My Dear Atfal, Asalam-o-Alaikum,

This issue is dedicated as a look back at our Atfal London Trip. However, when we examine the bond we sought to forge with Huzoor, it's really a look forward to things to come, i.e. a lifelong attachment to Khilafat. Therefore, I make a small ask of you in continuing this journey. **Going forward every Tifl should write to Huzoor every month, even if it's a one sentence letter.** In this age there is no true spiritual progress without the blessings of Khilafat.

Wasalaam

Bilal Rana

Sadr MKA USA
Message from Mohtamim Atfal

My Dear Atfal, Assalaamo Alaikum,

With the grace of Almighty Allah Atfal of the United States had a historic opportunity to accompany our Khuddam brothers on a first-ever Atfal trip to the United Kingdom to meet Hadrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) from May 5-8, 2017. The Friday Sermon and the nearly 90 minute Mulaqat with Huzoor (aba) on Sunday were the highlights of the trip which included many other fun and educational activities.

When we initially started to plan this trip we were concerned about the logistics of flying Atfal to the UK some of whom were as young as seven years old and the 80 Atfal and a few parents came from all parts of the country. Because the Atfal were so geographically distributed we couldn’t even hold formal classes, apart from a couple of conference calls, to prepare them for the trip and Mulaqat with Huzoor (aba). Without formal preparation, we were not sure whether Atfal would be able to maximize the opportunity to interact with Huzoor (aba) during the Mulaqat. But Allah’s grace and mercy removed all logistical challenges and Mulaqat with Huzoor (aba) became a remarkably blessed and inspiring session even for the adults present in the room.

Huzoor (aba) directly interacted with Atfal by first asking them questions about their experiences during the trip while laughing and making jokes with Atfal on various accounts. This got almost every Tiff raising his hand and contributing to the discussion. This later evolved into Atfal asking questions to Huzoor (aba) on a variety of topics including science, society, banking system, and Huzoor’s (aba) life experiences. The atmosphere in the room was unique and beyond expression. Atfal were glowing and fully engaged, very different from any other meeting.

Instead of going into too many details, I will let you read about the remarkable experiences from your Atfal brothers themselves in this issue of Al Bashir Magazine but we are extremely grateful to Huzoor (aba) for giving us this blessed opportunity and also thankful to the UK Khuddam and Atfal Teams that were critical to making this a successful trip for our Atfal, Khuddam, and parents.

May Allah enable us all, and especially the Atfal who traveled to build a strong and thriving bond with Khilafat.

Wasalam,
Intisar Malhi

EDITING TEAM

Special Thanks To
Naveed Khan
Copy Editor
Usama Chaudhry
Editor, The Tiff Post
Asaf Mirza
Publisher

Safeer Bhatti
Editor In Chief
Sarmad Chaudhry
Managing Editor
Usama Malik
Designer, Associate Editor
“Prophethood shall remain among you as long as God wills. Then Khilafat on the pattern of Prophethood will commence and remain as long as He wills. A corrupt monarchy shall then follow and it shall remain as long as God wills. There shall then be a tyrannical despotism which shall remain as long as God wills. Then once again Khilafat will emerge on the precept of Prophethood.”

(Masnad-Ahmad, Mishkat, Chapter Al-Anzar Wal Tahzir)

Allah had promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then who so is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.

(Surah Al-Nur, Verse 56)
“A Khalifa has the promise of divine support so long as it remains firmly based on the precept of prophethood – that is, the principles and prototypes exemplified by prophets. He is bound by the ordinances of divine law. He decides questions of policy after consultation with the chosen representatives of the people. The concept of khilafat is thus imbued with both secular and religious characteristics.”

Hazrat Khalifatul Masihaba

“Wisdom from the Promised Messiahas & Huzuraba

“The method of establishing perfect spiritual relationship with God that the Holy Quran teaches us is Islam, meaning devoting one’s whole life to the cause of God and being occupied with the supplications which we have been taught in Surah Fatiha. This is the essence of Islam. Complete surrender to God and the supplication taught in Surah Fatiha are the only methods of meeting God and drinking the water of true salvation.”

The Promised Messiahas
LONDON 2017
#AtfalVisitTheKhalifa
A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Ayyan Ilyas Ahmad | Chicago NW

In May of 2017, many Khuddam and Atfal of the USA went to London, England to visit Huzuraba. I was one of the fortunate ones who was able to go, and I was very excited. The adventure started when we arrived at Baitul Futuh on Friday, a few hours before Huzur’saba Friday sermon. When we entered the Tahir Hall, where we’d be staying, I was amazed to see the arrangements that were made for all of us! There was an individual mattress and pillow and welcome packet for every single person. There was also a small room next to the hall with snacks and juice if we ever needed them, and all other necessities were provided. My heart filled with gratitude from the start.

When I stepped outside of Tahir Hall, I saw Baitul Futuh for the first time. The mosque was very grand it was a completely different experience to see it in person rather than just seeing it on MTA. The mosque looked stunning, both inside and out. We assembled inside for the Friday Sermon and were given the honor of sitting in the front rows. Knowing that Huzuraba would be there in front of us in person made me realize how fortunate I was and what a precious opportunity Allah has blessed me with. This made me want to push closer to the front to sit even nearer to Huzuraba. I was transfixed when Huzuraba walked into the hall for the sermon. The room seemed to light up, and I almost couldn’t believe that I was sitting so close to Huzuraba and listening to his Friday Sermon alongside my American Atfal and Khuddam brothers. After the sermon, Huzuraba lead Zuhr salat, and we spent those invaluable moments praying behind our beloved Khalifa. Afterwards, when Huzuraba and most others had left, we gathered to take a group photo in the hall.

After Jumma, we had lunch with Amir Sahib UK. Being able to meet many of the officeholders of the Jamaat was a very exciting experience. Later, we got in shuttles that took us to Makhzan-e Tasaweer. Here, pictures recording the history of the Jamaat were on display. I was completely blown away by the amount of pictures that covered the walls, and how much of the history of Ahmadiyyat I could see just by walking through the hallway. It made me feel much closer to Ahmadiyyat, and I was proud to be part of a community with such a rich history. After a short break we had dinner. The dinner was very delicious and once again everybody was very hospitable.

The next day, the Atfal traveled to the Fazl mosque for Fajr prayer. It was my first time seeing the mosque, and it was faith inspiring to see that it was completely surrounded with the homes of Ahmadies. The mosque was small, but it was still grand and was very beautiful. Near it was a bookstore and an additional hall where more people could say prayers. Next to the hall was Huzur’saba office, and I was excited to know that he was so close to me when I was there. People rushed to be the first ones inside the mosque and pray directly behind Huzuraba. Alhumdulillah, I was one of those able to pray behind Huzuraba. When he came into the room, not one person showed tiredness or exhaustion, but everyone became suddenly attentive. It felt like everyone had received a sudden jolt of energy. It was even more amazing to see that Huzuraba, bodyguards that stood with him all day did not seem at all tired at any point, but constantly remained ready to protect him.
Later, the Atfal went to three different places: Hadeeqatul Mahdi, Jamia Ahmadiyya UK, and Islamabad. Visiting Hadeeqatul Mahdi was very interesting, especially being able to realize how these same open fields and farmland are transformed into the Jalsa Gah every year. The visit to Jamia Ahmadiyya was very faith inspiring and it was humbling to see how people have dedicated their lives to studying and preaching Ahmadiyyat. At Islamabad, we visited and prayed at the grave of Hazrat Khalfatul Masih IVra.

Afterward, we went for horse riding. Not only did the Atfal get to ride horses, but we got to do archery as well. Everyone had so much fun. May Allah bless our hosts, the hospitality they showed incredible. Following this, we offered Asr salat at Fazi Mosque behind Huzuraba once again. Then we had dinner with many dignitaries of the Jamaat. It was very special that the Sadr Khuddam Ahmadiyya UK, Ameer UK, and Imam of Fazi mosque all took a break from their busy schedules to have dinner with us. Being in company of all of them was a blessing in itself.

The next day, the moment all of the Atfal were waiting for had come: the meeting and Q&A session with Huzuraba. I had been anticipating this moment the entire trip. I could not sleep all night, thinking that I will be meeting Huzuraba in person and may have an opportunity to have a direct conversation with him! We started off preparing for the meeting by rehearsing our introductions and questions to ask Huzuraba. After Zuhr we made quickly set up the area where we would take photos with Huzuraba. Finally, all the preparations were complete and we waited for Huzuraba to walk in. When he did, everyone stood up and said Salaam, and Huzuraba took his seat and told us to sit as well. Once again it is hard for me to describe the feelings that I felt being in presence of Huzuraba. He asked if we were enjoying the trip, and some Atfal responded with their favorite parts of the trip.

“IT IS HARD FOR ME TO DESCRIBE THE FEELINGS THAT I FELT BEING IN PRESENCE OF HUZURABA.”

Alhumduillah, I was blessed with the opportunity to ask Huzuraba a question. I was very nervous, but at the same time very excited. I asked Huzuraba that, considering teenage years are very important educationally as well as spiritually, what prayers are best for Atfal for dealing with the pressures we face daily from society? Huzuraba kindly responded that one should say Istighfar (asking Allah for forgiveness), recite the prayer for knowledge, and, most importantly, perform the five daily prayers. Afterwards, we all got to shake Huzur’saba hands and take photos with him. Being able to meet Huzuraba, and being able to spend time asking him questions was an unforgettable and life changing experience. It was the highlight of the trip and I wished we could have talked with Huzuraba forever. I did not want to leave, and wished I could stay for longer. I pray that we will be blessed with this opportunity to visit Huzuraba again. Ameen.
AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER.

Haris Chaudhry | Laurel

This year I had the chance to travel to the UK as part of the MKA USA Trip to London. I was pretty nervous and excited about the opportunity to meet Huzur®. After arriving in London, it was clearly visible that both the US organizers and the UK Jamaat had worked hard to make the trip possible. Everything was arranged for us and we had no difficulties of any kind. We were able to experience a live Friday Sermon right inside Baitul Futuh. We also got to see many of the achievements of the Jamaat under the hand of Khilafat. Seeing all these sights and great establishments made me very grateful to Allah for giving us the blessed institution of Khilafat which helped our Jamaat grow far and wide. But the most interesting part of the trip was the mulaqaat with Huzur®. All of us had been very anxious as this was the keystone part of the trip. As soon as Huzur® arrived, he made the environment very calm and relaxed. We were able to ask any questions we had regarding Islam and Ahmadiyyat. The mulaqaat was a great success and an experience like no other. The whole trip created a sense of brotherhood and unity amongst all of us and not many other experiences can recreate the strong feelings of faith that this trip had done. I am very thankful to the US organizers and UK Jamaat for supporting this whole trip.

THE BEAUTY OF LONDON

Taha Ahmad | Willingboro

My experience praying in Fazl Mosque was inspiring and beautiful. Praying behind Huzoor® felt like a blessing from Allah. Even after prayers, walking around outside and having a chat with friends felt so lively. The Fazl Mosque to me is a historical landmark for Ahmadi Muslims. Also, at night, the mosque would have this green ambient lighting around it, which made it even more beautiful than it already was. Adding to the beauty, the flowers were blooming even on the windiest of days. Baitul Futuh Mosque was also so beautiful. When I offered Jumma there, I glanced around and saw how big and beautiful it was. I expect Baitul Futuh to be even more beautiful when its extension is fully built. The most memorable part of this trip was the Mulaqaat with Huzur®. I felt mesmerized and enchanted by our beloved Huzur® and I can never forget those special feelings. I received so many gifts from Huzur® and Atfal UK, and I’m grateful to Allah, Huzur®, and everyone who organized this trip, and I am looking forward to it next year again, InshAllah!
A PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Waleed Saeed | Connecticut

This past May, a small delegation of Atfal and Khuddam were given the opportunity to go to London, U.K., and meet our beloved Khalifa of Islam, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad\(^\text{aba}\). I was fortunate enough to be one of the Atfal on this spiritual journey, and it’s a journey that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

After a flight that felt like only a few minutes due to my excitement, we arrived at Baitul Futuh and were immediately welcomed with gracious hospitality from the local members of the Jamaat. We were shown our beds and at that point we immediately prepared for the Friday Sermon. All of us sat in the first five rows of the hall in the same uniform, which made me feel as if we were joined together as spiritual brothers. Listening to Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) Sermon in person was enlightening and enjoyable, and incomparable to anything else I have experienced.

The next day we went on a local outing to Jamia, Hadiqatul Mehdi, and Islamabad. Of these three locations my favorite was Islamabad. This is where we visited the grave of the previous Khalifa of Islam, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad\(^\text{a}\), and prayed for him and his wife. Due to his efforts, we are able to listen to Friday Sermons from all across the world and in different languages through MTA. Later in Islamabad, we rode on Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) horses and learned archery from the people who maintain Islamabad. Towards the end of the day, the horses did a grand performance in which they jumped over obstacles and did other tricks.

On the last day, the Atfal were given the opportunity to meet with Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) in a group mulaqat that I will never forget. As Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) walked into the room, we all stood in respect and I remember feeling a huge change in the environment of the room. Everyone went from talking and laughing to being quiet and disciplined. As Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) sat down we all sat down with him. He then asked us how the trip was and what we enjoyed the most. All of the kids were given an opportunity to tell Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) of their experience during the trip, and they did so with great joy. We then were given the chance to ask Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\) any questions that we had. After this session many misconceptions and questions that I had in my mind were answered in a beautiful way by our beloved Khalifa. Later we took a group photo and I stood right behind Huzoor\(^\text{aba}\). We all shook the hand of Huzoor and kissed the special ring he wore, which once belonged to the Promised Messiah\(^\text{as}\).
While the primary focus of the trip Atfal and Khuddam made to the United Kingdom was meeting Huzur-e-Anwaraba, there were several other notable events we partook in. These events and activities varied from traveling to London as tourists to exploring the open fields of Hadiqatul-Mahdi, but one message that remained clear throughout was the sense of brotherhood and unity between everybody. This trip was also historical because Atfal went with Khuddam and Ansar for the very first time from the United States. When I arrived in London on Friday, everybody was getting ready for Jummah and there was no time to rest. We arrived at Baitul-Futuh mosque and everybody’s belongings were placed by their mattresses provided by the UK Team in a very large hall. I immediately noticed how organized it was, allowing you to move about with ease.

After preparing for Jummah, we went two hours early to sit in the front rows of the prayer hall in Baitul-Futuh. While waiting for our beloved Huzuraba to arrive, I spoke to the person sitting next to me and we shared our thoughts about the program and quickly became friends. His Holiness then arrived and delivered his Friday Sermon about “Seeking Allah’s Pleasure”. It taught us to leave the worldly desires in order for us to not be led astray from Allah, the Almighty. After Huzuraba’s sermon was over, all the Atfal and Khuddam took a group photo.

“NEXT TIME WHEN A SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY ARRIVES I HOPE AND PRAY THAT MORE PEOPLE CAN JOIN AND SHARE SUCH A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.”

The next day, the Atfal went for a tour of various locations in England such as Islamabad, Hadiqatul-Mahdi, and Jamia U.K. As I traveled these places, I learned about several of the other Atfal’s interests and thoughts about the different locations, and noticed several similarities between all of us. On Sunday, the Atfal had a mulaqat with Huzuraba at Baitul Fazl Mosque. We asked questions and shared our experiences with Huzuraba. Huzuraba listened to our comments with great interest, and everyone found Huzuraba to be very humorous in his replies. Everybody wanted the mulaqat to last even longer than it did. It was my favorite part of the trip, and made me realize how we’re all part of one big family. Next time when a similar opportunity arrives I hope and pray that more people can join and share such a wonderful experience. InshAllah.
Before I went on the trip to the United Kingdom, my family was preparing to move to Dubai, so we couldn’t decide whether me and my dad would be able to go or not. But later my parents said I was going. After packing, we left for the mosque to meet up with my friends and drive with them to the airport. If you’ve ever gone on a trip like this, you probably know what happens. First the goodbyes, then the check-in, later security and snacks, and then finally the boarding and takeoff.

The flight was long and mundane, so I’ll skip to the part about Baitul Futuh now. We were staying in the Tahir Hall section of it and when I stepped inside I saw a giant room with hundreds of sleeping bags. When I looked carefully, I saw that there were chairs next to them with towels, schedules, and chocolate. There was only one problem - we were starving! But soon enough we ate lunch. Afterwards, we went to see pictures of Ahmadiyya history. Then we went to a farm where there were chickens running around and got to ride horses and practice archery.

Hazoor twice. The first time was with the large group of Atfal. I was sitting in the front row and raised my hand to ask a question, but unfortunately I wasn’t called upon to speak. The second Mulaqat was a family Mulaqat with my father and some family members who lived in London. We also got gifts from Hazoor! Once the Mulaqat was over, my dad got an Alaisalah Ring for me which was navy blue and silver. On the inside it said, “Is Allah not sufficient for His servant?” The next day, I had another family Mulaqat and felt closer to Hazoor than ever.

“IT WAS A MEMORABLE TRIP AND I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE EXPERIENCE FOREVER.”

On my return to USA, I started wearing my Alaisalah ring all the time, even to school. People kept saying I was married because I wore a ring, which annoyed me, but I didn’t stop wearing it. It was a memorable trip and I will always cherish the experience forever.
A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Numan Saeed | Connecticut

This past May, Khuddam and Aftal from across America had a blessed opportunity to go to London, U.K. and visit our beloved Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad\textsuperscript{aba}. I was fortunate enough to be among the small group that took part in this memorable trip. Once we arrived at Baitul Futuh, we changed into our matching uniforms and proceeded to the prayer hall where Jumma was about to begin. Sitting in the designated area in front of Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} with our uniforms, I felt a inspiring sense of brotherhood. Listening to Huzoor’saba Khutba in person for the first time, I felt a such a strong bond with Khilafat that it compelled me to tighten my grasp on this rope of Allah. The next day we went on an outing to Hadqatul Mehdı, Jamia, and Islamabad. My favorite part was definitely our visit to Hadqatul Mehdi because I got to see the area where the U.K. Jalsa is held. Visiting Islamabad was also exciting, as I got to see Huzoor’saba horses guest houses. The following day, we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in a group mulaqat during which we were allowed to ask our beloved Huzoor any questions that we may have had. I had the chance to ask him “why are we told to perform salat during 5 specific times each day?” Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} gave me an informational answer that satisfied my curiosity. On the last day, we traveled to downtown London and we got to see the Big Ben and the London eye. Overall, this was a great and blessed experience and I recommend to any Tifl that missed the trip this year to act upon this opportunity the next time it occurs.
By the Grace of Allah, last May I had the opportunity to travel to the UK with my dad to be in the company of our beloved Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} as part of an historic Atfal-Khuddam trip from the United States. Here are some of my reflections:

One of the first places we visited in London was Makhzan-e-Tasaweer, which is the official image gallery of our Ahmadiyya Community. It was a blessed experience because we saw pictures of many important people such as The Promised Messiah, Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi, Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, and Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad. I also saw photos of my great-great-grandfather Maulana Zulfiqar Ali Khan Gohar, who was the first to accept Ahmadiyyat in my lineage and who accompanied Hadhrat Musleh Maud\textsuperscript{a} to the UK.

We also went to Hadeeqatul Mahdi and saw a lot of farm animals such as horses, cows, chickens, goats, sheep, and lamb. We even saw a baby goat who had just recently been born. All of the Atfal were told that this farm was the site of Jalsa UK.

My dad, my uncle, and I had a mulaqat with Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba}. My dad and uncle asked Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} for advice and prayers. When Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} was giving me my Twix chocolate and pen, I asked him, “Huzoor, can you come to Los Angeles soon?” Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} answered, “I will come to Los Angeles, but I cannot promise that I will come soon.” This was a very blessed moment and I will always remember it.

Every morning, they would wake us up early in the morning and take a bus to offer Fajr at Fazl Mosque, wearing our pajamas. When we got there, we waited for Huzoor\textsuperscript{aba} to come and lead Fajr prayer. It is always a blessed opportunity to perform salat behind Huzoor. When we got back to Baitul Futuh, we had a good bit of makeup sleep until breakfast.
**ABOVE:** Atfal get a feel for outdoor activities such as horseback riding and archery in Islamabad.

**BELOW:** Atfal visit the graves of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad(ra) and Hazrat Asifa Beghum Sahib(e) as well as Jamia UK while in Islamabad.
Above: Atfal have their personal Q&A session with Huzooraba as well as mulaqat right after.

Below: Atfal get the full London experience and hit the city to see some of its iconic sites and authentic food.
Above: Atfal Group Picture after Juma in Baitul Fututh

Above: Atfal/Khuddam Group Picture after Juma in Baitul Fututh

Above: Fathers of Atfal Group Picture after Mulaqat
Above: Atfal Group Picture after Mulaqat

Above: Atfal Group Picture after Mulaqat

Above: Atfal Group Picture after Mulaqat

Above: Atfal Group Picture after Mulaqat
in the **Know**

**DISASTER RELIEF**

2017 has been quite a year for hurricanes, particularly for states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico, as well as islands in the Caribbean, such as Puerto Rico. Through thick and thin, teams of Khuddam and Atfal partnered with Humanity First to deliver much needed relief and supplies to help all those affected!
HURRICANE HEROES

Rayyan Shaikh | Miami

This year was a very active year for hurricanes. One of the major hurricanes to hit the southeastern United States was Hurricane Irma, which made landfall on Florida’s west coast in early September of this year. As a part of the Humanity First Disaster Response, members of the Miami Jama’at went to Lee County, Florida, to help out some of the people who had suffered damages. We spent a lot of time helping residents clean up the debris around their homes. We picked up and removed fallen tree branches and raked the leaves that were spread all over their yards. There was so much debris that I had to use a wheelbarrow to carry all of it away.

One of the cooler things I got to see was someone using a chainsaw to cut off branches from fallen trees. This made it easier to pick up the branches and carry them away. There was a moment when the chainsaw ended up getting stuck in the tree. Luckily, they were able to cut the tree so that the chain of the chainsaw was able to slide out of the tree and we were able to proceed with our cleanup work. The residents we helped were very grateful and thanked us for our efforts, and this makes me want to help out in the future. Overall, this was a great experience to see how disaster relief is done, and I’m glad that the storm didn’t hit us too hard!
AMAZING.
TRANSFORMATIVE.
FLAWLESS.
AWESOME.
Life-Changing.
#AtfalVisittheKhalifa
AMAZING.
TRANSFORMATIVE.
FLAWLESS.
AWESOME.
Life-Changing.
#AtfalVisittheKhalifa
#Tarbiyyat10x10Challenge

Do 10 things in the first 10 days of 2018 and win prizes.

1. Offer Salat at Mosque or Salat Center at least 2 times.
2. Write a letter to Huzoor
3. Listen to the 2 Friday Sermons with family
4. Help your mother with 2 chores
5. Offer 2 rakaat nafl prayers and pray for your parents
6. Pay $5 or more towards Atfal Chanda
7. Memorize the Atfal Pledge
8. Read the latest issue of Al Bashir
9. Visit atfalusa.org
10. Memorize a new surah of the Qur’an

Visit atfalusa.org/Tarbiyyat10 for details and to print your activity sheet.