked the audience against Ahmadis. They called Ahmadis, non-Muslims and urged a complete social boycott of them. They incited the participants to rise in defense of the End of Prophethood as they were accountable to Allah for that. He put them to shame for not safeguarding it effectively. “Qadianis are Kafir; so is the one who meets them, even talks to them,” he insisted.

***Mughalpura; September 17, 2017:***Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held at the shrine of Hazrat ShafeeNizami, Fayyaz Park. Approximately 250 men attended the conference. Maulvis Muhammad SiddeeqHazarvi, Muhammad Hasan, Zaheer and Ali Kareemi spoke to the participants. As usual they incited them against Ahmadis and used foul language.

The speakers stated that Qadianis were bringing a bad name to Islam. They are supported by the government, while they have no right to live in Pakistan. This country belongs to Muslims. Qadianis will have to be stopped in their mischief. “You should dedicate your lives for the cause of Khatme Nabuwwat. Soon a KN course will be organized,” the participants were told.

***Ramgarh; September 9, 2017:***Tajdar Khatme Nabuwwat conference was held in the Jamia Masjid Madni. It was presided by Allama MukhtarHaidri. Maulvi Ilyas Attari, Ghulam Abbas and Qadri Shaukat also spoke against the Ahmadiyya community and urged the masses to its social boycott.

Violation of the National Action Plan in Lahore

***Lahore; September 2017:***It appears that the mullas and authorities in Lahore have come to agreement that any violation of the text and spirit of the NAP is admissible, even desirable, so long it is perpetrated against ‘Qadianis/Mirzais’.

The night before September 7,banners were put up with the message in Mughalpura Lahore on its main roads:

“Congratulations on Khatme Nabuwwat Defence Day. On September 7, Mirzai Qadianis were declared *Kafir* (infidels)unanimously.”

On September 7, Jamiat Ulama Pakistan led a motorcycle rally from the Quaid-e-Azam interchange to Data Darbar in Lahore. Approximately 100 motorcycles,carrying 2 to 3 men each were there. The rally was led by Pir Rashid Hussain, Syed Maqbool Shah, Muhammad Ali Kareemi, Pir Shuaib Hussain and Pir Rehmat Ali. Participants carried banners and posters with inscriptions: “Long live – Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat. Qadiani *Kafir Kafir* (infidels). Long live – Conqueror of Mirzaiat, Imam Al-Shah Ahmad Noorani. Congratulations to all Muslims on Khatme Nabuwwat Defence Day. Boycott Qadiani products. A friend of a Qadiani is a confirmed traitor.”

An anti-Ahmadiyya conferencewas held in Jamia Masjid Anware Medina, Lahore as well, in commemoration of September 7. Approximately 175 attended. Qari Shaukat Qadri used foul language against the Ahmadiyya community and exhorted the audience to boycott Qadianis as ‘they are busy in destroying the beloved country and Islam’. “Our forefathers sacrificed a lot to have them declared infidels; now it is our responsibility to protect Islam from them. They should be boycotted and socially isolated”, he added.

**‘Kosher’ to persecute a ‘Qadiani’ for no reason**

An incident reported in the daily Dawn of September 14, 2017 shows the extent the mulla and the state have succeeded in sanction of violation of human rights of Ahmadis in Pakistan. It has become sufficient to simply accuse a person of being an Ahmadi to justify his persecution. The report from the Dawn is reproduced below:

**Faisal Mosque official ‘target of incitement campaign’**

***ISLAMABAD:***Amid growing concerns regarding the radicalization of students, especially in the aftermath of the tragic lynching of Mashal Khan, the issue of extremist activities on campuses has acquired renewed significance.

On Wednesday, another worrying incident came to light when a senior Faisal Mosque official alleged that he had been made the target of a concerted smear campaign that had declared him to be ‘Qadiani’ – a pejorative term for Ahmadis – on social media.

Speaking before the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, Mosque Deputy Director Mohammad Tahir accused a staff member of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) of engineering the campaign, which instigated some 30,000 students to cause him physical harm.

The committee, chaired by Senator Rehman Malik, directed Senior Superintendent of Police SajidKiani to take the matter seriously and ensure the security of the complainant.

However, IIUI Rector Dr MasoomYasinzai told Dawn he had taken up the issue with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and an explanation was sought from the staffer in question, who had denied involvement in any campaign against Mr. Tahir.

Talking to Dawn, Dr MasoomYasinzai said the issue surfaced when the university learnt that CDA wanted to take control of the mosque. Briefing the committee, Mr. Tahir also claimed that on July 25, he had told a parliamentary committee that the IIUI still occupied offices inside the Faisal Mosque premises.

“Following my appearance, an IIUI staffer declared me to be ‘Qadiani’ and extolled the 30,000 students of the university to not tolerate it. Since then, I have been feeling insecure with students’ demeanour towards me. I can say on oath that I am a Muslim, but no one believes me,” he said.

Mr. Tahir said he had complained to both police and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Senator Malik said it was unfortunate that students were being instigated to take action against an individual who had been declared a ‘Qadiani’ for personal gains, and asked the FIA about progress in the case….

Dr JehanzebJamaldini of the Balochistan National Party – Mengal (BNP-M) said it had become a trend to accuse people of being ‘Qadiani’ to attain personal motives.

PML-N Senator Javed Abbasi recalled that a similar case was built against Mashal Khan of Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan, who was subsequently murdered….

Imagine the plight of those who are actually Ahmadis and have to bear up with it 7 days a week, 24 hours a day – all their life.

Uninterrupted persecution

***Chak 2 TDA, District Khushab; September 16, 2017:*** This village is no longer safe for Ahmadi residents. Khatme Nabuwwat activistsare free to continue with their hateful campaign against Ahmadis. They employ fresh means to add fuel to the sectarian fire they have lit.

On September 1, the day before Eid-ul-Azha members of the Khatme Nabuwwat organization called anopen meeting in 2 TDA and made hateful speeches against Ahmadiyya community. After this rally agarlanded bull was paradedin front of Ahmadis’ houses along with beat of drum thus instigating response that Ahmadis desisted.

In the evening Ahmadis came to know of the opponents’ decision to take action against Ahmadis who would undertake sacrificial rites on the day of Eid festival. Khatme Nabuwwat activists distributed hateful leaflets at the occasion.

Therefore Ahmadis took special precautions, shifted their sacrificial cattle from their houses to their farms during dark hours and slaughtered themin tight security.

The opponents, however, slaughtered their cattle infront of the Ahmadiyya mosque, and raised slogans against Ahmadis on the Eid day.

**A long list of proscribed Islamist organizations – and a comment**

***Islamabad; September 1, 2017:*** The Ministry of Interior this month issued a list to the press of 71 organizations Proscribed/Under Observation, almost all religious and Islamist. One such ad appeared in the daily Dawn of September 1, 2017, one day before the festival of Eid ul Azha. The ad is titled: Don’t let your **Donations Fall into Wrong Hands** and the list is introduced with the following warning:

“As per national laws, it is a crime to donate hides of animals to organizations involved in activities related to terrorism. On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, donate hides of your sacrificial animals to those welfare organizations that are not proscribed under any national and international laws and must be working purely for the national welfare.”

The ad is reproduced as Annex to this report: The list comprises organizations, most of which are known for their Salafi, Wahabi, Deobandi etc. origins or membership. Some new names are given along with their former application, for example; exSSP, ex JeM, ex TJP etc. This initiative on the part of the Ministry of Interior is commendable; however it calls of a comment in the context of internal national security.

It is well-recognized that half measures and half-hearted steps rarely deliver success and goals. The call to believers to not donate hides of sacrificial cattle to these organizations will affect to some extent their budgets,but they surely do not depend upon hides alone to remain functional and effective.

If these organizations are involved in activities related to terrorism, why are they tolerated to operate with new names? Also if their charity wings are not working purely for the national and general welfare, why allow them to function?

The authorities know that these organizations have sympathizers and facilitators who provide them all kinds of support, including ideological, financial and personnel; these remain in the rear but are known for their not so discreet backing to them. Why these facilitators continue to enjoy free hand in their support activities? These include a number of political as well as religious parties and organizations. They openly support sectarianism, extremism and, indirectly, terrorism. To them, violence against adherents of other beliefs, even though marginally different, is permissible, even mandatory. The mullas of various Khatme Nabuwwat organizations openly and repeatedly call Ahmadis *Wajib ul Qatl*.

Well-known politicians are on record to openly consort and support leaders of these proscribed organizations. These people have often been called by them‘our people’ in political parlance and Taliban Khans have insisted on negotiating with them rather than confronting them. The false scions of the Quaid-e-Azam sent their ministers to participate in the rallies of these mouth-frothing fanatics to register their presence to gain votes of the ignorant masses.

Provinces appear to exercise great autonomy in dealing with them, in disregard of the federal assessment of these people as mentioned in this ad. The Punjab has formed an Ulama Board whose recommendations are treated by the Department of Interior as orders. These Ulama went to the same type of madrassas as the leaders of the 71 advertized organizations. This Board may have contributed little to the fight against terrorism, but it has had great success in banning the entire literature produced by the founder of the Ahmadiyya community, who took a firm stand against terrorism and *Jihad bisSaif* (violence in support of religion) in the 19th century, and the community has followed that teaching ever since.

In the Punjab, counter-terrorism department has mounted successful raids against the peaceful Ahmadis. The CTD arrested an octogenarian Ahmadi book-seller of Rabwah and got him incarcerated for (5+3) eight years through an ATC court. During the trial the prosecution failed to point out any content in the confiscated literature that promoted terrorism in any way.

In Dulmial, District Chakwal, a procession led by extremist mullas, unlawfully altered its route and attacked the Ahmadiyya mosque. It is now 10 months that the mosque has been locked to the worshippers, while the mob leaders and riot planners roam around free. The ring leader managed to flee to Canada, although he was mentioned in earlier dispatches.

More recently, at the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha the anti-Ahmadiyya organizations openly agitated against Ahmadis’ right to sacrifice cattle, and directed their followers to report to the police if any Ahmadi undertook this rite. It is noteworthy that these bullies expected the police to support them. Ahmadis consequently faced difficulties in performing this rite and disposal of hides.

The authorities, both in provinces and Islamabad will do well to implement the National Action Plan in letter and spirit to rid the Pakistani society of extremism and terrorism. And surely, further persecution of the peace-loving Ahmadi community is not an honest and fruitful interpretation of the NAP; it is hypocrisy a*l’extreme* and is nothing but playing in the hands of the evil that the state aims to eliminate.

This 71 org list should be sufficient proof to all in the government, the intelligentsia, the establishment and the civil society in Pakistan that the mulla’s 21st century understanding of Islam is faulty and harmful. They must dare to examine and adopt some alternate version even if it is uncommon and unpopular. After all, the wise few of Medina, when faced with unmanageable chaos, picked someone from far away Makka to be their lord, seer and guide. This made them historically a model and successful community.

**Update on major atrocities of 2016**

1. **CTD raid on Ahmadiyya offices on December 5, 2016.** The fake police case registered after the raid was not withdrawn; instead the authorities took it to an Anti-terrorism court. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad were denied release on bail. The ATC judge announced three years’ imprisonment for each of them. An appeal against the verdict lies with Lahore High Court.
2. **Mob attack on Ahmadiyya mosque in District Chakwal.** The mosque remains locked by the authorities. Ahmadis have no place for worship for months. On demand of the riot leadership, a separate police case was registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a court. Two Ahmadis remain in prison. Sixty rioters out of the 67 detained have been released on bail by courts. A plea for bail of the Ahmadis awaits hearing at the Lahore High Court.
3. **Ban on Ahmadiyya publications and periodicals.** The Punjab government issued numerous such notifications early last year. It did that on illegitimate recommendations of the Muttahidah Ulama Board that were in stark violation of the Constitutional guarantees, and the international instruments signed by Pakistan. None of these notifications has been yet withdrawn.

**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, on May 16, 2014. The remaining three accused were arrested on July 18, 2014. They are under trial in prison. They were refused bail by the Supreme Court.
2. Officials of Punjab’s Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) accompanied by a contingent of the Elite Force raided Shakoor Bhai’s book shop, arrested him and Mr. Mazhar Abbas the shop assistant, a Shia, on December 2, 2015. A speedy trial in an Anti-terrorism court dispensed 5 years’ imprisonment to each of the two accused, while octogenarian Mr. Shakoor was sentenced in addition to three years’ imprisonment under the anti-Ahmadiyya law. He appealed against the verdict and has sought release on bail from the Lahore High Court which has not spared time for almost a year to hear his plea.
3. An armed police contingent of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) carried out a raid on Ahmadiyya central offices and Zia-ul-Islam Press on December 5, 2016 and arrested four Ahmadiyya officials; Mr. Amir Faheem; Mr. Sabah ul Zafar; Mr. Zahid Majeed Mahmud and Mr. Idrees Ahmad. Mr. Sabah ul Zafar and Mr. Idrees Ahmad remained behind bars as bail was not granted to them. The judge announced three years’ imprisonment to both of them. An appeal against the judgment awaits hearing at the Lahore High Court.
4. A violent mob deviated from the authorized route, to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Dulmial on December 12, 2016. Forewarned Ahmadis assembled inside their mosque to defend it. In the ensuing riot two persons, an Ahmadi and a non-Ahmadi, died. The police made arrests from both sides, attackers as also defenders. Among the latter, they arrested 4 Ahmadis namely Malik Riaz Ahmad, Mr. Muhammad Ansar, Malik KhurramAbrar and Mr. Naveed Ahmad. The FIR applies numerous clauses of PPC including 302 (for murder) and 7-ATA from the Anti-terrorism Act. A separate case has also been registered against Ahmadis, on orders of a judge. Sixty rioters out of the 67 detained have been released on bail by courts. Mr. KhurramAbrar and Malik Riaz were released on bail on September 12, 2017 while the other two Ahmadis, Mr. Muhammad Ansar and Mr. Naveed Ahmad are still behind bars.
5. Two Ahmadis, Mr. Amjad Iqbal Salooni and Mr. Ikram Ilahi were charged under PPC 295-A and the anti-Ahmadiyya 298-C. They were accused of preaching their faith. They were arrested on March 15, 2017. A judge added terrorism clauses to the case and sent it to an Anti-terrorism court. Their pleas for bail were rejected. Now these await hearing in a higher court. The ATA judge observed that terrorism clauses were not applicable in this case. Their plea for bail now lies in Lahore High Court. They remain behind bars awaiting trial.

**From the media**

**Firm resolve in Chenab Nagar to once again to sacrifice lives to keep safe End of Prophethood: Op-ed in the daily Islam**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 17, 2017*

***36th Worldwide KN (End of Prophethood) conference shall be held in Chenab Nagar on October 19***

*The daily Din; Lahore, September 6, 2017*

**Chenab Nagar: Encroachments profuse; authorities reluctant**

*The daily Khabrain; Lahore, September 21, 2017*

**Qadiani family in Malakwal accepts Islam**

*The daily Din; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

***The Jewish lobby is using Qadianis for malicious aims against Pakistan: Zahid Mahmud Qasimi (IKNM)***

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 13, 2017*

**Ten secret schools discovered in Chenab Nagar; battle training taught**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

***Qadianis’ formidable liaison with Israel and India; Army Chief should take note: KN Conference***

*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 8, 2017*

**Next stage of operation Radd al Fasad should be launched from Chenab Nagar (Rabwah): International KNM**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 9, 2017*

***September 7 is the brightest day in Islam’s history: Maulana Ghulam Mustafa (of AMTKN)***

*The daily Din; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

**Qadiani commentary on Holy Quran is an attack on essential beliefs of Muslims. The government ought to take notice: (Allama) Tahir Ashrafi**

*The daily Jinnah; Lahore, September 9, 2017*

***Criminal cases should be registered against Qadianis for rebellion against the constitution: KN Conference***

*The daily Jinnah; Lahore, September 8, 2017*

**Qadianis plan huge conspiracy against Muslims at world level. The nation should remain alert: Pir Atiqur Rahman (of AJK)**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

**World imperialism including US promoting Qadianism: Maulana Qari Shabbir Ahmad Usmani (of IKNM)**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 20, 2017*

***Islam’s structure stands on the foundation of belief in End of Prophethood: (mulla) Yasser Qadri***

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, September 8, 2017*

**Four Shia Hazaras gunned down near Quetta**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 11, 2017*

***Tehsildar among six killed in Bajaur blast***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

**Christian man sentenced to death over WhatsApp text**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 16, 2017*

***61 Ulama Karam (*respected clerics*) and Zakirs (*Shia preachers*) banned from entering the district (*Faisalabad*); 96 gagged (*ZubanBandi*)***

*The daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

**Security tightened in Chiniot (for Muharram). 46 Ulama and Zakirs banned entry.**

*The daily Dunya; Lahore, September 18, 2017*

***Entry of 45 clerics banned in towns cities***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

**We shall permit no change in blasphemy law: MTKN**

*The daily Jinnah; Lahore, September 19, 2017*

***Punjab Govt. restricts use of loudspeakers in Muharram***

*The daily The News; Lahore, September 19, 2017*

**ATC indicts 57 in Mashal lynching case (Mardan University)**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 20, 2017*

***We shed crocodile tears over Rohingya Muslims (plight) but deny rights to our own people: Supreme Court***

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, September 19, 2017*

**Our fight is against those who attempt to put an end to Islamic identity. I proudly call Taliban my sons (*Farzand*): Samiul Haq (JUI-S)**

*The daily 92 News; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

**Algeria: Supreme Islamic Council (SIC) given more powers.SIC played key role in neutralizing Qadianis’ apostate activities in Algeria.**

*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 14, 2017*

***Trump threatens to totally destroy North Korea. Also hints at planning to scrap nuclear deal with Iran.***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 20, 2017*

**Terror revisits London as 29 hurt in underground train blast**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 16, 2017*

***BRICS states unite against terror outfits in Pakistan***

*The daily The News; Lahore, September 5, 2017*

**1,25,000Rohingya (Muslims) arrive in Bangladesh for protection**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 6, 2017*

***BD treats thousands of Rohingya refugees for violent injuries***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

**SuuKyi slams Rohingya ‘fakenews’**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 7, 2017*

***Eight more villages of Rohingya Muslims set on fire, 12 die***

*The daily The News; Lahore, September 13, 2017*

**SuuKyi, Myanmar faces chorus of anger over Rohingya (Muslims) crises**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 5, 2017*

***Haqqanis were once your darling, Asif reminds US***

*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, September 28, 2017*

**Muslims told to deposit the Holy Quran and prayer mats with authorities in China (Sinking)**

*The daily Insaf; Lahore, September 30, 2017*

***Saudi Arabia allows women to drive***

*The daily The Express Tribune; Lahore, September 28, 2017*

**People like Haqqani Network and Hafiz Saeed are a liability; we need time to delink ourselves from them: Khawaja Asif (FM)**

*The daily Express; Faisalabad, September 28, 2017*

***US, greatest enemy of Islamic world (Aalam Islam) and Pakistan: Malik Rab Nawaz (of Khatme Nabuwwat Lawyers Forum)***

*The daily Islam; Lahore, September 21, 2017*

***Milli Muslim League, the political auxiliary of Jamaat ud Dawa should be refused registration: Interior Ministry letter to Election Commission***

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, September 28, 2017*

**It is not appropriate to amend the blasphemy law; consequences can be dreadful (*bhiyanak*): Maulana Ilyas Chinioti [MPA-PML(N)]**

*The daily Ausaf; Lahore, September 29, 2017*

***Ex-PM Raja (Ashraf), eight others indicted in NAB case***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 20, 2017*

**Nawaz is a liar; Imran is deceitful, a puppet; banned organizations participated in Lahore (by-) election: Bilawal Bhutto**

*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 21, 2017*

***Participation of sectarian groups in NA 120 By election is a cause of concern to us: Nawaz Sharif***

*The daily Jang; Lahore, September 24, 2017*

**National Action Plan not being implemented: Balochistan Shias Conference**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, September 25, 2017*

***Accountability court gets four references against Sharifs, Dar***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 9, 2017*

**Sharifs boycott proceedings in NAB references**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 10, 2017*

***Court indicts Dar (Fed Finance Minister) for graft***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 28, 2017*

**Opp says Shahbaz’s goose is cooked**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

***Assets of Nawaz Sharif, Hasan, Hussain and Maryam Safdar frozen. Arrest warrants of Finance Minister issued.***

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, September 21, 2017*

***Three FC personnel martyred in Panjgur ambush***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 5, 2017*

**Musharraf accuses Zardari of Benazir, Murtaza’s murders**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 22, 2017*

***ATC indicts four for blasphemy on social media***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 13, 2017*

**12 picnickers drown at Sandspit beach**

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 10, 2017*

***Lawyers lock AC (Assistant Commissioner) in her office (in Sargodha)***

*The daily Dawn; Lahore, September 10, 2017*

**Former president of National Bank, Ali Raza arrested**

*The daily Dunya; Faisalabad, September 23, 2017*

**Doctor’s negligence,patients left eye operated upon instead of the ailing right, results in loss of eye (in Faisalabad)**

*The daily Mashriq; Lahore, September 25, 2017*

**Op-ed: Jinnah, Rohingyas and Pakistan**

… Of course it is heartening to see Pakistanis taking a stand on the issue. Injustice anywhere must be condemned. However, Pakistan too has many skeletons in its closet. Perhaps not as blatantly as Myanmar but certainly as effectively, the Pakistani state has progressively since 1974 disenfranchised its hapless Ahmadi community. The difference here of course is that Ahmadis have not resorted to any agitation but if they were to agitate, I am sure, they would be subjected to nothing less than a genocide by Pakistan’s extremely radicalized Muslim majority. Instead Ahmadis are being dispatched in Pakistan through slow burn and churn. Persecuted by unfair laws such as the anti-Ahmadi Ordinance XX of 1984, a significantly large part of their population lives in exile today, just like Rohingyas. Almost every other month, some Ahmadi or the other is killed by religious fanatics who are just as bloodthirsty as the Buddhist monks in Myanmar.

Of course Ahmadis are not the only community suffering in Pakistan. …

*Yasser Latif Hamadani in Daily Times; September 11, 2017*

**Op-ed: Saudi women drivers**

CHANGE comes to the desert kingdom slower than the shifting of a sand dune, particularly when it involves women. By that standard, the last few days in Saudi Arabia have been no less than historic — although undoubtedly some of the old guard may prefer to describe them as calamitous. On Saturday, at a musical concert, part of an unprecedented lineup of festivities to celebrate Saudi National Day, women were allowed for the first time into Riyadh’s King Fahd International Stadium as spectators. The weekend extravaganza also saw men and women dancing in the streets, a stunning departure from the strict rules of segregation sometimes enforced on pain of death in the citadel of Wahabism. That has been followed by a royal decree on Tuesday announcing that women will be allowed to drive from June 2018, making the kingdom the last country on earth to permit women behind the wheel.

*Editorial in the Dawn; September 28, 2017*

**Op-ed: Changing political and social scenario**

(Extracts from a comment on Jamaat Islami and Peoples Party performance in the light of results of recent by-election for National Assembly seat NA 120 in Lahore)

The candidates of Peoples Party and Jamaat Islami for election in Lahore NA120 had their surety deposits forfeited. This reminded me of a verse by an old friend, MazharTirmizi, which even he might have forgotten:

The season is gone, however for the sake of display,

Peels are laid out at the fruit shop.

…In the 1970 elections, the victory of Peoples Party resulted in many people from the middle class enter the assemblies where they gave new directions to the peoples’ aspirations. As reaction, Jamaat Islami came forward as a strong claimant to the role of leadership of the religious and political right. In the separation movement of East Pakistan, Jamaat Islami chose to be a partner of the establishment; as a result it becomes its close ally. In this environment of clash, General Sher Ali, acting as ideological mentor of General Yahya Khan (the president) undertook the task of cleansing the educational institutions and the media. Its main object was to evict leftists from the colleges and induct Jamaat Islami sympathizers. Jamaat Islami continued to dig in during the rule of Zulfiquar Ali Bhutto; as a result it acquired the ideological and administrative leadership of anti-Bhutto Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad in 1977.

Thereafter, in the days of General Zia ul Haq, Jamaat Islami became an active partner in the government, and its supporters joined the Jihad effort in Afghanistan. In this era, the pseudo-Mujahideen of NasimHijazi and the horse riders of mythical abyss (*Zulmat key ghoreydaurane wale*) took all the space in newspapers and the media, and promoted successfully the supremacy of Jamaat Islami and other religious right. All this resulted in sectarian conflict and terrorism, that shook the foundations of the state, initiating its destruction by the very forces that propped the religious narrative.

…In the decade of 1970s, the ideology of the left nearly came to naught, and the ideological narrative of Jamaat Islami prevailed. This narrative gave birth to violence and disruption, which put an end to the dreams of the ‘pious’ of Jamaat Islami, the same way as happened to leftists in the era of Bhutto. The visions of 60s perished before the end of the twentieth century.

Social and cultural changes were another aspect of the above-mentioned ideological scene of 1970s and 1980s. The millennia-old production system was rapidly being transformed by the industrial age. The old system gave way and the villages became ghettoes of the urban areas. New sources of wealth came into being that enriched even the pious (*saleheen*) of Jamaat Islami. By 1990s, Jamaat Islami was reduced to become a party of petty traders and shop-keepers. The richer businessmen joined PML(N). As a result the ideological and political space available to Jamaat Islami shrank and it is not visible anywhere except in the media.

Peoples Party suffered decline in the very days of Zulfiquar Ali Bhutto, but ZiaulHaq’s tyranny kept it alive. In 1988 when the Peoples Party came to power, its leaders joined in the rat race of loot and corruption and the party lost its faltering ideological base. Lahore was a citadel of this party but it rapidly lost its hold in every subsequent election. Now its candidates lose their surety deposits. In short, the Peoples Party and the Jamaat Islami that nourished the great dreams of 1960s have now become stories of the past.

*Dr. Manzoor Ejaz in the daily Jang; September 27, 2017*

**Annex:** An ad by Ministry of Interior in the daily Dawn; September 1, 2017