



JAMIA ISLAMIA (1963-1975): THE FIRST ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Jamia Islamia (present day Islamia University) was situated in Bahawalpur. In the British colonial period, Bahawalpur State was one of the autonomous princely states. After the partition of British India, on 7 October 1947, Bahawalpur State decided to ascend to Pakistan. On 14 October 1955, the framework of the One Unit program was implemented and as a result Bahawalpur State was merged with West Pakistan. The last ruler of Bahawalpur State was Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V (b. 1904, d. 1964).⁵ The institution which is known as Jamia Islamia has a history of almost one and half centuries consisted of four different phases, Madrassa Sadr Diniyat (1879-1925), Jamia Abbasia (1925-1963), Jamia Islamia (1963-1975) and Islamia University Bahawalpur (1975-Present). It was established by Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV in 1879 as a basic level religious madrassa and at that time its name was Madrassa Sadr Diniyat. In 1925 the last ruler of Bahawalpur State, Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi V upgraded the institution as higher level religious educational institution on the pattern of Jamia Al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt and renamed it as Jamia Abbasia. Jamia Abbasia (1925-1963) was the combination of traditional / religious and modern / contemporary education. Jamia Islamia was an upgraded and a more modern version of Jamia Abbasia. It was the first Islamic University of Pakistan. During this phase, the institution was a modern / contemporary and as well as a religious / traditional institution but now the modern aspects of the institution started to dominate. President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan came for the inauguration of this phase of the institution. The name of the institution Jamia Abbasia was replaced with Jamia Islamia and Auqaf Department undertook the institution. This research deals with this third and the shortest phase of the institution and examines the relevant structural features such as the administration, curriculum, teachers, students, famous visitors, institutional changes and the status of the institution etc.

Key Words

Bahawalpur State, Jamia Abbasia, Jamia Islamia, Auqaf Department, Dars-i-Nizami, Contemporary Education.

Introduction

This research provides an overview of the third phase of development of the institution. The third phase of the institution started from 1963 and lasted till 1975. This was the shortest phase of the institution. In this time period, the name of the institution Jamia Abbasia was replaced with Jamia Islamia and it was given under Auqaf Department.⁶ Jamia Abbasia had functioned as a combination of modern / contemporary and tradition / religion. When the institution was converted into Jamia Islamia in 1963, more contemporary disciplines were added in the curriculum. Religious part of the curriculum consisted of Dars-i-Nizami whereas contemporary part of the curriculum consisted of English, Urdu, Economics, History, Geography, Math, Statistics, Psychology and

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⁵ Islam, "Riyasat-i-Bahawalpur wa Riyasat-i-Swat: Ek Mawazna," 54-55; Zafar, "Riyasat-i-Bahawalpur ma Nawab Sahib ki Dini Khidmat," 37-39; Parveen, "Riyasat-i-Bahawalpur ma Abbasi Khandan ka Kirdar," 105-109; Ali, "Bahawalpur ki Gughrafiyai Ahmiyat," 10-11; Shah, *Sadiq Nama*, 51.

⁶ Tahir, Siddiq. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur." *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970; Rahmat, "Ulama-i-Bahawalpur: Ek Jaiza," 219.



Philosophy etc.⁷ In other words, Jamia Islamia was an upgraded version of Jamia Abbasia. The official name of the institution was Jamia Islamia but it was also called Islamia University, as Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur reported on 4 April 1963, "In Bahawalpur, Islamic University will start the work from 1st September."⁸

Inauguration of the New Phase

On 9 October 1963, President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan came to the institution for the inauguration of its new phase. On this occasion President Ayub said,

If ulama do not accept the challenge of the time and do not implement the rules and laws of Islam according to requirement of the time, the new generation will become atheist. Islam is a progressive religion which can guide humanity in every era. Islam is a true religion; it has no threat from modern education and modern ideas.⁹

Before that when it was Jamia Abbasia, personalities like Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V and Crown Prince of Bahawalpur State Muhammad Abbas Abbasi had come to the institution for the inauguration and for laying the foundation stone of its new building. And on one occasion, Governor General of Pakistan, Ghulam Muhammad also came in the jamia on Monday 10 November 1952 for laying the foundation stone of a building.

But after that no ruler paid attention to the institution. However, in October 1963, President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan came to the institution. In this respect, former Dean of Faculty of Arts, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Shafiq Ahmad writes with the reference of "Daily Nawa-i-Waqt" of 7 October 1963,

Rawalpindi: according to an official report, President Ayub will inaugurate Jamia Islamia on 9 October. Besides that the great teachers are selected for Islamic Studies (Uloom-i-Islamia) of Jamia Islamia. Dr. H. H. Bilgrami will be "Raees-ul-Jamia". (At the time period of Jamia Islamia, the vice chancellor was called raees-ul-jamia.)¹⁰ He has worked in Linguistic Department of London University. He has been Head of Education Department of Planning Commission and besides that also has been Director of Academy of Islamic Studies Quetta. Dr. Sheikh Inayatullah, a personality with a global reputation has been appointed as Head of Islamic History Department. He has been Professor in Arabic Department of Punjab University. He has written many research books. He also has been the adviser of the editorial board of Encyclopedia of Islam published from London. In the teaching faculty, Maulana Shams-ul-Haq Afghani, Maulana Ahmad Saeed Kazmi and Maulana Muhammad Nazim Naqvi (there is a possibility that this attribution is Nadvi instead of Naqvi) are also included.¹¹

Daily Nawa-i-Waqt further reported on 8 October 1963,

Lahore: regarding the name of Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur, all administrative and educational matters have been completed and President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan is going to inaugurate this very same jamia on Wednesday 9 October. It is known that in the jamia under study needy students will be given reasonable money as scholarships for post graduate, graduate and secondary level education. Graduates of traditional Islamic and modern educational systems will be able to get the admission in Jamia Islamia. The recommended curriculum will be consisted of traditional Islamic studies, science and modern

⁷ "Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission." *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971; Abbasi, *Baghdad sy Bahawalpur*, 208-209.

⁸ *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, April 4, 1963.

⁹ *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, October 10, 1963; *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur Special Edition*, December 31, 1982; Shams-ud-Din, "Nawab Sadiq Abbasi (Marhoom) Bahasiyat Mohsin-i-Musalmanan-i-Hind," 16.

¹⁰ Shahid Hasan Rizvi (former Chairman of History Department, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, the first Ph.D. on Bahawalpur), interview with the author, January 3, 2019.

¹¹ *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, October 7, 1963, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 32-33.

social sciences, which can fulfill the needs of Muslim society in modern times. For the education of traditional and modern sciences, the services of excellent educational experts have been received. In the teaching faculty, there are three Ph.Ds. from foreign universities as well. The curriculum is divided into different levels, and it includes all the teaching systems propagated in Dar-ul-Ulooms. Modern science is included in the curriculum to the limit so that it may helpful to understand Islam and teachings of Islam easily. Besides Arabic, Persian is given importance as well because it is a source to understand the historical and spiritual literature. To create the creative capacity, Urdu has also been given full importance. Instead of large number of the jamia graduates, there will be emphasize on their quality education. The purpose is to create true leaders religiously. In this way, the vast opportunities of work will be available for the jamia graduates in the administration of Auqaf, Islamic education and in literary and journalism sectors.¹²

In Daily Nawa-i-Waqt of 11 October 1963, the newspaper further reported about the president's return,

Rawalpindi: President Muhammad Ayub Khan has reached back here this morning after a three days visit of Lahore and Bahawalpur. He went to Lahore on 7 October where he inaugurated 100 Year Anniversary of Construction Department. From Lahore he went to Bahawalpur, where he participated in the reception of citizens. He addressed with the members of "Basic Democracies" and performed the opening ceremony of Jamia Islamia.¹³

The people of Bahawalpur, newspapers and scholars as well gave this visit a lot of importance. For instance, regarding the visit, Mufti Muhammad Hussain Naeemi (Dar-ul-Uloom Naeemia Lahore) wrote a letter to the editor of Daily Nawa-i-Waqt. He wrote,

Venerably! To carry out the main objectives of Pakistan, a curriculum involving religious and worldly sciences is needed, and on strong basis there should be established an institution where such youngsters are prepared who can perform the service of preaching of the religion after understanding contemporary requirements well. Thanks to God, to meet this important requirement of the time, Auqaf Department decided to establish Jamia Islamia in Bahawalpur, and for heading the institution the services of Dr. Muhammad Hamid Hasan Bilgrami have been received who is very experienced and has the specific skills.¹⁴

The West Pakistan Jamia Islamia (Bahawalpur) Ordinance, 1964

The president of Pakistan visited Jamia Abbasia and announced to make it Jamia Islamia. Later on, Government of West Pakistan issued an ordinance in 1964, through this ordinance the establishment of Jamia Islamia was approved and the institution was given under Auqaf Department. The ordinance was called the West Pakistan Jamia Islamia (Bahawalpur) Ordinance, 1964.¹⁵ And on 25 January 1965, the ordinance was approved from the provincial assembly of West Pakistan.

Why Auqaf Department instead of Education Department?

There was a technical thing that this institution was handed over to Auqaf Department instead of Education Department. As it appears from the letter of Mufti Muhammad Hussain Naeemi to the editor and it is also mentioned in the West Pakistan Jamia Islamia (Bahawalpur) Ordinance, 1964. There is in the ordinance,

¹² *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, October 8, 1963, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 33-34.

¹³ *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, October 11, 1963, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 34-35.

¹⁴ Naeemi, Muhammad Hussain. "Letters to the Editor." *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, October 11, 1963, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 35.

¹⁵ Government of West Pakistan Law Department, *the West Pakistan Jamia Islamia (Bahawalpur) Ordinance, 1964*; Ansari, "Islamia University Bahawalpur," 226.

WHEREAS it is expedient to reconstitute and re-organize the West Pakistan Jamia Islamia, Bahawalpur, to empower it to accept the affiliation of such Madrassas and Dar-ul-Ulooms as desire to be affiliated to it, confer degrees and diplomas, provide training for the personnel of the Auqaf Department and to place its affairs on a proper and formal basis so that it can adequately perform its role of teaching and research work in Islamic Subjects, and to provide for matters incidental and supplemental thereto;¹⁶

When asked about Jamia Abbasia was taken over by Auqaf Department instead of Education Department, former Chairman of History Department, Islamia University Bahawalpur and the first Ph.D. on Bahawalpur, Dr. Shahid Hasan Rizvi answered this question in this way that when nawabs or kings used to establish some institution, they also used to allocate some trust property with that for institutional expenses. When Jamia Abbasia was established, it was also allocated trust properties (waqf). And Auqaf undertakes those registries which have trust properties. This is why Jamia Abbasia was administered by Auqaf Department. During Jamia Islamia time period (1963-1975) free education, books and food was provided to the students by Auqaf Department, Auqaf was not giving all these facilities from its own budget or funds, all such facilities were provided to the students from that revenue which was being collected from the institutional trust properties.¹⁷

Whereas former Dean of Faculty of Arts, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Dr. Shafiq Ahmad answered this question in this way that the reason behind Auqaf's takeover of the institution was the curriculum of Jamia Islamia. Its curriculum was completely different from schools and colleges. This is why it was not handed over to Education Department but Auqaf Department.¹⁸ Furthermore, according to Dr. Shafiq Ahmad there was also a benefit of this thing, when in 1975 the institution was made a university and was handed over to Education Department, even after that for many years Auqaf Department used to give the grant of one lac rupees to the institution.¹⁹ And on Dr. Shafiq Ahmad's this claim, there is an evidence and that is the first press conference of the second Vice Chancellor of Islamia University, Dr. Naseer Ahmad Nasir. He said in the press conference, "This year the government has increased the budget of the university. Last year we received 2132900 rupees, besides that there was the grant of one lac rupees by Auqaf Department. The budget of this year is 2200000 rupees, besides that there will be one lac rupees by Auqaf Department."²⁰

Insignia of Jamia Islamia

It is not known whether there was any insignia or sign of Jamia Abbasia but for Jamia Islamia an insignia was designed in which the tomb of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) in Medina is featured inside a crescent moon. On top of the tomb is a star with the Quranic prayer / verse "*Rabbi zidni ilma*" which means "Oh my Lord! Increase me in my knowledge". Underneath the crescent moon, the name of the institution is written in Urdu script but with an Arabic inflection: Al Jamiat-ul-Islamia Bahawalpur.

Convocation of Jamia Islamia

Now this institution was in almost a middle stage, between an Islamic madrassa and a complete university. Even after that, the government remained related to Jamia Islamia. For instance, in 1965 the convocation of Jamia Islamia was held and Governor of West Pakistan, Malik Ameer Muhammad Khan presided over the ceremony as "Amir-ul-

¹⁶ Government of West Pakistan Law Department, *the West Pakistan Jamia Islamia (Bahawalpur) Ordinance, 1964*.

¹⁷ Shahid Hasan Rizvi (former Chairman of History Department, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, the first Ph.D. on Bahawalpur), interview with the author, January 3, 2019.

¹⁸ Shafiq Ahmad (former Dean of Faculty of Arts, former Chairman of Urdu Department, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur), interview with the author, January 11, 2019.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, August 10, 1976.

Jamia” (Chancellor) of Jamia Islamia.²¹ Regarding the convocation, an article by Iqtdar Ali Mazhar was published in Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur which gives some details in this respect. According to the article,

Governor of West Pakistan, Malik Ameer Muhammad Khan who is the ameer-ul-jamia (the chancellor) as well of the first Islamic University of Pakistan, Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur, has come from Lahore to Bahawalpur for the presidency of the first convocation of the jamia. He will award the certificates to those students of “Drja Takhsees Doem” (M.A.) and “Drja Shahadah Doem” (B.A.) who graduated from the institution. This will be a unique ceremony which included the Islamic splendor. Because Jamia Islamia was established in our country for such an experience of purity and uniqueness through which the gap existing between the English class and Islamic scholars will reduce gradually. A class with a strong grip on both modern and Islamic studies will emerge which will be able to preach and propagate Islam in the light of present day minds and concepts. To what extent this experiment is successful? It can be estimated from that today twenty students of Drja Takhsees (M.A.) and the students of Drja Shahadah (B.A.) are being awarded the certificates. Although, it is difficult to test the success of any experiment by just getting the certificate, the establishment of this institution till now, with just a short time period of two years, awarding of certificates of such a high education by the new people is itself an evidence of that. The sincerity and best wishes with which our beloved leader Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan inaugurated this institution on 9 October 1963, to make this university reach to the climax, makes it an ideal institution. This shows the practical struggle of the ruler of the province Malik Muhammad Amir Khan, the head of Bahawalpur Division Ghulam Yazdani Malik, former Chief Administrator of Auqaf Department Dr. Sheikh Muhammad Ikram and current Moderator (Nazim) Khan Abdur Rasheed Khan and Raees-ul-Jamia Dr. Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami, who all participated with the passion of Islam and its preaching and with which attention and activity, the jamia will definitely prosper. The future of this national institution is very bright and exciting.²²

The complete text of the ameer-ul-jamia’s speech was also published, by Daily Amroz. Some details of the speech are as following,

Dear gentlemen,

It is an honor for me that I got this great opportunity to preside over the first convocation of such a blessed jamia whose purpose is to promote Islamic sciences (Uloom-i-Islamia) and whose cause is the welfare of Islamic community and which is active to achieve its respected purpose and aim by avoiding politics.....It has been the desire of the president forever that our young generation must equipped with the best religious and worldly education and due to the blessings of religious education, their hearts will not be overwhelmed by the materialism. The establishment of Auqaf Department and Jamia Islamia is the avatar of these desires of the president. So, “Islamic Studies Academy” was a sign of this great cause and Jamia Islamia is an effective source and a great plan to achieve the same goal. You remember that while inaugurating Jamia Islamia the president said, “The foundation of Pakistan is religion. We demanded Pakistan to save the religion and the civilization and God awarded us with the blessing like Pakistan. So it is a moral, national rather a religious responsibility of our ulama to implement the chronic and true principles of Islam according to needs and requirements of this time and to prove that the rules of Islam are inevitable and true.”

Governor of West Pakistan further said,

I believe that the students of the jamia educated themselves with unity and sincerity and they tried to shape their lives according to the eternal facts and universal principle of Islam and they always will remember all of their responsibilities as religious scholars. I assure them that every department of West Pakistan especially Education Department will utilize their services according to their skills. And existence of the

²¹ Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 37.

²² Mazhar, Iqtdar Ali. *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, December 6, 1965, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 37-39.

jamia graduated ulama in colleges and schools as teachers will guarantee the protection and growth of religious values in these institutions. I want to draw the attention of those students who are currently studying in the jamia to this, God gave them a chance to get such type of education which is comprehensive of religious and worldly success by the end and is the source of the wealth of faith and believe by force and power. Now this is their duty to take the benefit of this blessed opportunity as much as they can and use all of their scientific and moral capabilities. I have a strong hope that under the leadership of Minister of Auqaf Sir Jaam, Khan Abdur Rasheed Khan and the other members of the board of governor, the jamia will be evolved aesthetically and rapidly. In the end, I assure the members and teachers of Jamia Islamia that they will get my full support to reach the jamia to its destination. I pray to Allah Almighty that He bless us all to make this institution such a splendid center of promotion and protection of Islamic sciences and Islamic research that by looking at this the memories of the great universities of Baghdad, Cordoba, Granada and Spain may get fresh and this jamia may prove an ideal institution not just for Pakistan but for the whole Muslim world and its graduates once again may make the East and the West bright with the lights of Islam.²³

Academy of Islamic Studies and Jamia Islamia

In the newspaper, the welcome address of Raees-ul-Jamia, Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami was also published. From this speech two things become clearer, the first one is that the governor of West Pakistan also visited Jamia Abbasia on 31 May 1962 and inaugurated here an academy of Islamic Studies (Uloom-i-Islamia). The students who got education from that academy were awarded the degrees on 6 December 1965. The second one is that the academy was converted into Jamia Islamia on 9 October 1963 by President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan, through a presidential ordinance, prepared and approved by the assembly later on.

Some details of the raees-ul-jamia's speech are as following,

Respected Sir,

It is the oblation of Allah Almighty that He made this academy of Islamic Studies (Uloom-i-Islamia), which was inaugurated by your blessed hands (Amir-ul-Jamia, Governor of West Pakistan, Malik Amir Muhammad Khan) on 31 May 1962, an authentic institution today in a short time period of just three years and it (the institution) has this honor that you are presiding over its first convocation as well. Your admirable personality realized this in 1962 that to awake the awareness of Islamic society and culture in the common people and the gentry of Pakistan; it is necessary to start the work of religious service and social reform under a comprehensive project sincerely, with best efforts and with the support of a specific class of ulama and this is a great idea. To establish the academy was definitely under this spirit of faith and this was also the result of this spirit of faith that on 2 November 1962, passing through Bahawalpur his highness ordered to transfer the academy in the heart of Pakistan, Bahawalpur and to form it as a standard jamia. This respected institution which was a sensational concept a few years ago, came into being on 9 October 1963 by the blessed hands of our beloved leader Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan on your request. Your highness! Like on the opening of the academy Sir A. H. Qureshi interpreted your goals in these words, while he was speaking to ulama in his speech, "This religion of dynamic power is a practical religion for this life and a final guarantee for afterlife. You will have to present the true light of Islam in front of the people. Your duty will be to bead the scattered pearls of the nation in one string." Just like that at the time of the establishment of Jamia Islamia, Sir Sheikh Muhammad Ikram interpreted your cause in these comprehensive words, "To establish Jamia Islamia is an inevitable demand of the nation and an important need of the time. In a moving world with astounding advancement of the new science and technology, scientific innovations and information, scientific theories and the complexity of the social issues, the pioneers of Islamic sciences should be such a mature who on one side have a strong grip on religious sciences and on the other side they can get modern sciences and fulfil spiritual, moral and religious needs of Pakistanis in the way that the Islamic Ideology whose pioneer is Pakistan prosper." Your

²³ *Daily Amroz*, December 7, 1965, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 43-47.



highness! We are very grateful on your kindnesses that through the West Pakistan Jamia Ordinance, within a year of the establishment of the jamia, you made it a university.²⁴

Inauguration of Science Department

With the convocation ceremony, on 6 December 1965 in Jamia Islamia, Science Department was inaugurated as well by the hands of Governor of West Pakistan, Malik Ameer Muhammad Khan.²⁵

Affiliated Institutions

Those governmental primary and middle schools in Bahawalpur State affiliated to Jamia Abbasia and called Muaddab and Rafeeq-ul-Ulama respectively, now were affiliated with Jamia Islamia and were called Arabic Madaris.²⁶ There was a high school affiliated with Jamia Islamia where students were prepared for the jamia according to the curriculum. Besides that till the end of 1970, there were 32 very prominent religious educational institutions which agreed to affiliate with Jamia Islamia and in this regard the suggestion to establish a secondary madrassa board was also under consideration.²⁷ Till the end of 1971, 36 prominent religious educational institutions of the country affiliated with Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur.²⁸

Students' Unions

In Jamia Islamia, students' unions were very active. One of those unions was "People's Students' Federation". In 1972 President of People's Students' Federation, Mr. Ghazal Kashmiri was rusticated from the jamia. So to restore Mr. Kashmiri, People's Students' Federation struck and boycotted the classes. They had other demands as well, such as to change the raees-ul-jamia etc. At that time Maulana Shams-ul-Haq Afghani was working as the acting raees-ul-jamia. All the demands were accepted. The raees-ul-jamia was also changed and Ubaid-ul-Muqtadir Farani was appointed as the new raees-ul-jamia.²⁹

Faculty of Jamia Islamia

The first raees-ul-jamia was Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami. He got the degree of D. Phil in Islamic Studies from a university of England. Besides that he had remained a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. Whereas he was former Head of Education Department of Planning Commission of Government of Pakistan as well. He was working in Academy of Islamic Studies Quetta, when he was called in Bahawalpur. Moreover, following teachers of different fields were appointed, such as for Hadith and Tafsir Maulana Shams-ul-Haq Afghani and Maulana Habibullah; for preaching Maulana Ahmad Saeed Kazmi, Maulana Abdur Rasheed Nomani and Maulana Muhammad Israr-ul-Haq; for Arabic literature (former Sheikh-ul-Jamia) Maulana Muhammad Nazim Nadvi, Maulana Abdur Rasheed and Maulana Muhammad Ahmad, for Islamic jurisprudence Maulana Ubaidullah, Maulana Abdul Hayy Chishti and Maulana Ghulam Fareed; for History Prof. Dr. Inayatullah and Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad; and for Sufism and Ethics Maulana Syed Muhammad Hashim was appointed. In this

²⁴ *Daily Amroz*, December 7, 1965, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 48-52.

²⁵ Ansari, "Islamia University Bahawalpur," 226-227.

²⁶ Barelvi, "Bahawalpur ki Taleemi Sirguzasht," 205-206; Tahir, Siddiq. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur." *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970.

²⁷ Tahir, Siddiq. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur." *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970.

²⁸ "Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission." *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971.

²⁹ *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, November 12, 1972; *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, December 8, 1972; *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, December 10, 1972; *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, December 13, 1972.

regard, Zafar Ahmad further wrote that more teachers were also being appointed such as for English, Social Studies and Economics etc.³⁰

There also used to be alteration in the teachers. Zafar Ahmad wrote in 1964 that the following teachers were teaching in the jamia,

1. Dr. Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami
2. Maulana Shams-ul-Haq Afghani
3. Maulana Habibullah Shah
4. Maulana Abdul Majeed
5. Maulana Ahmad Saeed Kazmi
6. Maulana Abdur Rasheed
7. Maulana Muhammad Israr-ul-Haq
8. Peer Zada Muhammad Hasan
9. Maulvi Abdur Rasheed
10. Maulana Muhammad Ahmad
11. Maulana Ubaidullah
12. Maulana Abdul Hayy Chishti
13. Dr. Sheikh Inayatullah
14. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad
15. Maulana Syed Muhammad Hashim
16. Mirza Maqbool Baig Badakhshani
17. Maulana Ilahi Bakhsh Jarullah
18. Sheikh Noor Muhammad
19. Dr. Sheikh Muhammad Ikram (visiting professor).³¹

Former Dean of Faculty of Islamic Learning, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Dr. Abdur Rasheed Rahmat also gave some details regarding the teachers of Jamia Islamia and they are similar to Zafar Ahmad's list.³²

Raees-ul-Jamia

The first raees-ul-jamia was Dr. Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami, after Bilgrami Maulana Noor-ul-Haq Nadvi was appointed on this post. Maulana Shams-ul-Haq Afghani also remained the raees-ul-jamia, he was appointed on this post in 1972. After Maulana Afghani, in December 1972 Ubaid-ul-Muqtadir Farani was appointed as the raees-ul-jamia, being the last raees-ul-jamia.³³

Board of Governors

Jamia Islamia was under Auqaf Department and its matters were managed by a board of governors.³⁴

³⁰ Ahmad, Zafar. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur," 44-46.

³¹ Ahmad, Zafar. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur," 47-50.

³² Rahmat, "Ulama-i-Bahawalpur: Ek Jaiza," 219-220.

³³ Rahmat, "Ulama-i-Bahawalpur: Ek Jaiza," 219; Ahmad, Zafar. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur." 44; Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 56; "Qazi Noor-ul-Haq Nadvi." *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971; *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, December 13, 1972.

³⁴ *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 12, 1966; *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, July 3, 1969; *Daily Dastoor Bahawalpur*, December 8, 1972.

Distinction between the New and Old Teachers

When Jamia Islamia was established, new teachers were appointed whereas teachers of Jamia Abbasia time period were also working in Jamia Islamia. However, there was a distinction between the new and old teachers regarding salaries and facilities. In this respect, new teachers were preferred whereas salaries of the teachers of Jamia Abbasia time period were very pitiable as compared to the newly appointed professors. This disparity made the old teachers very disappointed and also affected the atmosphere of the institution.³⁵

The Teachers / Ulama and Islamic Principles

The teachers / ulama of Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur were die-hard followers of Islamic principles. Here is an example. When in the boundary of Jamia Islamia, first time a bank was established, lots of those ulama did not like to open their bank accounts. Whereas some ulama opened their accounts but they gave to the bank in written that they would not be the part of interest business of the bank and would not take interest as well. They requested to the bank to return their equity capital according to their need. At that time the bank released a reward scheme. According to that scheme, the reward of Maulana Abdur Rasheed Nomani came out, which was worth one lac rupees. At that time, pay of a lecturer in other universities was just five hundred rupees and pay of 17th scale was just two and half hundred rupees monthly. By these examples and by the inflation level and purchasing power of that time, if it is estimated one lac rupees were equal to almost a pay of forty or fifty years of those ulama. With such a big amount a house could be built or a good business could be started but Maulana Abdur Rasheed Nomani refused to take the prize money, saying that it is not my right and earned money.³⁶

School of Thought of Jamia Islamia

Like Jamia Abbasia, Jamia Islamia also did not has the label of any school of thought. There also used to be such teachers / ulama in Jamia Islamia who belonged to different school of thoughts.³⁷

Curriculum of Jamia Islamia

The curriculum covered religious and contemporary disciplines as well. Religious part of the curriculum consisted of Dars-i-Nizami whereas contemporary part of the curriculum consisted of English, Urdu, Economics, History, Geography, Math, Statistics, Psychology and Philosophy etc. The curriculum of Jamia Islamia was divided into four parts, Darjat-ul-Sanviya (Matric), Darjat-ul-Ijazah (F.A.), Darjat-ul-Shahadah (B.A.) and Darjat-ul-Takhsees (M.A.).³⁸ In this respect Farukh Saleem Ansari writes, "Now the curriculum of the jamia was divided into three parts. That were Intermediate, B.A. and M.A. which were given the names of Darjat-ul-Ijazah, Darjat-ul-Shahadah and Darjat-ul-Takhsees respectively."³⁹ Siddiq Tahir corroborates this.⁴⁰ Jamia Islamia graduates were also called "ulama" like Jamia Abbasia graduates.⁴¹

³⁵ Tahir, "Chapter Five," In *Riyasat-i-Bahawalpur ka Nazm-i-Mumlikat*, 627-628; "Jamia Islamia ki Sandaat." *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, August 4, 1966.

³⁶ Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 59.

³⁷ "Jamia Islamia ki Sandaat." *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, August 4, 1966; "Qazi Noor-ul-Haq Nadvi." *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971.

³⁸ "Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission." *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971; Abbasi, *Baghdad sy Bahawalpur*, 208-209.

³⁹ Ansari, "Islamia University Bahawalpur," 226.

⁴⁰ Tahir, Siddiq. "Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur." *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970.

⁴¹ *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, April 12, 1966; Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 46.

In November 1966, a three day conference on the topic of promotion of religious education was held in Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur; some resolutions were also approved in this conference and according to one of those resolutions the curriculum of Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur was accepted unanimously as the most effective curriculum for the promotion of religious education in the country.⁴² The curriculum of Jamia Islamia was also revised and reformed as Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur reported on 3 July 1969, “A committee has been set up for the changes in the curriculum of Jamia Islamia and Chief Moderator (Nazim) of Auqaf will be head of the curriculum committee.”⁴³

In Jamia Islamia there used to be free food and accommodation for students, there used to be no fees, textbooks were provided free of cost and besides that scholarships were also provided.⁴⁴

Degrees Equivalence and Job Opportunities

An important issue in the context of religious education is and has always been the recognition of degrees to ensure the entry of graduates in the job market. When the institution was part of Bahawalpur State prior to October 1955, the degrees and certificates conferred by Jamia Abbasia were accepted by Bahawalpur State. The jamia graduates were appointed to government jobs; in this respect, an official notification was issued by Nawab of Bahawalpur. Whereas there was a demand that Jamia Abbasia graduates / ulama should be given equal status as Punjab University graduates, after the reconstitution as Jamia Islamia, degrees equivalence and recognition became an issue once again. In this regard Iqtdar Ali Mazhar wrote,

In this short time period, the efforts of the governor of West Pakistan are successful to this extent that now Education Department declared the curriculum of Jamia Islamia a complete and comprehensive curriculum and accepted the certificate of high school of the jamia as equivalent. Similarly, the issue of the degrees equivalence of B.A. and M.A. is also under consideration. This is a huge success.⁴⁵

Before that Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur also reported in this regard on 5 August 1965.⁴⁶ In April 1966, Auqaf Minister of West Pakistan Jaam Meer Ghulam Qadir said that the government is considering to make the status of Jamia Islamia graduates the same as graduates of other universities of the country.⁴⁷ Then, in July 1966 Punjab University accepted the degrees of Jamia Islamia as equivalent. In this respect, Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur reported on 28 July 1966 and on 4 August 1966 that the degrees of Darjat-ul-Shahadah and Darjat-ul-Takhsees of Jamia Islamia had been accepted by Punjab University as equivalent respectively to the degrees of B.A. and M.A. of Punjab University. In the same line, the certificate of Ijazah of the jamia had also been accepted as equivalent to F.A. Before that the board of secondary education had accepted the certificate of Matric of Jamia Islamia as equivalent to Matric.⁴⁸

In April 1967 Provincial Chief Moderator (Nazim) of Auqaf, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Khan said while laying the foundation stone of a hostel in Jamia Islamia, “The jamia graduates will have equal opportunities of employment and job like graduates of other universities.”⁴⁹

⁴² *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 12, 1966.

⁴³ *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, July 3, 1969.

⁴⁴ Tahir, Siddiq. “Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur.” *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970; “Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission.” *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971.

⁴⁵ Mazhar, Iqtdar Ali. *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, December 6, 1965, quoted in Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 41-42.

⁴⁶ *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, August 5, 1965.

⁴⁷ *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, April 12, 1966.

⁴⁸ *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, July 28, 1966; “Jamia Islamia ki Sandaat.” *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, August 4, 1966.

⁴⁹ *Weekly Kainat Bahawalpur*, April 20, 1967.



Later on, all other universities of West Pakistan accepted the degrees of Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur as equivalent.⁵⁰ And on 14 September 1970 through an ordinance, Governor Punjab also made the degrees of Jamia Islamia equivalent to the degrees of other universities and approved (the degrees) for government jobs.⁵¹

Important Ceremonies

In Jamia Islamia time period, two important academic ceremonies were held. The first one was held in 1964 when one of the most famous litterateurs of Indo-Pak, Allama Abdul Aziz Memon, on whose Arabic even Arabs feel proud, stayed here for a week and delivered seven lectures regarding Arabic language and literature. The second important ceremony was a conference held in November 1966 with the name of “Farogh-i-Talimat-i-Din” (Promotion of Religious Teachings) in which besides heads of Islamic Studies of all universities of the country, 32 ulama of the country participated. Some prominent ulama were Syed Karam Shah Al-Azhari Bhyra, Maulana Ata Muhammad Bindyalvi, Qari Muhammad Amin Rawalpindi, Makhdum Ameer Ahmad Hyderabad and Maulana Abdul Hamid Badayoni Karachi etc. This conference lasted for three days.⁵²

Hostel of Jamia Islamia

When Jamia Islamia was reconstituted, students got admissions but there was no hostel for them. At that time the hostel of Government Training College Bahawalpur was built at Railway Road in front of Abbasia High School which was not very needed immediately and the suggestion to transfer the training college to Multan was also under consideration. So the government of West Pakistan took this decision to give the mentioned building to Jamia Islamia; for this purpose on 5 February 1964 a rental letter was written and the building was leased on one rupee annually for one year from October 1963 to September 1964. The rental letter was written for one year but almost half century has passed and still the building is under the institution and besides Pharmacy Faculty, University College of Conventional Medicine is also working in this building in which the work of research and teaching is ongoing regarding Homeopathy and Oriental Medicine.⁵³

Conclusion

In short, Jamia Islamia was a more modern version of Jamia Abbasia. Additional modern disciplines were added in the curriculum and to teach those disciplines new teachers were appointed. Many prominent ulama were also appointed to teach religious education. The purpose was to reduce the gap between the English class and ulama. The goal was to produce such ulama who had strong grip on both religious and contemporary disciplines and could preach Islam by understanding contemporary requirements. As Governor of West Pakistan / Ameer-ul-Jamia, Malik Ameer Muhammad Khan said in his speech at the convocation that the purpose of this institution was to promote Islamic sciences and its cause was the welfare of Islamic society. As compared to Madrassa Sadr Diniyat and Jamia Abbasia, Jamia Islamia existed for a very short period of time, from 9 October 1963 to 3 March 1975. In these eleven years, this institution created many well-known personalities such as former Dean of Faculty of Islamic Learning Islamia University Bahawalpur and University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Abdur Rasheed Rahmat, Prof. Dr. Gujjar Khan Islamic Studies Department Islamia University Bahawalpur and University of Sargodha and Prof. Dr. Sajid-ur-Rahman D.G. Da’wah Academy and the vice president, Islamic International University Islamabad etc.⁵⁴ In 1975, Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur was converted into a full-fledged university (Islamia University Bahawalpur).

⁵⁰ *Daily Rahbar Bahawalpur*, July 3, 1969; “Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission.” *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971.

⁵¹ Tahir, Siddiq. “Jamia Islamia Bahawalpur.” *Daily Kainat Bahawalpur*, November 20, 1970; “Jamia Islamia: Ek Tahreek Ek Mission.” *Daily Maghrabi Pakistan Bahawalpur*, December 30, 1971.

⁵² Rahmat, “Ulama-i-Bahawalpur: Ek Jaiza,” 220-221.

⁵³ Ahmad, *Islamia University ki Tareekh*, 52-53.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*, 60.



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