

Banned Hizb ut-Tahrir publishes constitution for its ideal state

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Banned organization, Hizb ut-Tahrir in Bangladesh, calling for the establishment of Khilafah, is continually conducting its activities and publicizing its ideas through books, booklets, posters, leaflets in various parts of the country including the capital city. Latest, on 16th August, the party published its 44 page draft constitution and sent it to various media. They issued a press release in this regard as well.

In the constitution, the party says the head of state will be Khaleefah and the state will have 14 institutions. The constitution contains various articles contradicting the constitution of Bangladesh. The ruling system in the ideal state they propose will be centralized. The four positions of ruling are: Khaleefah, Delegated Assistants, Wali and Amil; none of these positions can be occupied by women or non-Muslims. The positions of Chief Judge, the Judge of Madhalim, Amir-ul-Jihad cannot be occupied by women also. Article 19 of the constitution states, 'nobody is permitted to take charge of ruling or any action considered to be of the nature of ruling, except a male, Muslim, who is free, mature, sane, trustworthy, and competent.'

According to Article 51, there will be an Amir-ul-Jihad. There will be departments for foreign affairs, army, internal security and industry. All factories of whatever type, including heavy industry, will be established on the basis of military policy.

Hizb ut-Tahrir declared that Jihad will be fardh on all Muslim citizens and they have to take compulsory military training. It said, 'jihad is a compulsory duty on all Muslims. Therefore military training is compulsory. Thus, every male Muslim, fifteen years and over, is obliged to undergo military training in preparation for jihad' [Article 56].

The constitution gives Muslims the right to form political parties but it is silent on the right of non-Muslims. Even Muslims can form political parties on the basis of Islam only and parties formed outside of Islam will be banned, it declared.

Hizb ut-Tahrir's ideal state will have three types of judges, the Qadhi al-Khusoomat, Qadhi al-Hisba, and Qadhi al-Mahkamat ul-Madhalim. Respectively, they will settle disputes among people in transactions and punishments; judge upon the violations of the community's rights; and settle disputes between the people and officials of the state. The Khaleefah will appoint the Chief Judge.

Regarding women the party said, 'the primary role of a women is that of a mother and wife. She is an honour that must be protected.... Women are not allowed to take charge of ruling. Thus women cannot hold positions of Khaleefah, Mu'awin, Wali or Amil.'

Hizb ut-Tahrir says in the constitution, their state currency will be based on gold and silver. No other form of currency for the state will be permitted. However the state may issue coinage or paper notes provided that the state treasury has the equivalent amount of gold and silver.

The use of foreign capital and its investment within the State will be forbidden; and granting franchises to foreigners will be prohibited also. It will be forbidden for any individual, party,

group, or association to establish relations with a foreign state. There will be no relations with the UN, World Bank, IMF, International Criminal Court and the Arab League also. In foreign policy section the constitution says, 'the State is forbidden to belong to any organization which is based on other than Islam or which applies non-Islamic rules.' It also says, 'the primary function of the state is to convey the message of Islam to all mankind through dawah and jihad. This will be the basis of forming State's relations with other states.'

The party also said the education policy, curriculum and teaching method will be based on the Islamic Aqeedah. No curriculum other than the one adopted by the State will be allowed to be taught. The draft constitution obliges the State to ensure employment and free health care for all citizens.

When contacted yesterday, Saturday, about the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir, the Inspector General of Police, Nur Muhammad, said, 'it is not the time yet to discuss the subject.' He declined to say anything more. The government banned Hizb ut-Tahrir on 22nd October, 2009. The official spokesman of the party, a teacher of Dhaka University, Mohiuddin Ahmed, deputy spokesman Kazi Murshedul Haque and senior member Professor Syed Golam Mawla, along with more than five hundred members and activists of the party have been arrested in various places in the country.