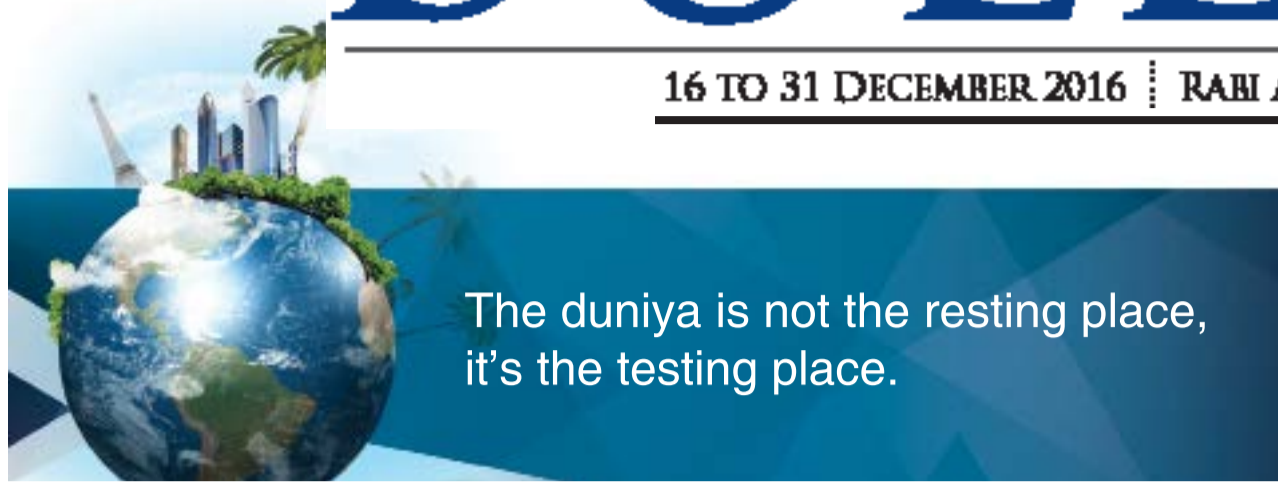


# THE INTELLECT BULLETIN

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The duniya is not the resting place, it's the testing place.

Don't depend too much on anyone in this world because even your own shadow leaves you when in in darkness.



## News & Views

### US commission recommends further changes in Pakistani textbooks



“Emphasis on Islamic faith despite Pakistan’s religious diversity, throughout the curriculum, Islam is projected as the paramount feature of Pakistan and the Pakistani identity.”

In the name of “curriculum development”, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in consultation with a local NGO has recommended further review of the Pakistani textbooks insisting that overemphasis on Islam as being the “only correct” faith must be eliminated from the school textbooks.

In its report “TEACHING INTOLERANCE IN PAKISTAN-Religious bias in Public School textbooks”, the USCIRF report also said that the foremost reoccurring trend in textbooks from all grade levels is an overemphasis on the glorification of war and war heroes.

“In particular, the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim and 17 famous attacks by Sultan Mehmood Ghaznavi

are included proudly in every textbook. Highlighting these two events as the beginning of civilization in the sub-continent, while ignoring the evolution of art, architecture, and culture, remains a key problem in textbooks.” the report said, adding, “In post-independence history, wars with India are emphasized and examples of peace initiatives are largely ignored, resulting in an unbalanced historical discourse focused on intractable conflict. This narrow nationalism only fulfills the task of educating Pakistanis in the most superficial way.”

For this report, issued by the USCIRF recently, Pakistan-based Peace and Education Foundation (PEF) has conducted a study and prepared Page 2

### Dutch parliament approves partial face veil ban

“Everyone has the right to dress as he or she wishes,” the government said in a statement announcing the law.”

A Law, pending senate’s approval, outlaws face veils, ski masks and helmets in some public places, but not the streets.

France and Belgium have completely banned wearing face veils in public .The Dutch parliament has overwhelmingly voted to ban face veils in some public places, a law the government said was essential for security, but which opponents said pandered to anti-Muslim sentiment.

The law, passed by the lower house but still requiring the senate’s approval, bans veils and other items that hide the face such as ski masks and helmets in places including government buildings, public transport, schools and hospitals.

The motion “to ban all

clothing which completely covers the face” from government buildings was approved by 132 members in the 150-seat house, including Prime Minister Mark Rutte’s ruling Liberal-Labour coalition.

Violating the Dutch law would incur a fine of €405 (\$430).

It does not ban wearing full-face coverings on the street, which has long been a demand of Geert Wilders’ anti-Islam opposition Freedom Party (PVV), which is leading in polls ahead of elections in March.

His election campaign appears to have been given a boost thanks to the publicity from his trial on charges of hate speech in a Dutch court over comments he made about Moroccans living in the country.



“How do we even know there’s a woman under this Islamic textile?” said PVV lawmaker Machiel de Graaf. “It might as well be a well-trained jihadist who completed his training in Raqqa of course,” he said in a parliamentary debate last week.

Few women in the Netherlands wear face veils. The state broadcaster, said between 100 to 500 women in The Netherlands wear the covering, most of them occasionally.

Full and partial face veils divide opinion in Europe. France and Belgium have

completely banned wearing veils in public and some other European countries have local or regional restrictions.

“Everyone has the right to dress as he or she wishes,” the government said in a statement announcing the law.

“That freedom is limited only where it is essential for people to see each other, for example to ensure good service or security.”

The Dutch cabinet had approved the plan in mid-2015, but decided not to go as far as banning wearing veils on the street.

### Bait-us-Salam Updates

#### Jamia Bait-us-Salam, Karachi: Mid-Term Examination Results and Award Ceremony



Recently an award ceremony was held at the Jamia Bait-us-Salam , Link Road Karachi, to honor the students of Dars-e-Nizami and Asr-e-Uloom, who performed well in

their mid-term exams. The results included 197 from 397 students achieving outstanding performance award and 44 students gained a position. To be an outstanding performer a student must achieve 80% and above marks whereas to achieve a position, a student must get 90% and above marks.

In the ceremony, students

gave speeches in English and Arabic both and also presented poems. The announcements of the awards were made by Nazim Educaionist Mufti Tauheed and the chief guest of this grand ceremony was the head of Wifaq-ul-Madaris, Hazrat Shiekh-ul-Hadith, Maulana Saleem-Ullah Khan Hifz-Ullah. In his speech he praised the efforts being made by Jamia Bait-us-Salam and also commented on the great performance by the students in their academics.

The awards were distributed by Hazrat Mufti Abdul Jabbar Hifz-Ullah.

Before the distribution of the awards, the MOC of the ceremony called up on the stage soe of the young students of Jamia, and asked the audience to test their Hifz knowledge by asking them recite any ayat number of any surah from the Quran. Not only that, the students could also be asked to recite the Quran in a particular way and also mention the page number of the ayah. On the students’ performance the audience was awe struck and the hall resonated with the calls of Subhan’Allah, Masha’Allah and Barak’Allah!

#### Lahore Awards Ceremony:



Recently, on 30th November, a boy from Contemporary Education of Jamia Bait-us-Salam was invited at Awan-e-Iqbal ceremony Lahore of awards distribution of position holders from all over Pakistan. Due to high security, only the candidates were requested

to come even teachers and parents were not allowed as well. Chairman of the education of Pakistan took his personal responsibility of the students. Firstly, they went to the Rawalpindi Board on 28th November from there they were escorted by the police the whole journey to Lahore. They arrived in Lahore in the late dusk. Soon after, they were guided to their residence, Shalimar Hotel. The next Day, they ventured to Awan-e-Iqbal for the rehearsal. After the rehearsal they were directly ordered to go their hotel. Due to security reasons, they were not

allowed to Visit Lahore. Further, the police was on guard all the time outside the hotel. Finally, on Wednesday, they went to the Awan-e-Iqbal for the ceremony in which the Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shabaz Sharif was the celebrity. As planned, the ceremony started when our celebrity arrived in the hall. After that, our prize distribution started and Chief Justice gave himself the awards to the students. Later, he delivered a speech on the importance of education. After, they directly returned to the Rawalpindi Board at 10pm.

### Bait-us-Salam Welfare Trust Quranic Centers: The Process of Examinations is on at the Various Quranic Centers

Under the supervision of BSWT, many Quranic centers have been established across Pakistan. It is important that the quality of Quranic education being imparted at these centers is not only very superior but also maintained. Hence the performance of the students enrolled there is tested at the local



level every two months and at the national level

every six month. This way the performance of the teachers is also tested.

Recently exams were held at 9 centers of Chitral, 7 in GaramChasma , 5 in Shankosh Awai r and 5 from the Gadap Town area in Karachi.

The examination process in on at the rest of the centers.

Beloved Prophet ﷺ  
**IHSAN**  
Page 2

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### FACTS, EVENTS & BELIEFS



It's the time of year when the earth's axis is most tilted away from the sun giving us the coldest season of the year when the weather becomes characterized by unsettled and windy weather.

meteorological Winter. *Earth is closest to the sun in Winter*  
You might surprise to know that in the northern hemisphere the earth is closest to the sun during winter.

Winter is a fascinating time of year and we have some interesting facts about the season.

Earth's distance from the sun is not what causes the seasons (it is the The Equinox and Solstice) but it does affect the length of them. Around perihelion the earth is moving around 1 kilometre per second faster than at aphelion which results in winter being 5 days shorter than summer.

*Winter is coming*  
There are two different dates when Winter could be said to begin, depending on whether we are referring to the Meteorological or Astronomical winter.

*The roots of winter*  
The word winters comes from the Germanic winter which in turn is derived from the root wed meaning 'wet' or 'water', and so signifying a wet season.

Winter defined by the Earth's orbit around the sun, begins on the Equinox and Solstice which falls on 21 or 22 December.

However, when recording and comparing climate data, it is important to have set dates that can be compared and so for this reason a fixed date of the 1 December is used to mark the start of the

In Anglo-Saxon cultures, years were counted by the winters, so a person could be said to be '2 winters old'. The first day of



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