



THE FRONTIER NEWS

September: 2019

Diocese of Peshawar – Church of Pakistan



Christian community demonstration against Edwardes College nationalization

Church demand Edwardes College back from the Government

Edwardes College, Peshawar is one of the oldest and prestigious institutes of the Province. The Church Missionary Society established the Church Mission College in 1900 as an outgrowth Edwardes High School, Kohati Gate, Peshawar City, which, at been founded in 1855 by the society as the first educational institution in the North West Frontier region of what was British India. For many years the college was the only institution of higher education in the North West Frontier. Sir Herbert Edwardes was a British colonial administrator and commander whose name the college later adopted.

CMS looked after the College for a long time through a Board of Governors with the Bishop of the Lahore as the Chair. The College runs under its own constitutions approved by the then Board in 1943. After the creation of the Peshawar Diocese in 1980 control of the Edwardes College came under the Peshawar Diocese however the properties belong to the Lahore Diocese Association. It is worth mentioning that almost 90% property of the College was bought during the passage of time and different accommodation, hostels and blocks were added to the College. In 1972 Mr. Zulfqar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister and the Chief Marshal Law Administrator nationalized all the private Educational Institutions with an immediate effect. However, Arbab Sikander Khan Khalil the Provincial Governor, member National Awami Party (NAP) and Mullana Mufti Mehood (father of Mullana Fazal-ur-Rehman) Head of the Jamiyat-i-Ulma Islam

and Provincial Chief Minister at that time forced the Federal Government not to nationalize the private institutions especially the Christian Educational Institutions in the Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). The Federal Education Minister Hafiz Pirzada in 1972 clearly said we are considering the request of the Provincial Government thus the College was never nationalized. In 1973 the constitution of the country was implemented thus the Martial Law orders automatically came to an end. In 1974 to further secure the Independent status of the College, the Provincial Governor through a notification formulated a new Board of Governors but it had no legal backing. The Provincial Law Department and the Education Department confirmed that the College was never nationalized and stands as a Private Institution.

In 2016, the High Court Peshawar responding to a writ petition against the appointment of the College Principal declared that the Board of Governors formulated in 1974 has no legal standing thus stood dissolved. The Provincial Government went into an appeal against this decision but withdrew as the High Court judgment was taken to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. In 2018 the Apex court dismissed the case as not pressed; it was further confirmed that the College was never nationalized. In March 2019 after having informed both the

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Demonstrations in images

Kashmiris Need Peace



Students presenting skit



Students march

September: 2019. The Diocesan St. Mary's High School, Risalpur's Staff and Children organized a march against injustice and apartheid against Kashmiris. The Students and Teachers delivered speeches against the human rights violations and the deadly crackdown against vulnerable Kashmiris.



Children enchanting slogans



Cake cutting ceremony



Pak-Army Soldiers distributed sweets among students

September: 2019 The Diocese of Peshawar organized a mega event at Edwards High School, Peshawar, City to show solidarity with the Kashmiris for peace in their area.

Around 300 participants, including Staff and Students from Edwards High School, Peshawar, Senior Section, Edwards High School, Junior Section, the Elizabeth Girls High School and Edwards Colleges School, Wing II Peshawar activity participated to show solidarity with the Kashmiris.

The program started with prayer offered by various faiths students. At this occasion students from various schools presented skits for peace in Kashmir.

The speakers in their speeches highly condemned the inhumane acts of terror against Kashmiris .

They also said that nothing can stop the Kashmiris to obtain/achieve their basic and human rights . The electronic and print media was also there to cover the event and highly appreciated the efforts of the participants who created awareness regarding the Kashmir issue, and showed solidarity

In the end, Mr. Rab Nawaz, Programme Manager thanked both the media and participants for making the programme a success!



Solidarity show in progress

The participants were holding placards and chanting slogans against the oppressors in Jamu & Kashmir. They said that we stand by our brothers and sisters of Kashmir. Thus it was an impressive show of solidarity with Kashmiris.

At this occasion, children presented flowers to the Soldiers and Officers of the Pak- Army, and in return they distributed sweets among students for their love and dedication.



Children presenting flowers to Army Soldiers

A Tribute to Martyrs



The honorable Bishop Humphrey, Jamshed Thamas ,MNA and the Revd. Shahzad Murad



Service in images



Congregation in images

On 22 September, 2013 the double suicide attack by Taliban at All Saints' Church, Peshawar killed over hundred men, women and children. This incident has left a permanent scar on memory of the Christian community in Pakistan. To commemorate the martyrs, the Diocese of Peshawar every year holds a special prayer meeting at All Saints' Church, Peshawar.

This year on 22 September, 2019 the special prayer service held at All Saints' Church, Peshawar was attended by a large number of Christian community members, including people from Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan in his message said that

we never forget our Martyrs and this special Prayer service is a witness of our solidarity with the affectees of this unfortunate incident.

At this occasion, the Bishop also conducted opening ceremony of the monument erected in Church premises to commemorate the Martyrs of All Saints' Church. The congregation sung Hymns and Songs and lit candles to pay tribute to the Martyrs and to show their solidarity with affectees of the incident

The electronic and print media was also present for the coverage of the 6th Anniversary.

'A Successful Life' Youth Seminar



The Revd .Amir Yousaf , Revd. Alexander with Youth members

The Revd. Amir Yousaf, Priest Incharge, St. Thomas Church, Tarnab Farm organized a one day Seminar and invited the Revd. Alexander Mehboob as the keynote Speaker.

The theme of the seminar was 'Successful Life'. Around 35 participants attended the seminar and received blessings by the Word of Lord !

It is to mention that apart from the youth members, three Council members i.e: Mr. Ashiq Javed, Vice President, Zunair Asir, Develoment Convener and Saeed Obroy , Executive Member also participated in the seminar.

The Revd. Alexander in his presentation shed light on theme of the seminar. He said that a successful life means being faithful with the Lord and to act upon His teachings. He further added that some people go to the extreme in their spiritual life, thus they isolate themselves from rest of the world. He said this attitude is not healthy. Therefore, one needs to be careful by maintaining a balance between the spiritual and the worldly life.



Seminar in progress



Group photo of Bishop Humphrey, Principal Edwardes College, Dr. Sarah Safdar along with students and other dignitaries



The choir presenting Hymns



Dr. Sarah Safdar presenting shield to Miss Zarish Altaf

The Merit Scholarship Award Ceremony for the minority students was held in September, 2019 at Edwardes College Peshawar. The students from Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities students were awarded Minority scholarships in various categories.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan was the Chief Guest. Whereas, Prof: Dr. Sarah Safdar, Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Ravi Kumar, Member of Provincial Assembly, Senator, Brig: (R) John William participated as guests of honor to witness the ceremony. The program started with prayer, followed by Hymns and songs presented by the Christian students

choir of the Edwardes College.

Brig (R) Prof. Dr. Nayer Firdous, Principal, Edwardes College Peshawar in his short speech mentioned that the Merit Scholarship Award is of utmost importance for the minority students as it encourages them in all endeavors of life.

The Principal in his speech also thanked the honorable Bishop and the guests of honor for gracing the occasion. In his remarks he thanked and appreciated all the faculty members, administration, staff and other helpers who worked hard to make the occasion a success.

Provincial and the Federal Governments and the high officials the Diocese of Peshawar as per the College constitution 1943 and on the basis of the Courts' judgment 2016 installed the Board of Governors as it was before 1974. The Prime Minister, Pakistan acknowledged the formation of the new board with best regards. Instead of accepting the Courts' decisions and the formation of the new Board of Governors, the Provincial Government of KPK started interfering and pressuring the College administration. Against this pressure the Bishop of Peshawar took a stay order against the Provincial and the federal Governments. The Provincial Government through its Chief Secretary, Education Secretary and the Governor's Principal Secretary launched a court case against the Bishop of Peshawar. This is the first time in the history of Pakistan that the Government has gone against the Church. The case was decided in the favor of the Government, the High Court set aside its own decision of 2016 with the most surprising point that the Church Trust property also stands nationalized. It is worth understanding that the Supreme Court of Pakistan in its judgment of 1987 clearly prohibit both the Provincial and the Federal Governments from taking over the properties. A few staff members are famous in making disturbance in the College, they instigate the students, disturb their education and deprive the students from their studies. They did the same with the previous Principal forcing him to leave the College. Unfortunately the Provincial Government instead of weighing and resolving the situation listening to the dissident staff, just 20 out 120-teaching staff.

The Diocese of Peshawar strongly feels that the High Court has been misled and deceived by the Government authorities. Moreover Government's biased attitude towards the Pakistani Christian Minority is also a violation of the Constitution of Pakistan. On one hand the PTI Government and its leadership claims to be the protectors of the Religious Minorities and their properties in Pakistan but on the other hand they are depriving the already deprived and marginalized minority from their Existence and Identity. The entire Church in Pakistan is sad and disturbed. Kindly pray for the Justice to prevail in Pakistan.

Peace building through Sports



Group photo of sports activity at St. John's Cathedral School

Strengthening Faith



Group photo of seminar participants

A one day Youth Seminar was jointly organized by the Revd. Qaiser Shabaz, Assistant Priest, St. John's Church, Haripur and the Diocesan Youth Desk, Peshawar. Around 25 young boys and girls were among the participants.

The Revd. Alexander Mehbob, Youth Desk Coordinator, Diocese of Peshawar in his first ever visit to Haripur conducted Activity Based Bible study sessions to empower the youth in their faith and helped them to reorganize themselves to serve the Church and their own community.

The Revd. Alexander Mehbob, informed the Frontier News that majority of the Christian Youth in Haripur is highly educated and enthusiastic in faith matters. They promised to carry-on the good work on self-help basis in the future.



Sports Activity in Images



Sports Event at D.I.Khan

Diocese of Peshawar and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) jointly organized Sports Activities led by the Institutional Heads and Mr. Joyson John, Project Manager (NCA) at various Diocesan Schools throughout the Province.

It is to mention that students from various faiths participated in both indoor and outdoor games enthusiastically, they showed sportsman spirit. Thus peaceful co-existence was promoted through sports.

The main objective of this exercise was to promote peaceful co-existence and Interfaith Harmony among students from various faiths through sports.

Trophies were awarded to the winners of various games and all the students were praised for their positive attitude and participation.

In this regard sports events were held at St. John's Cathedral High School, Peshawar, Edwardes College School, Wing-I Main Campus, Peshawar, Edwards High School, Peshawar, Pennell High School, Bannu and St. Thomas High School, D.I.Khan.



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