

Socio-Political and Administrative Development in Bahawalpur State During Victorian Era 1837-1901

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Episode of Mutual Interest

It was Maharaja Ranjeet Singh (1780-1839) whose enmity towards Bahawal Khan III (1825-1852) became the first reason behind successful Anglo-Bahawalpur relations. He invaded Multan in 1818 and wanted to move southwards. In the subsequent years he became more powerful and aggressive. Bahawal Khan III ruled Dera Ghazi Khan on behalf of Ranjeet Singh. His *vazir* Yaqoob Khan could not send annual tribute to Lahore after indulging in corruption. Consequently Ranjeet Singh deputed General Francis Ventura (d. 1858) in 1831 to wrest Dera Ghazi Khan without giving the Nawab any chance to parley.¹ General Ventura swiftly annexed that area and also snatched number of villages of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Montgomery (present day Sahiwal district) from the possession of Nawab and annexed into Sikh territory.² Maharaja was planning to get way to Sindh, so he expelled Bahawal Khan from his territories.³ The Nawab regretted a lot on the loss of his areas on the right bank of the river. He was also informed that Ranjeet Singh had deputed General Sham Singh Attariwala (1790-1846) to invade Bahawalpur. He felt himself impotent against the Sikhs. He immediately sent his trusted Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah to meet Governor General at Simla. Ghulam Mustafa Shah met Lord William Cavendish Bentinck (1774-1839) the Governor General of British India and requested him a pact of friendship on behalf of Nawab Bahawal Khan III. He also requested for appointment of a Political Agent and to keep the Sikhs away from the Bahawalpur.⁴ The Governor General agreed to appoint a political agent for the Bahawalpur State and he also forbade Ranjeet Singh from crossing Sutlej. He further announced River Sutlej as border between Bahawalpur State and the Sikh Empire.⁵ From that day very peaceful relations started between British East India Company (BEIC) and Bahawalpur State.

In 1833 the first trade agreement was signed between Nawab Bahawal Khan

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III and British East India Company.⁶ Captain Claude Martin Wade (1794-1861) accompanied by Lieutenant Frederick Mackison (1807-1853) came to Bahawalpur to decide the terms. The delegation was warmly welcomed by the Nawab. An agreement of sixteen articles was finalized by the both parties and finally recommended by the Governor General of British India.⁷ It was turning point in the history of Bahawalpur. Lieutenant Frederick Mackison was appointed as first Political Agent at Bahawalpur.⁸ Later on the agreement was ratified in 1834. In 1838 another agreement was signed during the days of Lord Auckland (1784-1849) pertaining to the confinement of foreign relations of the state without proper permission of the British Government. It was also decided that Nawab and his successors would dispatch State Forces if the British needed.⁹

Nawab on the other hand was promised that his country would be made safe from foreign invasions. After that pact Nawab felt himself more secure and protected. The agreements between Nawab and British East India Company (BEIC) were finally approved by the Governor General. Nawab used to fire salute guns and illuminated the cities in order to celebrate the approval of the agreements.

Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk (1785-1842) the deposed king of Kabul sought help from the British Government to regain his throne. The British agreed to help him. A scheme of joint military enterprise was planned for that purpose¹⁰ which had to pass from Bahawalpur State. In that way Nawab Bahawal Khan III was requested to repair the roads so that the British Army might be able to have its journey safe and swift. He, upon the request of British Government repaired the roads and showed his feelings of loyalty and hospitality towards the British forces.

On the way to Kabul, Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk, Mr. William Macnaghten (1793-1841) along his army under General William Nott (1782-1845) arrived at Bahawalpur.¹¹ Nawab Bahawal Khan III arranged everything for ease and comfort of the guests. In December 1838 Sir Henry Fane (1778 – 1840) the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army and Lieutenant General Sir Willoughby Cotton (1783–1860) had a meeting with Nawab while their journey to Kabul. Nawab sent 100 of his brave troops under Jahan Khan Gandapur for Kabul Mission.¹² Lieutenant Mackison was then succeeded by Dr. Gordon as political agent for the Bahawalpur State, and he was succeeded by Captain Thomas in July 1840.¹³

In 1838 on the demise of Colonel Adam Duffin (1788-1838) a European cemetery was prepared at Bahawalpur.¹⁴ In 1839 Nawab learnt about the victory of British Forces at Kabul. The victory resulted enthronement of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk and captivity of Ameer Dost Muhammad Khan. On that occasion Nawab fired salute guns and illuminated the city. On 3rd July 1840 Peer Ibrahim Khantook charge as Native Agent for the State.¹⁵ He was first native officer to be appointed as political agent here at Bahawalpur. In the same year another trade agreement was signed between Nawab and BEIC. On the birth of Prince of Wales in 1842 Nawab gladly fired solute guns.

Before 1838 the Nawab and his forefathers had ties with the Afghan Government since Nadir Shah invaded India. The rulers of Bahawalpur always stayed loyal with their Afghan masters. The enthronement of Shah Shuja resulted deposition of Ameer Dost Muhammad Khan. In 1842 Ameer Akbar Ali Khan one of the sons of Dost Muhammad Khan sent precious gifts and letter to Nawab Bahawal Khan III to instigate him against the British Government.¹⁶ Nawab returned the gifts and informed about all the things to native agent Peer Ibrahim Khan. Peer Ibrahim Khan forwarded a report and that letter for the knowledge of Governor General. After that incident the British had great trust in Bahawal Khan.

Sir Charles Napier (1742-1853) conquered Sindh in 1842 and the towns of KotSabzal, Bhong and Bhara¹⁷ were made over to Bahawal Khan as token of friendship.¹⁸ A trade agreement pertaining to land trade was signed. In February 1844 Sir Robert Hamilton (1802-1887) met Bahawal Khan and requested him to forgo his areas on the right bank of River Sutlej in favor of the BEIC. The Nawab happily agreed to leave the control of those areas.¹⁹ In 1845 Mr. Alexander Cunningham (1814-1893) came to resolve border dispute between Bahawalpur and Bikaner State in 1845.²⁰ Nawab helped the British in Multan campaign against the Sikhs and sent his forces to Multan in 1848.²¹ On the victory of Multan in 1849 he was presented a sword, precious gifts and a pension of Rs. 100,000 per year for life by Lord Dalhousie (1812-1860).²²

Whatever the Nawab had done in favor of the British is no matter right or wrong but it was necessity of time. He just saved his state and his people from extending empires of Sikhs and British. On being allied with the British, the enemies like Sikh, Afghan and Ameers of Sindh could not do

anything against him. He politically handled all the matters. He had foreseen that the British were so strong to be defeated. He also knew about the extending policies of the British. So he did not take any risk. Therefore he did all the things to save his land and the people.

Nawab Bahawal Khan III was succeeded by his favorite son Sa'adat Yar Khan (1852-1853) whose title was Sadiq Muhammad Khan III. The new Nawab was soon to abdicate his right in favor of his elder brother Haji Khan aka Nawab Fateh Khan (1853-1858). On the request of Sir John Lawrance (1811-1879) Nawab Fateh Khan agreed to send the deposed Nawab and his family to Lahore on pension of 1600 per month.²³ Sadiq Muhammad Khan III did not sit quietly. He tried to intrigue and consequently detained at Lahore Fort.²⁴ In 1854 Sir Robert Hamilton (1802-1887) the commissioner of Multan decided with Nawab Fateh Khan a pact about captivity of criminals. In 1855 BEIC approved a solute of 17 guns for the Nawab of Bahawalpur.

In 1857 the native soldiers of British East India Company revolted against the government. The mutineers announced Bahadur Shah Zafar (1775-1862) as the real king of India. It was drastic situation for all the native rulers of the subcontinent. Nawab Fateh Khan seized his borders and sent his troops in favor of the British Government. He crushed every voice which rose in his territory against the British. A religious scholar Molana Imam Bakhsh wrote several letters to Nawab in favor of mutineers. The Nawab of Bahawalpur had friendly relations with the British. Nawab Fateh Khan did not want to make the British annoyed. Consequently for the safety of his state and people he ordered a soldier to murder Molana Imam Bakhsh.²⁵ He also anticipated the situations of law and order in his state while the war of independence was on its zenith. On the victory of the British East India Company, he fired solute guns and illuminated the city.²⁶ There are several results of the war of independence but the major result was the elimination of the nominal rule of Mughal Emperor. The power that was in the hands of East India Company was transferred to Her Majesty Queen Victoria according to Government of India Act 1858.²⁷ The India since that day was governed by and in the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.²⁸

It is frequently criticized by the historians and critiques that Nawab Fateh Khan had strengthened the British rule and celebrated the victory of foreigners. The commentary is just precise, but on the other hand he saved

the life and property of his subject. It was political necessity and demand to maintain friendly relations with the emerging power. He knew that the British were so strong that they could do anything against their allies. Any attempt of independence could ruin the country.

Nawab Fateh Khan died in 1858. His son Muhammad Bahawal Khan IV acceded to throne but most of his time wasted in eradication of conspiracies. He suddenly died in 1866 leaving a minor son of four years. Sadiq Muhammad Khan the heir of the *Gaddi* (گدی) was still a child when his father died. It was drastic situation. The native agent Syed Murad Shah Gardezi advised the state officers to install Sadiq Muhammad Khan on the throne. Meanwhile Prince Jaffar Khan (a brother of Nawab Bahawal Khan III) who was detained at Derawar Fort was released by his friends and immediately enthroned. The prince arrested the people who were attending the funeral of Bahawal Khan IV and imprisoned them at Derawar. He also installed some of his friends as cabinet ministers.

The news of captivity of state officers and insurgence of Prince Jaffer Khan soon spread in the capital. The dowager begum requested the British government for intervention. It was also requested to dispatch the troops to seize the insurgents. The request was accepted and the troops were dispatched by the government. The forces found the rebels staying at Derawar. The forces seized the fort and the rebels surrendered after nine days. Syed Murad Shah, the native agent at Bahawalpur played vital role in stabilizing the routine of the state. He wisely handled all the affairs of the young Nawab.²⁹ However the state affairs needed to be handled by the central power. The State affairs started to get at the routine as the British controlled the whole situation. The young Nawab received a letter of congratulation of accession from Viceroy Office.

Episode of British Agency and Administrative Development

Mr. William Ford (1821-1905) the commissioner of Multan was appointed as political agent to look after the state of the young Nawab. He took charge of his post on 1st June 1866 and planned his reforms to be implemented. In November 1866 Captain Charles Cherry Minchin was appointed as the assistant political superintendent of the state. Mr. William Ford returned to commissionership of Multan but continued as chief political agent of Bahawalpur.³⁰ The arrival of Captain Minchin brought revolutionary changes in the state. He reformed almost all the departments by appointing European

officers to handle the offices. He separated judiciary from administration. He introduced the department of police for enforcement of law and order. He prepared European style Army with uniforms, badges and armor. A regular postal department was furnished for quick delivery of mail. He introduced Public Works and Canal Department to dig new canals, repairing the roads and construction of buildings.³¹ The canal colonies and rest houses were built for the residence of the officers and workers of that department. The Indus Valley State railways passed through the state during his times. He established a printing press *Sadiq-ul-Anwar* and issued a newspaper the *Weekly Sadiq-ul-Akhbar* from Bahawalpur.³² He used to publish an annual administration report on the regular bases which provided information about all the departments of the state. He established Borstal Institute and Juvenile Jail at Bahawalpur with Lunatic Asylum for mentally challenged.³³

He controlled the affairs of Mudikhana (the palace department) and reduced its expanses. He established dispensaries in small towns and hospitals at big cities. He also established municipalities and appointed Mr. Beckett the assistant political agent as the administrator of Municipal Department. He established Forest Department and Mr. Calthrope was appointed as administrator. He planned the construction of Noor Mahal (1871-1879) for the residence of the Nawab. Mr. Doran was appointed as tutor of Nawab. He also started excavation at archeological sites like Pattan Minara, Rae Ka Tibba and Sui-Vihara. The late Colonel Minchin worked untiringly for the development and prosperity of the state.

Colonel L. J. H. Grey C.S.I. worked as political agent on the lines of Colonel Minchin. In 1878 the Nawab contributed Rs. 10,000 to institute the Grey Bahawalpur Scholarships at the Lahore Medical College for the students of Bahawalpur State.³⁴ Nawab attained his majority and was installed on the throne on 28th November 1879 by Sir Robert Eyles Egerton (1827-1912) the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.³⁵ He came to Bahawalpur to attend succession ceremony of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV and to grant him his right to rule the Bahawalpur State with power and internal authority. On that occasion he delivered his speech in Urdu.³⁶ The speech is considered to be the first Urdu speech by any European of that rank.

The Second Anglo Afghan war broke in 1878. His Excellency the Viceroy accepted the services of state army for the Second Anglo-Afghan war 1878-80. The State took active share in that war.³⁷ After the British had

won the battle, the Governor General Lord G. F. Samuel Ripon (1827-1909) arrived at Bahawalpur in 1880. He admired the services of the Nawab and his forces in favor of the British government for Kabul Campaign. The Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV was conferred the title of G.C.S.I. Grand Commander of the Star of India (GCSI) in recognition of his services at Kabul Campaign in 1882.³⁸

The overall period of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV is considered the era of prosperity and development. He died on 7th February 1899 and was buried in ancestral cemetery at Derawar. Few days later Colonel Hutchinson Commissioner of the Lahore Division arrived at Bahawalpur to supervise the affairs of Bahawalpur. He checked and refurbished the affairs of treasury and other offices and returned to his job on 11th March 1899.³⁹

The late Nawab was succeeded by his son Muhammad Mubarak Khan. According to family traditions he adopted the name of his grandfather and acceded with the title of Nawab Bahawal Khan V. When his father died he was also minor and a student at Atchison College Lahore. He came back to Bahawalpur for *Dastarbandi* (succession) and then returned to his college. The old state council was made responsible for the administration of state. Colonel Grey was again appointed as superintendent of the state in 1899. Nawab Bahawal Khan returned home in 1901 and married in July. He made many tours in state and got training of revenue and other departments from Colonel Grey. In the same year Queen Victoria died at the age of 81. Her death was mourned throughout the state.

High culture

The Victorian era allowed the people to live in high culture. The dresses and dwellings of the people were modernized. The state buildings like lodges of political agent, canal offices, Jails, cantonments, rest houses, police stations and other offices were constructed on European architecture. The state palaces like Noor Mahal نور محل (1872-1875), Doulat Khana Aaliya دولت خانم عالیہ (1881-1886), and the Sadiq Garh Palace صادق گڑھ پالیس (1882-1895) were built for residence of the royals of Bahawalpur. The palaces were surrounded by fortified walls. The palaces were usually designed on European architecture. The palaces of that era had porch, verandas, magnificent domes, dining halls, *Darabar* Halls, offices, guest rooms and marvelous interior and exterior decoration.⁴⁰

Photography started in the state, particularly in the royals. The Nawab was photographed on different occasions alone and with his staff. The photographers adopted European style of stance and background while capturing the picture. The language transformed from Persian to Urdu and later on English was adopted for state correspondence and orders. The annual administrative reports were also composed in English. A fountain was gifted by the Queen Victoria to the Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV in 1885 that is still erected at Bahawalpur. A fashion of private tutor prevailed in the state among the rulers and upper classes. Mr. Arthur Evill was appointed by Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV to teach his son English in 1897. He was also taught by Mr. Doran in his youth.⁴¹

Towns

The towns, which were founded by Daudpotra chiefs in the entire state, were traditionally walled and bazaar based cities. The cities were usually built on high mound ignoring fundamental principles of urban planning. The overall construction was simple having a central Bazaar and residing population on it's both sides.

The British Agency changed that fashion. During Victorian Era, cities like Minchinabad, McLeodganj, Sadiqganj and Hasilpur (new) were built in Bahawalpur State. All these cities were founded on the European architecture. The streets and bazaars intersected each other on a square. The streets were paved and clean. The municipal administration used to look after the issues of sanitation and cleanliness. The streets and main roads were illuminated in the evening by municipal workers. All the towns were provided by all facilities of that time. The old towns on the other hand did not remain old in nature. The European officers constructed the official buildings, state departments and residential quarters outside the old cities.

Education and Health

Prior to installment of British Agency, education was given at theological schools attached with mosques and temples. The oriental educational system could not counter the changing trends. The Government of Bahawalpur employed her efforts for the promotion of literacy. The British officers considered the importance of educational institutions. In this way Church Mission School (1867) was established at Bahawalpur.⁴² The school adopted Anglo-Vernacular syllabus. In the later years schools were opened at Ahmadpur East, Minchinabad, McLeodganj, Khairpur, Qaimpur,

Khanpur, Allahabad and Ahmadpur Lamma. An inspector was appointed to look after the affairs of the schools. He was known as *Inspector Madaris*. Colonel Minchin established 18 primary schools in 1868. A Normal School was established in 1871 for training of teachers.⁴³ The Normal School was later on advanced up to Metric level and named as Egerton High School in 1882.⁴⁴ In 1883 Sadiq Anglo-Vernacular Middle School was established. The Sadiq Egerton College was established in 1886.⁴⁵

Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV issued annual grant Rs. 1200 for Punjab University and Rs. 2500 for erection of Senate Hall.⁴⁶ In 1886 he contributed fund of Rs.25000 for Atchison College Lahore, 200 per month for *Anjuman-e-Islamia*, Rs. 240 for *Mazahir-ul-Uloom Saharanpur* and 2000 to *Anjuman-e-Islam Lahore*. In 1893 he established Lansdowne-Bahawalpur Scholarship for Rs. 5 per month for 10 students in *Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam Lahore*.⁴⁷

There was no regular health department in the state before 1866. Medical Department was organized in 1867 and placed under Mr. Deane the first Medical Advisor to the State.⁴⁸ The Civil Hospital Bahawalpur was established in that year to provide better health facilities. Later on dispensaries at Ahmadpur, Khanpur, Minchinabad, Khairpur, Noushehra and Shaher Fareed were established. A dispensary at Doulat Khana Palace was established in 1883.⁴⁹ The Female Jubilee Hospital was opened at Bahawalpur in 1898 in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.⁵⁰

Railways

The railways revolutionized the means of transportation during Victorian Era. The North Western Railway (The Indus Valley State Railway) which passes through the modern day Bahawalpur division was opened in 1878. The railway stations and staff colonies were constructed throughout the state at every town of importance. The staff quarters were constructed on European style. Among the entire railways, The North Western Railway is the oldest in Bahawalpur. It starts from Empress Bridge on River Sutlej and ends at Walhar Station in south west near Sindh. It covers a distance of 148 miles.⁵¹ The Empress Bridge was opened on 8th June 1878 by Colonel Andrew Clarke⁵² (1824-1902), Director Public Works on behalf of Lord Lytton. The other line which passes from the state is Southern Punjab railways opened in 1898. It enters the modern day Bahawalpur division from Orki and joins North Western line at Samma Satta Junction. It covers a

distance of 156 miles.⁵³ The railway junctions were constructed at McLeodganj, Samma Satta and Khanpur. The staff quarters were designed on European style. The residences like of Station Master looked most elegant and stylish building of the time. Beside staff colonies, dispensaries, post offices, police Stations, sport grounds and paved roads were also built.

Religion

In Bahawalpur state political gathering and other activities like strikes, protest, demonstration and objection on the administrative issues were banned. The British Agency was not opposed by the general public. But sooner it was assessed that Christianity was prevailing in the society. The people of Bahawalpur were well aware of all the things happening outside the state. The incident behind the foundation of *Anjman-e-Himayat-e-Islam* was not hidden. After the establishment of British agency and foundation of Church Mission School at Bahawalpur, Christianity started to penetrate in the society. It seemed that some elements could be responsible for spread of new religion in the society. In 1891 some Muslim nobles of Bahawalpur decided to establish an organization to counter missionary activities. In this regard *Anjuman Moyad-ul-Islam* was founded to help the poor and deserving Muslim students.⁵⁴ The other motive behind the establishment of the organization was to promote literacy to counter the Christian Missionaries. *Anjuman Moyad-ul-Islam* was a social organization. It did not have any political aims. However it successfully countered missionary activities.

Municipalities

The municipalities had been working in India since the establishment of the British government. The municipalities had to work for sanitation and conservancy and to collect levy. The municipal administrations used to generate the income from the relevant town in order to maintain the operations like sanitation, lightening, sewerage and cleanliness.

A Municipal committee was constituted at Bahawalpur for the first time in 1873-74 by Colonel Minchin, the political agent, and several Europeans and native officers were elected as members.⁵⁵ The expenses for conservancy and sanitation were borne by the state treasury for initial few months. Later on the head municipality was constituted at Bahawalpur and sub-municipalities at Ahmadpur East, Khanpur and Ahmadpur Lamma. The officials and the landlords were selected as the members. The whole

municipal department was placed under Major Beckett, the assistant Political Agent.⁵⁶ Later on sub-municipalities were established at Khairpur, Minchinabad, Allahabad, Garhi Ikhtiyar Khan and Rahim Yar Khan.

Printing Press and Newspaper

In 1867 some shortsighted Hindu leader propagated to replace Hindi instead Urdu. It is famously known as Urdu-Hindi Controversy. When the Hindu leaders were trying to eliminate the Muslim identity at the same time Colonel Minchin was installing a printing press at Bahawalpur. The establishment of *Sadiq-ul-Anwar Printing Press* in 1866 opened the avenue for bright future of Urdu language and literature and promotion of the Urdu in Bahawalpur. The printing press was initially established to print forms, State Gazettes, Public Notices, announcements and other official papers. A weekly newspaper called the *Sadiq-ul-Akhbar* had also been published since September 12, 1867.⁵⁷ It was an Urdu newspaper. The newspaper was divided into three portions (a) State Gazette (b) Departmental Circulars (c) Miscellaneous news and articles. It was circulated inside and outside the state. The newspaper was censored by the government to prevent the publication of any mischievous article or news. In 1900 an English typewriter was added to the press and it was upgraded to steam press. The Annual Administration Reports on the administration of Bahawalpur State was published by the political agent. The report provided annual information about the working of all the departments.⁵⁸

Legislation

A number of acts of the British government were adopted by the Bahawalpur State in order to maintain law and order. These were Indian Penal Code (1870), Cattle Transport Act (1871), Lunatic Asylum Act (1871), Arms Act (1879), Evidence Act (1881) Oath Act (1881), Police Act (1881), Whipping Act (1889), Salt Act (1890), Vaccination Act (1891), Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition Act (1896), Artificer Act (1898), Criminal Procedure Code (1898), Railway Act (1898) and Post Office Act (1899).⁵⁹

Beside these, there were number of acts that were especially passed by the State, these were: *Dastur-ul-Amal Paasbani Shehar Bahawalpur*⁶⁰ (1880), *Qamun-e-Muskirat* (1882), *Qamun-e-Muabir*, (1882), *Qamun-e-Abkari* (1882), *Qamun-e-Qimar Bazi* (1882), *Qamun-e-Sud* (1896), *Qamun-e-Sankhiya* (1898), and *Qamun-e-Shikar* (1899). The state also adopted civil

and revenue acts of the Government of India during the Victorian Era those were: Court Fee Act, Civil Procedure Code, Limitation Act, Inheritance Act, Revenue Act, Registration Act, Property of Minors act and Stamp act.⁶¹

Some other special rules and regulations having the force of law in the state are,

1. Employment Rules: 1900
2. *Chaukidari* Rules: 1876
3. *Taqavi* Rules: 1899
4. Jail Manual
5. Code for the regulation of lease of land.⁶²

All these acts, codes and manuals were followed and enforced to keep the institutional system running.

Histories

The history written in the Victorian Era depicts sound relationship between two parties. It is good to write that the Europeans who visited the Bahawalpur State or pass from its towns wrote their notes on Bahawalpur. In that category personal narratives of Mountstuart Elphinstone⁶³ (1779-1859) comes very first. The books of Sir Charles Masson⁶⁴ (1800-1835), Sir Arthur Connolly⁶⁵ (1807-1841), Sir Alexander Burnes⁶⁶ (1805-1841), Captain Leopold Van Orlich⁶⁷ (1804-1860), Lieutenant Alexander Henry E. Boileau⁶⁸ (1807-1862), Mr. Mohan Lal Kashmiri⁶⁹ (1812-1877) and David Ross⁷⁰ provided their general comments about Bahawalpur.

Peer Ibrahim Khan was the first native agent to state wrote *Sairistan* (سیرستان) in Persian language on the history and culture of Bahawalpur. More extensive note was written by Moulvi Shahamat Ali (18-18-). In his unforgettable work, *The History of Bahawalpur with notices of the Adjacent Countries of Sindh, Afghanistan, Multan, and the West of India* (1848), he has given brief introduction about past and politics of the Bahawalpur State. Most of its contents are taken from other sources but it is first and foremost proper English source on history of Bahawalpur.

Syed Murad Shah Gardezi (d. 1876) was the native agent and chief judge of Bahawalpur. He wrote *Tareekh-e-Murad* (تاریخ مراد) in Urdu and Persian in the last years of his life. Meer Nasir Ali (d.1891) published a

treatise *Jughrafiya Riyasat Bahawalpur* (جغرافیہ ریاست بہاول پور) on the geography of State. *Sadiq-ul-Tawareekh* (صادق التواریخ) was compiled and published by Mirza Muhammad Ashraf Gorgani and Moulvi Deen Muhammad in 1899. Both were professors at Sadiq Egerton College Bahawalpur.

Muhammad Aziz-ur-Rehman Aziz wrote *Subh-o-Sadiq*, (صبح صادق) a biographical account of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV. The book was later on published from Panipat (India) in 1900 bearing a brief detail on the history of Bahawalpur. Beside this historic literature, the political agency and the administrative department regularly published the annual administration reports. The reports are believed to be best source for the history of Bahawalpur. These annual reports provided primary information for the Gazetteer of Bahawalpur State 1904.

Conclusion

The entire period of the Victorian Era covers unforgettable time of prosperity and development of Bahawalpur Stat. During 1837 to 1866 the state rulers provided their services to keep the Anglo-Bahawalpur relation strong and everlasting. The initial phase is regarded as the period of mutual understanding, political trust, trade and political agreements and attachment. The second phase that is 1866 to 1901 is regarded as the period of development, prosperity, modernization and Europeanization of the state. The state offices and the departments were run and directed by the Europeans due to minority of the Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV and Nawab Bahawal Khan V. Later on in the Edwardian Era (1901-1910) the natives and the rulers of Bahawalpur State were familiar to every European manner.

The Victorian era ended on the death of Queen Vitoria in 1901 but left her legacy for the land and people of Bahawalpur. The Empress Bridge at Sutlej River (1878), Female Jubilee Hospital was established in 1898 in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Bahawal Victoria Hospital (1906), The Fountain at Bahawalpur (1885), canals like Ford Canal, Minchin Canal, Barns Canal, Dallas Canal, Grey Canal and Minchin embankment still retain their European names. The Victorian cities like Minchinabad, McLeodganj, Sadiqganj and bazaars like Littonganj, Greyganj and Minchin Bazaar are famous. Victorian art and architecture

and buildings with Gothic and Conic style were fashioned. The architecture of the departmental buildings was expressively European. Sadiq Reading Library is an example of that architecture. The State Crust was designed and adopted by Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan. The legislation which was done during her times reminds us her value in history. She was known as *Malika Mu'azzama* ملکہ معظمہ and *Qaisara-e-Hind* قیصرہ ہند by the natives.

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- 16 Pirjani, 215.
- 17 Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan II (1809-1825) had to face civil wars and internal turmoil in the initial years of his regime. He had to counter rebellions of his tribesmen. In 1809 Meer Ghulam Ali Talpur of Sindh invaded the southern cities of the Bahawalpur State and annexed Kot Sabzal and other villages. These towns could not be recovered until Sir Charles Napier conquered Sindh and gifted Kot Sabzal to Nawab Bahawal Khan III.
- 18 Aziz, 107.

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- 21 Pirjani, 215.
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- 39 Muhammad Din, 87.
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- 45 Ibid, 527.
- 46 Muhammad Din, 346
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Abstract

This article aims at exploring the British role for Bahawalpur State in the nineteenth century India. The history of the Bahawalpur state can be divided into two phases during Victorian Era. The rulers of the state showed their respect, loyalty and devotion towards the British. In return, the British facilitated them on every ground. The article also covers many aspects to share like administrative development, high culture, educational and health, railways, religion, printing press and newspapers, municipalities, histories and legislation. A number of actions of the British government were adopted by the Bahawalpur state in order to maintain law and order.

Keywords: Bahawalpur state in British rule, administrative developments in Bahawalpur in nineteenth century India