

# ALBASHIR

A MAGAZINE FOR ATFA



Winter 2016



# Editorial Page

A message to our Dear Atfal

## Assalaamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

By Allah's Grace, the United States has some of the best public schools, libraries, and after school programs in the world. What you must not neglect, however, is your religious knowledge. The Qur'an is the foundation of Islam and its recitation and memorization is best learned at your age. Gradually, you will begin to see deeper messages contained in its verses, even if it doesn't make full sense to you now.

In this Ijtema-themed issue of Al Bashir, I appeal to Atfal to prepare for and excel in our Ijtema'at the same way you prepare for and excel in your academic meets and state exams for school.

Religious knowledge is the key to worldly success because knowledge without good religious values can be misapplied. Wars, world hunger, preventable disease, and pollution are just some examples. Your calling as Ahmadi children is to solve these global challenges. Despite excellent worldly knowledge, these global issues have only gotten worse. The answer which world leaders lack, you have: Ahmadiyyat. You're going to conquer and solve these problems with the guidance of Huzoor<sup>aba</sup>, InshaAllah.

But it starts with Ijtema.

Wasalaam,  
**Bilal Rana**

*Serving as Sadr Majlis  
Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya  
USA*



By the grace of Allah, you are holding the second issue of "Al Bashir," a bi-annual publication of Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA. The purpose of this magazine is to highlight and share the activities of the Majlis from the perspective of our Atfal.

This issue highlights the experience of Atfal who attended the first-ever separate Atfal National Ijtema, held July 13th-17th, 2016, at Baitur Rahman Mosque, Silver Spring, MD. The theme of our Ijtema was "Khilafat" and the entire program was designed to help our Atfal understand the importance of building a strong relationship with Khalifa-e-Waqt. There were many different activities like tarbiyyat programs, competitions, trip to Washington DC, and more that were held for our Atfal.

Dearest Atfal, please remember that our lives, our happiness, our grief, all mean nothing, unless we have a connection with Khilafat and Jamaat. When you will be my age and have children, inshAllah, you will know the importance of it. This is your training ground. Any habit you form now, will stay with you for a long time. Check out the 9 habits we want every Tifl to have in America by visiting the new Atfal website. May Allah allow all of our participants to always stay connected with Jama'at. Ameen.

Wasalaam,  
**Mirza Harris Ahmad**  
*Serving as Mohtamim Atfal  
Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya  
USA*



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## Verses from the Holy Quran

“And turn not thy cheek away from men in pride nor walk in the earth haughtily” Chapter 31, Verse 19

“And the servants of the Gracious God are those who walk on the earth in a dignified manner, and when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace!'“ Chapter 25, Verse 64

# iReligion

## Message from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V<sup>aba</sup>

In a recent news interview, Huzoor<sup>aba</sup>, was asked about the integration of foreigners to a country. In response, Huzoor<sup>aba</sup> said: “In my view integration is to love your country and to be loyal to it. It is to be proud of your nation, to honor it, to work towards its success, to be law abiding and to respect your government. It is not to ask peaceful and law abiding people to forget those beliefs, traditions and customs that they value and which do not harm the peace and law and order of their nation.”

## Hadith of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>

Narrated Talha bin 'Ubaidullah: a man asked the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> about Islam. He was told five daily Prayers are obligatory. He asked if there were any other Prayers. He was told no, but if he wanted to he could offer optional Prayers. He was told fasting for one month was obligatory. He asked were there any other obligatory fasts? He was told, no, but if he wanted to, he could keep optional fasts. He was told about Zakat. The man asked if there was any other kind of Zakat. He was told, no, but giving alms was a meritorious option. The man went away swearing by God that he would neither do any less nor any

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ ۝

وَعِبَادَ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا ۝

more than what he was told. The Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> said if this man spoke the truth he has found success.

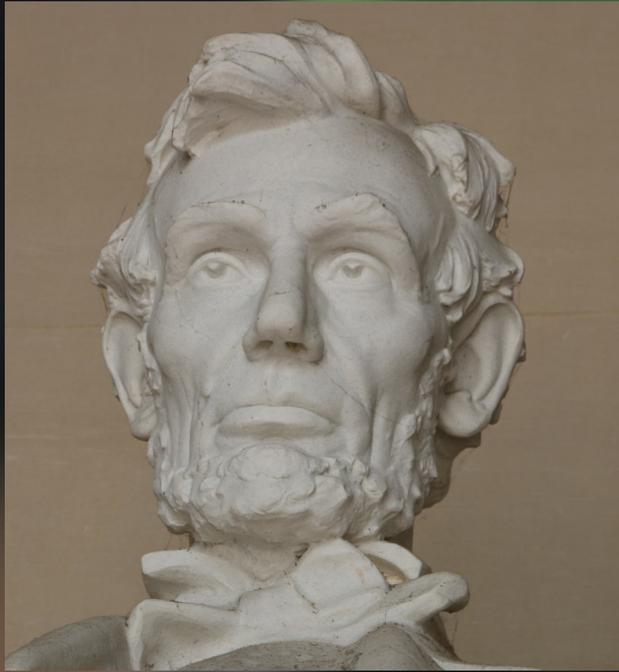
*Sahih al-Bukhari*

## The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said

Be kind and merciful to humanity, for all are His creatures: Do not oppress them with your tongue, or hands, or in any other way. Always work for the good of mankind. Never unduly assert yourselves with pride over others, even those who are placed under you. Never use abusive language for anyone, even though he abuses you. Be humble in spirit, kind and gentle, and forgiving,

sympathetic towards all and wishing them well, so that you should be accepted. There are many who pretend to be kind, gentle and forgiving, but inside they are wolves; there are many on the outside who look pure, but in their hearts they are serpents. You cannot be accepted in the presence of the Lord unless you are pure, both on the outside and inside. *Kashti Nooh*

# The Lincoln Memorial



The highlight of the Rally and Ijtema was the trip to the National Mall in D.C. The beginning of that trip was a visit to the Lincoln Memorial. Atfal were able to explore both the inside and outsides of the monument, culminating in the tremendous wide shot below.



**Bottom, Bottom Right:**

Getting the right shot was crucial, no matter what type of camera you used.

**Right:**

The inscription above the head of Abraham Lincoln.

IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



## Waleed Saeed Connecticut

Spiritually enlightening, yet fun filled. Tiring, yet empowering. You may be wondering, what could I possibly be talking about? I am talking about nothing other than the long awaited National Atfal Ijtema. This past July I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 National Ijtema. I thought it was very memorable and I would love to attend an Ijtema like this again in the near future.

Firstly, I liked the duration of five days for the Ijtema instead of the usual 3 days. The five days gave the Atfal more opportunities to learn and bond with their fellow Atfal. For example, we were able to fit more activities into our daily schedule such as a trip to Washington D.C. I have been to Washington D.C more than a dozen times but for some reason this trip was different. Walking alongside my Atfal friends gave me a wonderful feeling of brotherhood. In addition, I enjoyed the very competitive sports. Even though my team and I did not win in soccer nor in basketball, each game helped our team get stronger and improve for next year.

Looking back I was able to learn a lot from the trip. For instance, during the Washington D.C trip I learned about modern America and its past through the monuments and museums. From the Taleem competitions I learned how to better my recitation of po-



### Top:

The day of the trip to the National Mall started early and cool.

### Middle:

It was hot when the Atfal got back. Luckily for them, snow cones.

ems by listening to the beautiful voices of the other competitors. I could not believe how much I learned from just simply listening to other Atfals' speeches; every single speech was filled with new and different information. The jeopardy game tested my knowledge of the life of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>, a book that I read throughout my summer break. Thanks to the game, I was able to

apply my reading to real life and help my team come out victorious.

Overall, the 2016 National Ijtema was fantastic. From the fun activities all the way to the Taleem competitions. To Atfal that did not have a chance to attend this year's Ijtema and rally, I recommend trying to attend this next year. The experience is unforgettable.

- **Waleed Saeed**, Connecticut

**Left:**

A tifi takes the stand during the awards ceremony

## Numan Saeed Connecticut

Every year I wait for the valuable time my fellow Atfal from all over America and I meet for a spiritually enhancing and fun filled weekend. However, this year, this fantastic time lasted for almost five whole days. In addition, for the first time, our Ijtema was held separate from the Khuddam. That meant that the entire program was designed for us. Because of these beneficial changes, we were able to participate in more activities geared towards us over an ample amount of time.

Some of the main and most exciting parts of the National Ijtema were the Taleem competitions. After reciting verses of the Holy Quran for the Tilawat competition, I got a chance to listen to all of the melodious voices of the other regional competitors. Their dedication to win motivated me to improve my own recitation of the Quran and practice even more for the next Ijtema.

Throughout the Ijtema, we also took part in intense sports competitions. The extreme competitiveness compelled me to try my best to win the medal for my team. Playing alongside my fellow Atfal, I remember feeling such strong brotherhood.

Every morning, we as students are usually woken up by our noisy

alarm clocks, but for five whole days, we woke up to the soothing sound of adhan. Instead of sleeping, we stood side by side and prayed to Allah. This, was most definitely my favorite part of the Ijtema.

Some of the fun activities that we did included jeopardy. The jeopardy that we played was very informative, yet fun and exciting because it covered the life of the Holy Prophet whose life sets an example for us all and I read the book so it was a great recap of it.

On Thursday, we went on a trip to the Lincoln Memorial, The Washington Monument, and the Museum. Each attraction possessed an alluring beauty of its own. While touring around Washington D.C with my friends and helpful chaperones, in our Atfal shirts, I truly felt proud to be representing the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community In D.C.

I was very happy with this event's success and am looking forward to another event like this one. We truly appreciate everybody that helped organize this Ijtema.

I think that the Atfal that didn't go missed out on a great learning experience. I was lucky enough to go to and represent my Majlis. I recommend that if you didn't go to this Ijtema you should definitely go next year.

- **Numan Saeed**, *Connecticut*

**Middle:**

A tifi dons some sweet shades on the trip to the National Mall.

**Bottom:**

Soccer was one of the team sports competitions.

## Zohaib Lughmani

### Seattle

I was lucky enough to spend part of my summer at the first National Ijtema for Atfal ever, held at Bait-ur-Rehman mosque. It was the most fun Ijtema I have ever been to! On the first day we all went to a great hall and sat down. All the Atfal and parents were introduced to speeches, Tilawat, and poems. They then told us the rules of the mosque. We went downstairs and competed in the first round of the competitions. After that, we went to the basement and ate dinner.

The next day we all had to wake up at 3:00 AM for Fajr and to get ready to go to Washington D.C! Afterwards the Khuddam gave us shirts that were green. They were all the same size so it fit fine on me, but for my cousin Ismael it was knee-length (he is only 7). They handed us Atfal logo knapsacks with an apple, banana, two bags of chips, and a water bottle. We got on school busses that weren't air conditioned. It was a hot and stuffy ride. We got off at Lincoln Memorial and saw the huge statue of Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg address carved into a wall. Then we walked almost an hour on the hottest day of the week - it was 104 degrees! On our way to the Smithsonian Museum of American History we passed by the Washington monument. We toured the museum with our chaperones and my uncle bought us ice cream. It felt special to have the Khuddam deliver chicken wraps and drinks to



us for lunch. Everyone fell asleep on the way back to masjid. We had a delicious BBQ with mashed potatoes and sno-cones.

My grandfather took me to Juma. That evening we had the second round of competitions. I competed in this round too. There were some really good poems and speeches. We also had laser tag and a dunk tank. I played soccer and we had a water balloon fight. I didn't get hit until the very end. The Khadim who was organizing the water balloon fight saw I wasn't wet yet so he dunked me with the bucket of water!

Saturday was the final day for the Ijtema. I received a first place trophy in my age group for Memorization of the Holy Quran. I hope that next year I go to the National Ijtema and that there are more Seattle Atfal there!

**-Zohaib Lughmani, Seattle**

#### Above:

Zohaib (middle) poses with his cousin Ismael (left) and uncle.

## Hassan Rashid

### Virginia

I was so excited for the Ijtema because I wanted to make new friends. Before the Ijtema, I memorized 3 chapters of the Holy Quran, a speech and also the Adhan. The topic of my speech was respecting elders and being kind to children. I liked doing the speech because I felt like I was my father.

My friend Momin came from California to attend Ijtema. He stayed with me and we played the dunk tank game. We raced too and it was a little bit fun. I another friend, Rehan.

Next year, I want to play a real basketball game at the Ijtema.

**-Hassan Rashid, Virginia**

## Mikhail Ireland

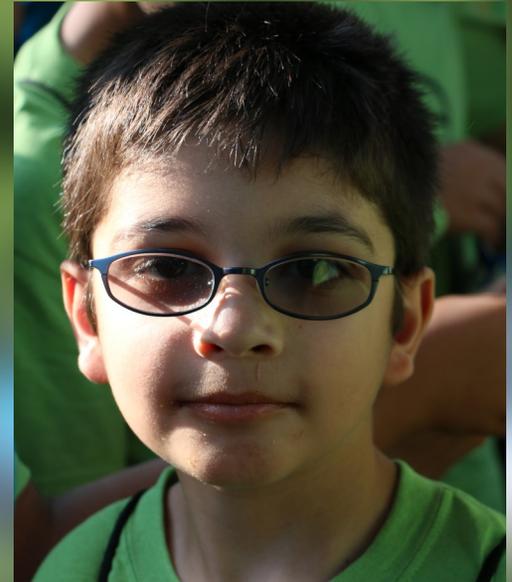
### Potomac

I had a pleasure of attending the Atfal Ijtema and Rally this year. I stayed overnight starting on Tuesday at Bait-ur Rehman Mosque and met many Atfal from various states. Each day more Atfal were arriving. We had many competitions about Salat, prayers and the Quran too. I couldn't participate in all as I had to leave on Thursday night and come back on Saturday morning. There were many games and sports too.

I wrote an essay for which I got first place. I didn't win any medals for that, but I was so happy to win a Drone instead! I think everyone who attends the Ijtema should get a souvenir medal for attending and for great behavior. These competitions make me want to learn and do better every time.

Each day at the Mosque, we had interesting food for daily meals. This may sound funny, but the breakfast was my favorite meal as they had a variety of delicious cereals. We did our five Salat on time together, so it was nice to have an opportunity to do Namaz in congregation.

My favorite part was visiting the National Mall and the American History Museum. We looked at many historic things such as old steam engines, cars and other vehicles. I love learning about trains and playing with them, so this was a great experience for me. We brought chicken wraps to eat which were fresh and warm. Need-



less to say, we had a tasty lunch. We had snacks at the Mosque when we got back. It was nice to see some of my old friends who came to this Ijtema/Rally. I might not have seen them this year if it wasn't for the Ijtema.

At the beginning I was not sure if I would like to stay at the Mosque for so long, but it turned out just fine. Mostly everyone got along.

I hope we will have more fun trips to D.C. like this one and get a chance to learn more about our history and government. There is so much to explore at Washington D.C. I hope that next time we get to visit the Air and Space Museum, visit the Capital, the monument, or even the White House. There are many historic buildings that we can take a tour of and learn about our Nation's history in the process.

Atfal who couldn't come to the Ijtema this year, please come next time and enjoy the sports, religious competitions, and trips to various locations. There is something fun for everyone to do. I hope to see

#### **Above:**

Mikhail at two different moments: during the Ijtema session, and during the trip to the National Mall.

#### **Below:**

The Ericsson Memorial at the National Mall, near the Lincoln Memorial.



you next time! I'm looking forward to next year's rally and Ijtema. Until then, Assalamo Alikum!

**-Mikhail Ireland, Potomac**



## Rehan Khan *Los Angeles East*

I recently attended the Atfal National Ijtema with my dad in Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland. This was my third Ijtema, Alhamdulillah.

Overall, it was the most fun one I've been to because I competed in many competitions such as recitation and memorization of the Qur'an. I also enjoyed great food such as hot dogs and a delicious banquet on Saturday night. The event I liked the most was the spelling bee. My winning word in it was slaughter. I hope that in the future, they allow older kids in Qamar and Badr to participate in the spelling bee as well. Then I can participate again, Insha'Allah.

There was one very unusual incident that occurred at the Ijtema. We were about to leave at 3:00 AM in the morning on Sunday for

### **Top Left:**

Rehan Khan receiving a trophy.

### **Top:**

The trophies and medals.

### **Middle:**

Atfal resting at the Smithsonian Museum of National History.

### **Right:**

The Washington Monument.

the airport. Then my dad realized that he lost his keys. I stood next to the car and did the prayer for when you lose something. Then, we went in the mosque and looked for the keys where we slept. Suddenly, I saw the keys in a corner of a wall. Alhamdulillah, we could go home!

I am glad I could attend this Ijtema. When my younger brother Imran is old enough, we will take him to the Ijtema as well, Insha'Allah.

**-Rehan Mahmood Khan,**  
*Los Angeles East*

## Rayyan Mehmud *Fitchburg*

My favorite moment of the Ijtema was when I won the gold medal for basketball because I made four three pointers and a layup. I also loved the food there and all the award ceremonies and everything else we had. Overall, I thought it was awesome. The drive to the Ijtema was long, but it was worth it and I cant wait until the next one.

**-Rayyan Mehmud,** *Fitchburg*

## Haashem Malik Chicago West

One of my favorite moments at the Atfal Rally and Ijtema was when my team won the soccer tournament. I had never won a sports gold medal at a National Ijtema before. I was also excited to win 3rd prize in Recitation of the Holy Quran and 1st prize in the Speech. These were my first Taleem awards at a National Ijtema and I'm so happy I made my parents proud.

I also enjoyed the barbecue, especially the chicken and the hot dogs. The last day of the Ijtema was awesome because they had a special dinner for all of the Atfal.

On one of the last days we toured Washington D.C. They gave us bags of chips and water, and we got to enjoy the beautiful sight of Washington D.C at the National Mall. It was so fun.

Going to the Ijtema was the best thing ever and surely I will go to the Atfal National Ijtema next year. I fully encourage kids who have not gone to the Ijtema to go. There are so many experiences and you have so much fun.

**-Haashem Malik, Chicago West**



### **Above:**

The food at the Ijtema was a main attraction, whether dinner or dessert.

### **Below:**

Security duty doesn't have to be boring, as these volunteers showed.

## Ammaar Malik Chicago West

My favorite moment from the Atfal Rally and Ijtema was hanging out with my friends and meeting new people. Visiting Washington D.C and the Smithsonian was very interesting. There were also other activities set up for us at the park and the masjid. The best part was when we won the Soccer Tournament. Overall, it was a good experience and I hope to come back next year, InshAllah.

**-Ammaar Malik, Chicago West**



# Like Father, Like Son

A major theme of this Rally and Ijtema was the bond between Father and Son. Whether dads were there to drop off their sons, or stayed all 5 days with them, their impact on the Atfal can not be overstated.

Fathers at the Rally and Ijtema experienced it just like their sons. They woke up early to pray with them. They sat down and ate the same meals as them. They tagged along on the trip to Washington D.C.

To all the fathers who made this event possible, JazakAllah!

**Middle Left:**

Zeeshan Tariq with father Tariq Bhatti.

**Middle Right:**

Eakaun Ahmed Malik with father Armaghan Malik.

**Bottom Left:**

Sulayman Khiree Hasan with father Sharheed El-Amin Hasan

**Bottom Right:**

Danial Hazeem with father Hazeem Pudhiapura.



**Middle:**

Fayzaan Virk and father Zeeshan Virk, who was kind enough to provide his thoughts on the Rally and Ijtema, presented in the bottom right text box.

**Bottom:**

While not exactly a Father and Son situation, we had to find a place to thank all the hard work the Ziafat team did in putting together meal after meal for the Ijtema. The delicious tastes of the Ijtema helped make it truly memorable. JazakAllah!

## Ramih Virk Milwaukee

My favorite part of the Ijtema was traveling to Maryland in the van since I got to play on my iPad. I also liked sleeping playing laser tag and doing the Taleem competitions since I won an award. I can't wait to go again next year!

- **Ramih Virk**, Milwaukee

## Fayzaan Virk Milwaukee

My favorite parts of the Atfal Ijtema & Rally were the s'mores and campfire. It was fun hanging out with friends making new ones. I learned that while waiting for congregational prayers to begin, you should sit quietly and recite Du-rod to yourself. I want to go again next year and hope it's in Chicago so we don't have to drive so long.

- **Fayzaan Virk**, Milwaukee



## Zeeshan Virk Milwaukee

My favorite part of the Atfal Ijtema & Rally was the field trip to Washington, particularly the Lincoln Memorial. I admire President Lincoln for leading the country during the Civil War and for abolishing slavery.

The food was excellent especially the barbecue and the ice cream. I was proud of both my sons for earning awards in the educational competitions. It was fun catching up with old friends and making new ones too.

Although it was several days long, I liked that this event was separated from the Khuddam in order to really focus on their needs and tailor events to their liking, like the dunk tank, s'mores and laser tag.

- **Zeeshan Virk**, Father from Milwaukee

## Munassar Alam North Jersey

The 2016 Atfal Ijtema was surely one to remember. This Ijtema was the first I've been to which was held for five days and at a mosque. Inevitably, this was a great and very fun Ijtema and I remember all the experiences that I had there, from the sports and Taleem competitions to the wonderful food and the trip to Washington DC.

Almost everything about the Ijtema was fun, but what stood out most was the trip to Washington DC. Despite the extremely hot weather, the tour of the National Mall was still very exciting, mainly because it was my first visit. Afterwards we went into the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, which was like the icing on the cake for me.

Besides the DC trip, the entire Ijtema which happened at the masjid was run beautifully. Despite the lack of facilities for sports and activities, they still made good use of what they had. For instance, for basketball they took us to a nearby park, where we enjoyed the sports that they had arranged for us. Also, the food that they made for us was wonderful, including tacos, sandwiches, and burritos. On the last day, they held a banquet for us, which I found very nice. In addition, the Q&A session that they held was a very smart idea in which my fellow Atfal and I asked questions regarding Islam that we didn't feel comfortable asking anywhere else.



### Above:

Scenes from the Ijtema and Rally.

This Ijtema was truly a success. Everything was perfectly planned, from the food and competitions to the DC trip and activities. These magnificent five days have taught me many things that I will remember for my entire life. I will surely remember those five days as a very fun and special Ijtema.

- **Munassar Alam**, North Jersey

## Zeeshan Bhatti Houston North

This year, I was expecting the Ijtema to be like previous ones. I was surprised by the new and exciting things. I liked the food, such as the naan and chicken, and I made new friends. I also liked the opening ceremony and really enjoyed the speeches. I hope and pray that future Ijtema's are just as good.

- **Zeeshan Bhatti**, Houston North

**Above:**

A Tifl enjoys the burrito lunch that was delivered to those on the National Mall tour.

**Top Right:**

Atfal pay attention to a session in the mosque.



## Azish Malik

### Silver Spring

This year's national Ijtema was a new experience for me. This was the first Ijtema only for Atfal and the focus was on us. The Taleem competitions were good but they took a little too long.

The sports competitions were good as we got to go play basketball on a real court, but for soccer we only had cones instead of real goals. The Ijtema discipline team was a bit strict and harsh but I understand that it is difficult to control hundreds of kids in a small space.

The food was good especially on the last day where we had a real banquet and were served by the Khuddam.

This was my last year as a Tifl and I'm glad I got to partake in something different and to be a part of the National Atfal Ijtema 2016.

- **Azish Malik**, *Silver Spring*

## Abdulkhaleem Nasir

### Houston South

This Ijtema, I learned that all of us can be brothers no matter where we're from and even if there are disagreements we can make it up. I didn't expect the food to be really good, but it turned out to be excellent. And the speeches were much better than I expected. I liked Faheem Younus Sahib's Speech and I also liked Sadr Sahib's Skype call when he told us about his first Ijtema.

I am looking forward to events like this in the future. And I would like to go explore like the Khuddam did at Yosemite. Or perhaps to a place like Madison Square Garden in New York City.

I would recommend to the Atfal that weren't able to come to the Ijtema that it's a great chance to talk to Atfal from other parts of the country, and to come together and pray as one brotherhood.

- **Abdulkhaleem Nasir**, *Houston South*

## Danish Malik

### Silver Spring

The Atfal Ijtema was a decent experience for me. I enjoyed visiting DC, but it was very hot that day. The barbecues and food were good, but the Taleem competitions were too long. Somethings I enjoyed were the sports and meeting my friends. The first Atfal Ijtema was good and I hope that it continues to improve.

- **Danish Malik**, *Silver Spring*



**Top Left:**

Staying hydrated was essential during the trip to the National Mall.

**Bottom Right:**

Fayzaan and Ramih Virk and Aneeq Ahmad pose in front of the inscription of President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address inside of the Lincoln Memorial.



## Daud Ahmed Khan

### Houston North

As you all know, the Ijtema can bring out the competitive nature in every Tifl. But it also makes us compete in order to become closer to Allah. I will now tell you about my experience at this year's Ijtema.

When I first heard that I qualified for the National Ijtema, I was like, "Oh my god! I can't believe it, I'm going to the National level!" But then I realized I had to study everyday in order to do well, and so I prepared for it everyday until there were only 2 days left until my flight to D.C. I rushed to pack everything in one day. Finally, I said my farewells and left home.

Before I went to the airport I came to the masjid to meet up with my friends Hakeem, Talha, Abdur-Raheem, Ragheeb, and Zeeshan. We were joined by 2 chaperones, Sakib and Tariq Bhai. We left for the airport. I got my bags and went in. We got our boarding passes and passed through security, heading to our gate C-12 and getting snacks for the trip.

Our plane was delayed for a bit but we finally got on. About 15 minutes later, the plane took off. The plane had WiFi so if I got bored I would either talk to Zeeshan or play games on my phone. In the middle of the flight we had a little bit of turbulence, but it ended quickly and I read Zuhr prayer and before I knew it we were preparing for landing. I often get scared on landing during

flights because I look out the window and since we're so close to the ground, I feel like we're going to crash. So I say Allahu Akbar, Subhana Rabbi al Azeem and Subhana Rabbi al Ala. But we always land perfectly, and this time was no different.

After we got out of the airport we went to Baitur Rahman Mosque where we got sleeping bags and set up our places. I chose a corner so I wouldn't be squished as much. For lunch, we had salan with naan and rice! All that eating got us really tired and so we laid down and played and texted on our phones. A few minutes later a man told us that we had to go to the prayer hall and do salat. After prayers, we had an assembly and then we got some free time.

The next day, I woke up at 5:00 AM and read Fajr salat. Then, I went back to sleep for a couple of hours. When we woke up, there were only a few people there. Suddenly, I realized what was going on and said, "GUYS, WE'RE LATE FOR BREAKFAST!" We all hurried down and ate. After that, we played games and had a lot of fun. But, an hour later it was time for Zuhr so we took off and read salat. Once that was done, we had lunch. We then played outside again but then it was time for Asr so, we hurried back to read salat. This time some of us stayed inside and hung out. We spent a lot of time playing and then were told that we had to have another assembly so we did that and read Maghrib. Everybody went to their sleeping bags and hung

out again. Isha salat was next, and then we went to sleep.

The next day was Day 2. I won't say much because it will be too overwhelming. I felt confident and finally had a chance to compete. Everybody thought I did super well, but they started copying me to beat me. That was pretty much all what happened here so I guess I'm done.

The third day was the most fun day EVER! We had so much fun that day. First we had snow cones, then we had a slip 'n slide where one person fell on rocks. Ouch! After that we dried up and went to this place where we played a bunch of sports, but I mostly played soccer and our team won! After all that we had the boring learning part for the day and soon enough we went to bed.

Day 4, we went to the Capitol Hill and went to the Smithsonian Museum and had a picnic at a park. It was lots of fun. Then, at night we had a spelling bee and for the Grand Finale they distributed awards. I got 1st in Adhaan, Poem and Memorization of Prayers.

Finally, the last day was upon us and it was time to go home. I was all packed up and ready to go, and we left for the airport. We did the same thing and went to the gate, got on board and went home. Home sweet Home.

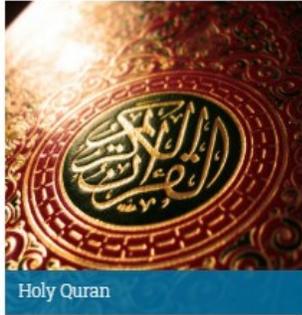
Over this long event, I learned that not only does the Ijtema bring the competition out of everyone, it can also bring people together.

- **Daud Khan**, *Houston North*

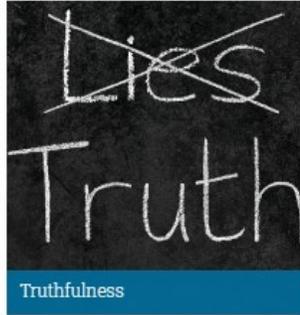
# What's New?



Salat



Holy Quran



Truthfulness



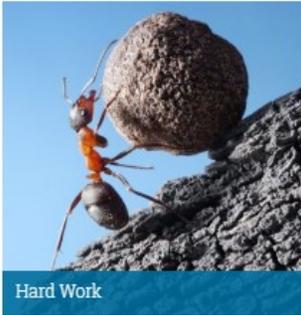
Friday Sermon



Letter to Hazur



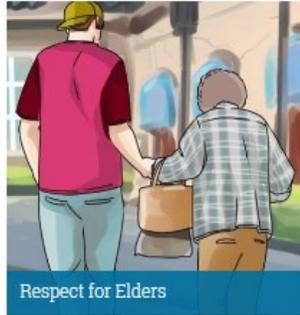
Watch MTA



Hard Work



Chanda



Respect for Elders

## The Nine Habits Of An Ideal Tifl

What are the Nine Habits of an Ideal Tifl? The ideal Tifl performs five daily Salat on time, reads the Holy Quran regularly, always tells the Truth, listens attentively to the Friday Sermon, writes letters to Huzur, watches MTA, always works hard, pays his Chanda on time, and respects his elders.

While this may seem like a lot to do, it's easy when you remember the blessings you will receive by establishing these nine habits. After all, many of these habits are part of your Atfal Pledge.

Want to learn more about these nine habits? Head on over to [www.atfalusa.org/tarbiyyat](http://www.atfalusa.org/tarbiyyat) to find out how to make these a part of your life.

A project of Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA

## The Guiding Light

### Our Journey To Ahmadiyyat

What is your story of Ahmadiyyat? Who was the first person in your family to take Bai'at?

**Share your story in this new book!**

For more information, or to submit your story visit: [www.atfalusa.org/journey-to-ahmadiyyat](http://www.atfalusa.org/journey-to-ahmadiyyat)  
email: [journeytoahmadiyyat@atfalusa.org](mailto:journeytoahmadiyyat@atfalusa.org)

## The Guiding Light

This new book examines the spread of Ahmadiyyat through a familial scope. When were the roots of Ahmadiyyat planted in your family? Who was the first person in your lineage to take Bai'at? Tell these stories in "The Guiding Light: Our Journey To Ahmadiyyat." Visit the Atfal website for more information.

# SCIENCE CORNER

Every issue we highlight an interesting science topic here in the Science Corner.

This issue, we talk about a revolutionary new method of treating bone injuries.

## 3D Printed Bones

Science magazine reports that researchers at Northwest University have found a way to use a 3-D printer to create a “hyperelastic bone” that will help surgeons treat bone injuries that will be cheaper and allow for more customization for patients than current techniques used to treat bone injuries.

The hyperelastic bone is created using a mineral found in our bones and teeth called hydroxyapatite and a polymer called polycaprolactone. A polymer is a “a chemical compound that is made of small molecules that are arranged in a simple repeating structure to form a larger molecule.” These two materials are combined with a solvent and then mixed into an ink that is used by the 3-D printer. The printer will create bone structures layer

### Right:

A 3-D printed hyper-elastic bone of the human skull. The interior of the skull is hollow. (Credit: Adam E. Jakus, PhD).



by layer into the exact shapes and size needed.

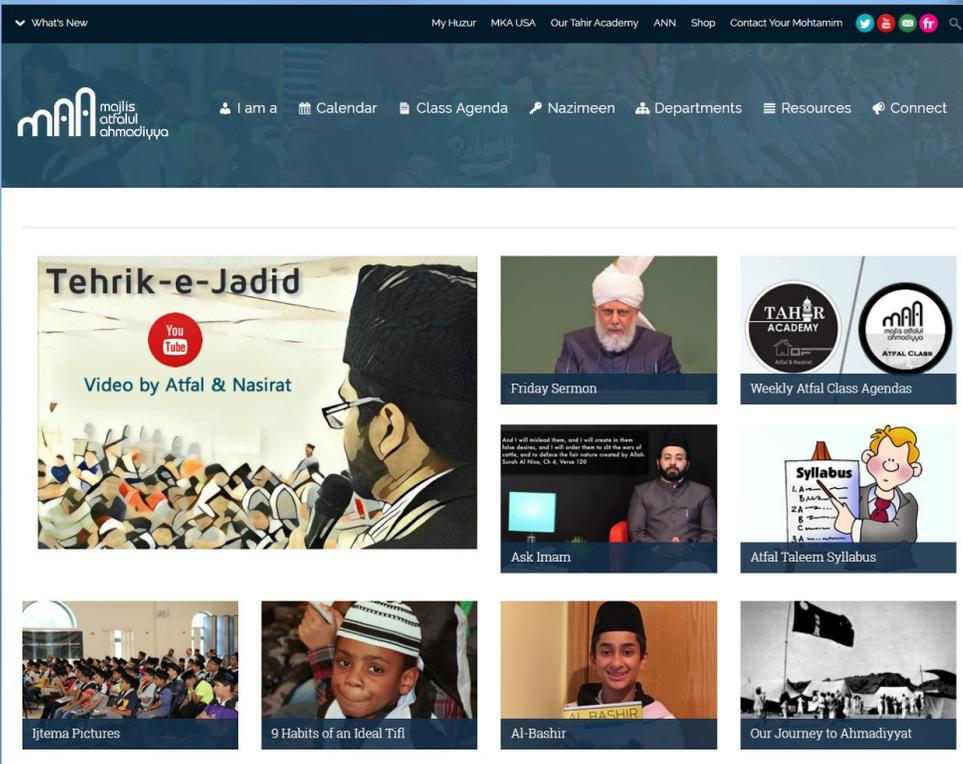
Researchers tested the hyperelastic bone to fuse the broken vertebrae of rats and to treat the damaged skull of a monkey. Both surgeries were successful and researchers found that, after installing the hyperelastic bone, new blood vessels and calcified bone started to form a few weeks after the surgery. There were also no infections or complications suffered by the animals that received the implants. The researchers also discovered that the hyperelastic bone fused the bones more efficiently than current techniques.

Researchers noted that

the material used and the ink are relatively cheap, and that the 3-D printing could be completed in less than five hours. This would allow doctors to diagnose a patient’s injury with an X-ray and print out a hyperelastic bone to the exact specifications needed before a surgery in a relatively short amount of time.

The hyperelastic bone is still long way off from being used in humans. It must be tested many more times before it can be approved for human testing. If the testing is successful; however, these 3-D printed bones could be the next big advancement in medical technology in treating bone injuries.

# The Atfal Website - Redesigned



Our website was redesigned with everyone in mind. Look below for a page tailored specifically for you.

**Are you a...**

**Tifl?**

[www.atfalusa.org/tifl](http://www.atfalusa.org/tifl)

**Mother?**

[www.atfalusa.org/mother](http://www.atfalusa.org/mother)

**Father?**

[www.atfalusa.org/father](http://www.atfalusa.org/father)

**Brother?**

[www.atfalusa.org/khadim](http://www.atfalusa.org/khadim)

**Nazim Atfal?**

[www.atfalusa.org/nazimeen-center](http://www.atfalusa.org/nazimeen-center)

Have you visited our website recently? The entire site has been redesigned to be easier, and more fun, to use.

Information for Atfal, Parents, and Nazimeen is organized and easy to find. The National Atfal Calendar and Shop are there and updated regularly. Check out the class syllabi, newest videos, quick links, and more!

While you're there, drop by the Ishaat (Publications) Department and give the Al Bashir page a visit! Information on how to submit to future issues and links to previous issues are there. Do you have any feedback for us? Visit the page to find out how to let us know what you think.

## Visit us at [www.atfalusa.org](http://www.atfalusa.org)



Follow us at @USAAtfal

**Al Bashir is a publication of Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya**

Al Bashir translates to "the bearer of good news." With that in mind, we pray that this magazine brings good news and happiness to all who read it.

Ameen.

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