

Situation Summary (Since 5th August 2024 to 17th February, 2025)

Bangladesh is considered to be a peaceful country with the traditions of religious harmony over thousand years. Ahmadiyya Muslims are the sons of this soil and had been living peacefully and with harmony for over hundred years, i.e. since its foundation in undivided Bengal in early 20th Century. However, situation started changing from the later parts of 1980s when 6 mosques belonged to Ahmadiyya Muslims were forcibly captured by a groups Muslim fanatics in Brahmanbaria area. From the beginning of 90s anti-Ahmadiyya movement in Bangladesh got momentum when “Khatme Nabuwat” organization established in Bangladesh and radical clerics from Pakistan had been coming and inciting people against Ahmadis in collaboration of local fanatic or radical Islamic groups. Since then Ahmadiyya Muslims had been targeted of attacks and persecution from time to time.

Recent Attacks:

On 5th August, 2024, after stepping down and departure of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a group of religious extremists started attacking religious minorities in Bangladesh including members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at (community). It is to be highlighted that Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is a non-political organization and doesn't have any political affiliation or connection with any Political party.

Followings are the brief reports on the attacks on Ahmadis after the change of government:

- 01. Ahmadnagar:** On the late afternoon of 5th August, 2024, Monday, a group of religious fanatics supported by some local miscreants attacked the Ahmadiyya houses and properties at Ahmadnagar, a village under Panchagarh Sadar Upazilla (District HQ). The attackers came very fast from the main town of Panchagarh. They attacked about 117 houses belong to Ahmadi Muslims. The attackers vandalized all houses, looted and set fire. They also set fire inside the Ahmadnagar main mosque of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, offices, ground floor of the guest house, burnt around 10 motorbikes, which were kept by its Ahmadi owners for safety. The attackers attacked the Jamia Ahmadiyya, Bangladesh (the theological school) complex, entered to the Jalsa Gah (the annual

convention ground), vandalized and set fire on the main two storied store of the Jalsa Gah. 22 Ahmadis including students of Jamia Ahmadiyya were injured and admitted to local hospital.

Shariar Rakeen died after 3 months:

One young Ahmadi boy of 16 years named Shahriar Rakeen was among the 22 Ahmadis who were injured. But, injury of Shahriar was fatal. He was seriously beaten on the head with lethal weapons. He was initially admitted to the local Panchagarh Government Hospital, but since his condition was deteriorating he was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and finally to Dhaka on doctor's advice. He was under close observation and treatment for three months at Dhaka Neuro Science Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, LabAid Hospital and again at Dhaka Neuro Science Hospital since August 7. As the boy had severe injuries on his head the doctors had to open his skull twice and was in Intensive Care. Finally, he succumbed to death at the Dhaka Neuro Science Hospital on November 8, 2024 after fighting life & death for over three months.



Shahriar Rakeen. Photo taken on 03.10.2024



Shahriar Rakeen with his bicycle

02. Taraganj (Rangpur): On the same evening Ahmadiyya Mosque at Taraganj under Rangpur district were attacked by religious fanatics and set fire on the mosque. The attackers also gave life threat to local Ahmadis. One Ahmadi Mr. Akkasur Rahman (former President of the Chapter) were ousted from his rented house.

03. Bamnail (Rajshahi): The Ahmadiyya Mosque at Bamnail village under Rajshahi district was attacked on 6th August, Tuesday. The attackers vandalized the mosque and threatened local Ahmadis. It was alleged that an Imam of nearby Non-Ahmadi mosque incited some locals to attack

Ahmadiyya mosque. The attackers also gave life threatening to the Ahmadi Imam.

- 04. Choraikhola (Lalmonirhat):** On 6th August, 2024 (Tuesday) at around 11:00 AM a group of religious fanatics accompanied by some local young miscreants attacked the Ahmadiyya Mosque of Choraikhola under Nilphamari district. The attackers destroyed the Ahmadiyya mosque and set fire. Later, local miscreants looted the leftovers from the mosque premises. The members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Choraikhola were tremendous pressure and threats for following few days.
- 05. Madartek (Dhaka):** The Ahmadiyya Mosque at Madartek in Dhaka city were also attacked by local religious fanatics twice. They threw bricks and stones on the mosques and vandalized one house belong to an Ahmadi. However, the fanatics could not do much harm to the mosque due to resistance from the neighborhoods and local people. However, Ahmadis are barred to give Azan over microphone from that time.
- 06. Rangtia (Sherpur):** The mosque and house of Ahmadiyya Muslims at Rangtia under Sherpur district were attacked and vandalized by a group of religious fanatics on 6th August, 2024, Tuesday. The attackers looted, vandalized and set fire. About 20 Ahmadi families had to fly and take shelters at different places including paddy fields.
- 07. Shohagi (Mymensingh):** On 9th August, 2024, Friday, a group of religious fanatics instigated by a local chairman of Union Council organized an attack on Ahmadis there. However, timely action taken by Army, the plan was foiled.
- 08. Financial loss:** The financial loss due to the attacks are approximately Taka 20.00 crore (200 million).

It's worth mentioning that in 2023 fanatic religious groups attacked Ahmadiyya Annual Convention in Ahmadnagar, Panchagarh where one member of the community was killed, over 100 injured. The attackers looted, vandalized and burnt over 200 houses of Ahmadi Muslims at Ahmadnagar and nearby two villages named Shalshiri and Sonachandi.

09. Rumors and False Allegations:

- (a) False Propaganda on Facebook:** In recent days, false propaganda on social media and particularly in Facebook has increased significantly! On 6th September a Facebook ID of a young Ahmadi boy named Khaled Ahmad

Turki (age 16 years) of Brahmanbaria town was **duplicated with a fake account** and some disrespectful remarks were written there against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon Him). The conspirators took the screenshot of the page and circulated in different vested group to create law and order situation particularly against Ahmadi Muslims. However, timely action from the Brahmanbaria district administration including local Army Commander saved Ahmadi Muslims from any disastrous situation. However, while the boy Khaled Ahmad Turki went to file a General Diary (GD) in the local Police Station (PS), instead of accepting the GD he was detained in the PS and on the following day he was sent to the court and finally the minor boy was able to obtain Bail from the court.

(b) False Case: A false case against the local President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Brahmanbaria Mr. Manzur Hossain and a member of the community Mr. Arshadul Islam has been filed by two leaders of fanatic / orthodox Muslim group “Hefazat-e-Islam” for so called murder of a Madrassa student in 2021. Whereas they have no connection with the incident.

(c) More False Cases: In addition to the above false cases have been filed against Ahmadi Muslims of Ahmadnagar and Shalshiri villages of Panchagarh. There are further threats that more false cases will be filed against Ahmadi Muslims in that area. These are nothing but to harass the Ahmadi Muslims.

Therefore, we want that such conspiracies and harassment must be stopped and the government should take actions against the ill-motivated conspirators.

(d) Threats to withdraw cases: On March 03 and 04, 2023, anti-Ahmadiyya radical groups attacked the annual convention of Ahmadiyya community at Ahmadnagar in Panchagarh district. At this attack one Ahmadi young man was killed, over hundred injured and over 200 houses and business centers belonged to Ahmadiyya Muslims were ransacked, vandalized and burnt. After the incident several cases were filed against the attackers. Out of total 23 cases Police have submitted final reports against 10 cases and remaining 13 are under investigation. However, on 15th September 2024, one prominent radical Islamist leader Mr. Mamunul Haq, General Secretary of Khilafat Majlis and a leader of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh gave ultimatums to withdraw the cases, which he termed “false”. He announced this at a rally held in Panchagarh town. After that announcement Ahmadi Muslims who filed the cases are under threats. We have informed this to local administration and gave rejoinders in the media. (copy enclosed).

(e) Fresh Demand and “Ultimatum” to declare Ahmadis non-Muslim: The radical Islamic groups have been demanding to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims in Bangladesh like Pakistan for last couple of decades. They have been placing their demands to all previous governments. After the recent changes in the country, the radicals have refreshed their demands. In a conference held on 24th October, 2024 under the banner of “Ulama-Mashayekh (Islamic scholars) Conference” held in Dhaka further placed demand and gave six months’ time to the Interim Government to declare Ahmadis non-Muslims. In their demands they also included some additional demands, such as: to prohibiting Ahmadis to use Islamic Terminologies, calling mosques, Azan (call for prayers), banning Ahmadiyya publications and activities etc. Speakers in the conference said that they will organize a rally of one million people in Dhaka within six months and will compel the government to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims.

We believe that such demands are against the fundamental rights of Ahmadis and will open the radicalized system in Bangladesh.

10. Further Obstacles and opposition in Holding the 100th Annual Convention (Jalsa Salana) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at, Bangladesh:

This year is marked the 100th Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at, Bangladesh. It was our long desire to hold the convention in befitting manner. **But due to severe opposition and threats from the religious fanatic groups we had to hold our Jalsa at the small and inadequate venue of our National Headquarters compound at Dhaka from 14th to 16th February, 2025, instead of Ahmadnagar (Panchagarh) in a larger scale.**

Considering the overall law and order situation in the country, it was decided to organize our 100th annual Jalsa at our national headquarters in Dhaka this year. In addition, a large part of our members gathered at our 6 regional centers and a few other spots with the help of technology to watch the Jalsa. The regions are: Sundarbans, Nasirabad (Kushtia region), Chittagong, Khakdan (Barisal region), Rajshahi and Cumilla.