



PRESTON

News

Newsletter of Preston University-Pakistan

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PRESTON AGAIN GRABS

1st & 2nd Positions in

All Pakistan Universities
'BIZFEST 2014' Competition
Organised By GIKI

The Preston University team once again beat teams of all Pakistan universities out-and-out and grabbed first position in 'Elevator Pitch Competition' and both 1st and 2nd positions in 'Business Launch Competition' held under the banner of 'BIZFEST 2014'. The referenced competitions were organized by the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) Topi, from November 29 to December 1, 2013. The team of Preston University that was led to the Elevator Pitch Competition by Prof. Khalid Javaid Anwer comprised of Prestonians Anum Javed, Muhammad Abbas Mehdi, Usman Ahmed and Nosheen Qayyum. The second team led to the Business Launch Competition of BIZFEST 2014 by Prof. Humayun Shuja comprised of Prestonians Nabila Iqbal, Atobatale Abiola Mashood, Arousha Javed and Mehreen Habib.

Eminent among the universities which participated in the Elevator Pitch Competition and Business Launch Competition category of BIZFEST 2014 were Preston University Islamabad, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Foreman Christian College University Lahore, University of Agriculture Peshawar, University of Lahore, University of Sargodha, NCB, Roots International School, GSIS School and College Islamabad. ————— ➤ *Continued on page 7*



Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Club launched at Preston University

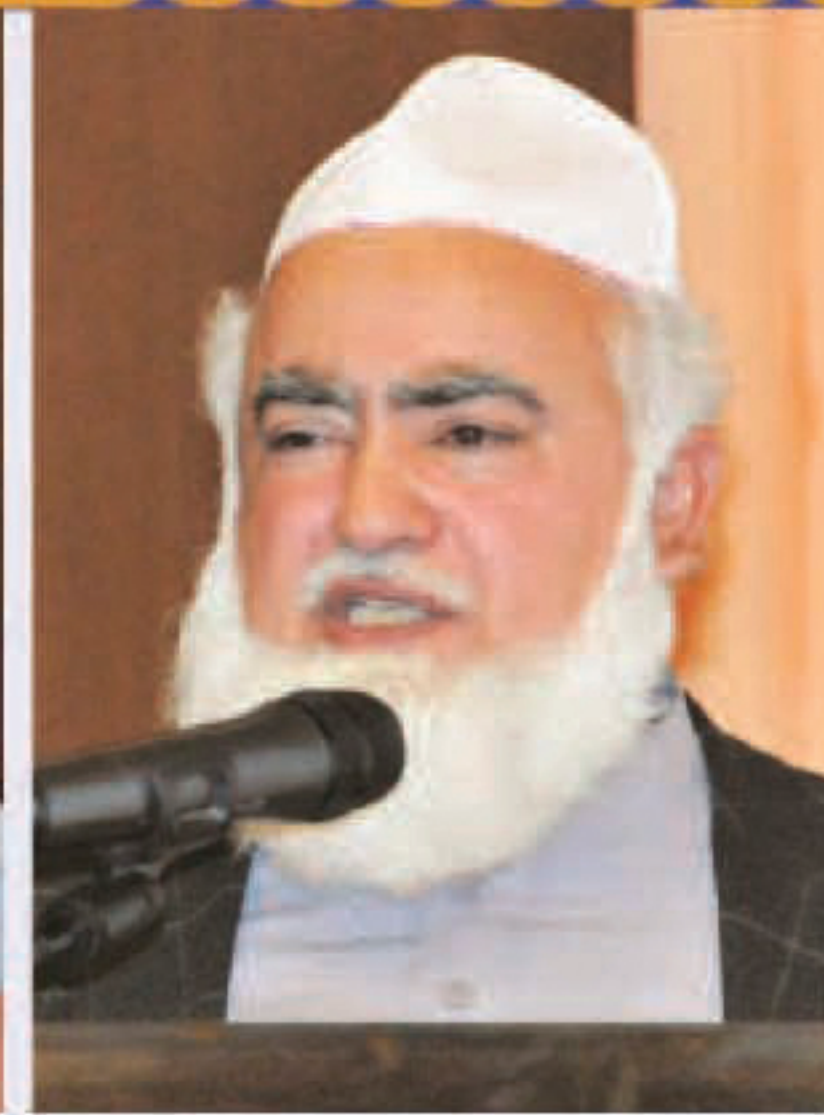
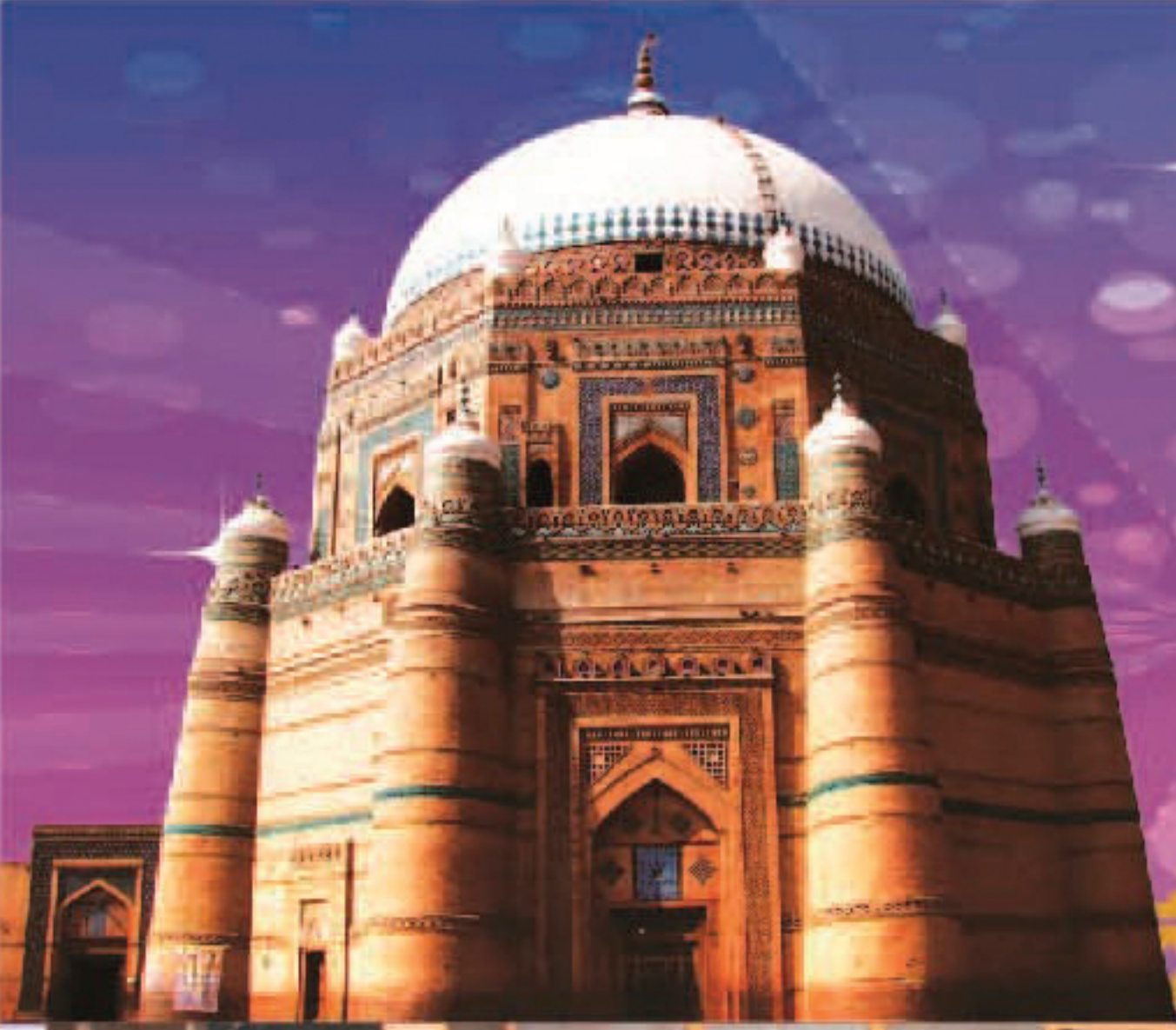


The Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Club has been launched at Preston University. The Club was formally launched by the Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Pakistan H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov at a simple but impressive ceremony held at Preston University, Islamabad yesterday.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of Parliamentarians, Diplomats, Deans, Faculty and students of the University on the occasion, Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov said "Azerbaijan-Pakistan are two souls in one body" Ambassador Dashgin Shikarov said that the formation of such clubs will bring the youth of the two countries close to each other and further augment the existing cordial and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries. Azerbaijan and Pakistan, he said, enjoys deep-rooted relations and our affability is based on the common objectives of love, peace, harmony and mutual understanding of each others problems.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Muhammad Asif Noor, President, Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Forum" and Director Institute of Peace and Diplomacy said that "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Forum" is a project of the Institute of Peace and Diplomacy. The project, he maintained, has been initiated with the expressed intent of creating a bridge between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, and bringing the two brotherly nations close to each other through dialogue and understanding. Selected universities from both countries are members of the referenced Forum. Azerbaijan is represented in the Forum by Baku State University, Qafqaz University, Baku Slavic University, Khazar University and The Academy of Public Administration, under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The universities that represent Pakistan in this forum are Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Preston University, Islamabad, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), University of Gujrat, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi. ————— ➤ *Continued on page 7*

National Literary Conference on Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya held at Preston Islamabad Campus



A national literary conference on 'Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya' was held at Preston University, Islamabad. The conference was jointly organized by Preston University and the Archaeological and Historical Association of Pakistan in December 2013. The Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Pir Syed Aminul Hasnat Shah presided over the conference as Chief Guest. Eminent personalities shed light on the life and teachings of Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya, the renowned Sufi Saint. Educationists, intellectuals and senior faculty and students of Preston University participated in the conference in large numbers.

Addressing the distinguished gathering on the occasion, Pir Syed Aminul Hasnat Shah, Minister of State for Religious Affairs said that Pakistan is the citadel of Sufis and Saints and it will continue to live till the last day of judgment. He said, education is not a commodity for purchase or sale, in fact it is meant for dissemination to all free of cost. The Sufis and Saints like Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya had always passed their love and knowledge to the people without any cost or benefit, he emphasized. Pir Syed Aminul Hasnat Shah further said that Islam is a religion of peace. It propagates the message of peace and brotherhood among people belonging to all sects regardless of their cast, creed, color or religion. Islam, he said, has always been the bastion of human rights. The teachings of Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya, Minister Pir Syed Aminul Hasnat Shah said, will continue to serve as a beacon not only for his followers but the entire humanity till the existence of this universe. He stressed on the occasion that only by strictly following the teachings of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya and other eminent Sufis and Saints like him we would be able to steer Pakistan out of its present critical predicaments and bring progress and prosperity to the Pakistani nation. He profoundly appreciated the efforts of Preston University to promote the cause of higher education in the country. He also lauded Preston's endeavors and that of the Archaeological and Historical Association of Pakistan to organize the national literary conference on Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya.



Eminent among the other speakers who shed light on the life and teachings of Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakariya, on the occasion, were Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi, Chairman Archaeological and Historical Association of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmed, former Director General, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), and Mr. Hashim Abro, eminent writer and broadcaster.

Preston Islamabad Campus organizes Alumni Get-together



Alumni of Preston University converge at the dinner-cum-musical evening organized by the university in large numbers and mingle with their former tutors and classmates with immeasurable warmth and enthusiasm. Profoundly laud the university's contribution in educating them and building their lives and careers.

The Islamabad Campus of Preston University organized an Alumni Get-together-cum-Musical Evening. The event that was held at the Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai Auditorium, Islamabad in December 2013 was attended by a larger number of Preston Alumni with immeasurable enthusiasm. The Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The Alumni Get-together provided the former students of the university an opportunity to get together at the institution where they once had the privilege and honor to pursue their higher studies. The event also gave them the opportunity to renew their old associations with their former tutors and the management and staff of the university who have played a key role in equipping them with state-of-the-art knowledge and education.

▶▶ Continued on page 7



Preston Karachi Commemorates "Students' Week"



Preston University, Karachi buzzed with extracurricular activities during week-long "Students' Week" held in December 2013. Students of all the six campuses including the main campus of the university enthusiastically participated in all the events organized during the week-long festivity. Competitions held during the 'Students' Week' were Cricket, Throw Ball, Tug of War, Debate, Naat and Qirat, Article Writing, Poster, Drama, Bridal Dress and Singing. A grand funfair was also organized on the occasion. All the events were attended by the faculty, management, staff and students of the university in large numbers.

In order to ensure fair play eminent personalities, considered to be experts in their respective fields, were invited to act as judges and adjudicate different events. The decision to do so led to the creation of a complaint-free and pleasant atmosphere in which all the events were held. Renowned personalities who were invited as Chief Guests distributed prizes among the winners of respective competitions. Former test cricketer and wicket keeper of international eminence Mr. Wasim Bari graced the closing ceremony of the Cricket Tournament as Chief Guest. He watched the finals of the tournament with utmost enthusiasm and later distributed prizes among the winners and runners up of the competition. The Naat and Qirat competitions were presided over by Mr. Fasihuddin Soharawardi and Qari Sajid. Syeda Habibya and Mr. Ghalib Baqir were the judges for Poster and Article Writing competitions. Renowned Stage Artist Mr. Tanvir Khan presided over the Drama Competition as Chief Guest. Last but not the least classical singer of international fame Ustad Hamid Ali Khan (Pride of Performance), Mr. Niaz Ahmed Siddiqui, former IG Police Sindh and Mrs. Sonia, Instructor Pakistan-American Cultural Center had the honor to adjudicate the Singing Competition. A grand Prize Distribution Ceremony was held at the main campus of Preston University, Karachi at the conclusion of the week-long festivity. The Pro-Chancellor of Preston University, Karachi Justice (Rtd) Deedar Hussain Shah graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by the faculty, management, staff and students of the university. In his brief remarks Justice (Rtd) Deedar Hussain Shah highly appreciated the enthusiasm with which the students of all the campuses of Preston participated in all the events held during the festivity. He profoundly congratulated the winners of different competitions and expressed the hope that they would continue to participate and unleash their talents in extracurricular activities organized by the university in future also.



53rd BASAR Meeting held



The Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASAR), Preston University organized its 53rd meeting in Islamabad in November 2013. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan, Vice Chancellor Preston University, Kohat and Chairman BASAR chaired the referenced meeting. Members of BASAR participated. The proceedings of the meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Daud Awan, Advisor PQAD and Dean Faculty of Computer Science, Preston University. At the outset the Chair extended a warm welcome to all the participating members of the Board to the meeting. Thereafter, he declared the 53rd BASAR meeting open.

To begin with the Chair shed light on the policy decisions and guidelines for conduct of the meeting, submission of synopsis and smooth functioning of BASAR. Subsequently, with the permission of the Chair the meeting commenced and various agenda items were taken up for discussion. Prof. Dr. A.W. Baloch, Secretary BASAR informed the house about the death of near and dear ones of some senior faculty and staff members of the university. The House expressed its utmost grief over the deaths and prayed to Allah to grant the departed souls a place in heaven and give their next to kin the courage to bear the loss their near and dear ones with patience. On the occasion, the House also congratulated Prof. Dr. Daud Awan, Advisor PQAD and Dean Faculty of Computer Science and Mr. W.J. Qazi, Program Director on performing Hajj and prayed for good health of Prof. Syed Shahid Afzal, Dean IT, Preston University.

Opening the discussion on the meeting agenda, Secretary BASAR Prof. Dr. A.W. Baloch informed the House that minutes of the 52nd BASAR meeting were circulated among the members immediately after approval of the Chairman. None of the members had any observations to make, he said. The House unanimously approved the minutes of the 52nd BASAR meeting held in August 2013 without any amendment. During the course of the meeting the House approved the names of various PhD / M.Phil supervisors and co-supervisors recommended for appointment by Professors / Heads of different departments of the university. Synopses of some students and scholars doing their M. Phil and PhD in Education, Economics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Management Sciences at the university, were presented and discussed. Some of the synopsis presented before the house were approved, some were conditionally approved subject to suggested amendments and modifications, and a few were deferred with instructions to resubmit as advised by BASAR. The 53rd BASAR meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair by Prof. Dr. Firoza Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Preston University. She expressed her gratitude to the Chair on behalf of all the members of the Board.

DIALOGUE ON

Welfare and Self-development of the Elderly Citizens

held at Preston University Islamabad



The Gender Empowerment and Management Division, of Preston University organized a dialogue on “Welfare and Self-development of the Elderly Citizens”. The referenced dialogue was held at the Islamabad Campus of the university as a part of regular series of dialogues being held with representatives of International Council for the Visually Impaired-ICEVI – Resident Country Director Mr. Khalid Naeem, Mr. Javed Alam, Former Managing Director, Printing Corporation of Pakistan, and DG Special Education (GOP), Mr. Muhammad Arshad, Chief of Social Sector Planning and Development Division,(GOP) and Ms. Naheed Piracha formally working with the Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan. Dr. Firoza Ahmed, Professor/Dean Social Sciences and DG (HR), Gender Empowerment and Management, Preston University chaired and conducted the dialogue. Dr. Shazia Khalid HOD, Psychology was the resource person.

It is worthy of particular mention here that Preston University, in collaboration with the National Association for Senior Citizens, has developed a series of programs specially designed for highlighting the problems of elderly people and developed a support mechanism which is institutionalized at the government as well as non-governmental level. The major objective of these dialogues is to ensure that these series of workshops specifically aiming at strengthening the threshold on which programs for the elderly and the vulnerable, on the referenced subject, become a regular part of the sensitively developed program to strengthen the family structure and the life of elderly citizens.

Addressing the participants on the occasion, Dr. Firoza Ahmed emphasized that caring for senior citizens and building their self-esteem are two extremely important elements that play a significant role in the success of any initiatives launched to benefit from the experience of senior citizens for achieving the targets in the organization. In fact, these two important elements possess all the potential to consolidate organizations, she maintained. Absence of elements like caring and team spirit in an organization may lead to unhappiness, their loss of self-esteem that could seriously challenge the models and methods utilized by the Preston Workshop Series for Senior Citizens, she emphasized. She further said that the discussions held also identified strategies to be used by employers for motivating the experienced senior citizens in utilizing their precious insights as a critical component in the mainstream work.

Preston University was represented at the International Workshop on ‘Disaster Management and Risk Reduction held at COMSTech Islamabad in November 2013. COMSTech-OIC was instrumental in organizing the referenced Workshop.



Preston Represented at International Workshop on “DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION”

Prof. Dr. Allah Wadhayo Baloch, Executive Director, Disaster Research Institute (DRI), Preston University was the Chief Organizer, Focal Person and Resource Person. The other Resource persons who participated in the Workshop were very senior university faculty members, executives and UN experts from abroad.

Dr. Baloch also made a presentation on the occasion. The topic of his presentation was ‘Fundamentals of Disaster Management’. His presentation was immensely appreciated by all the participants. Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University profoundly commended the contribution of Dr. Baloch in the organization of such a high profile international workshop on a vital subject like ‘Disaster Management and Risk Reduction’.

COMSTech is a Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. Its mission is to help strengthen the individual and collective capacity of OIC member states in science and technology through mutual cooperation, collaboration, and networking of resources.

Prof. Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan Represents Preston at “20th International Conference on Learning” held in Greece



Prof. Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan, Assistant Professor of Education, Preston University, Islamabad represented the university at “20th International Conference on Learning” held at the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece. The referenced conference was organized by Common Ground Publishing, USA. Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan presented a research paper at the conference titled “Concept Formation Teaching Model: A Way to Learn”. Her paper was profoundly appreciated by the Chair and the participants of the conference who came from across the world.

Yet another conference in which Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan participated was the ‘International Conference on Modeling

and Simulation (ICOMS 2013)’ organized by Air University, Islamabad. On the occasion, Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan presented a paper titled ‘Simulation: An Effective Teaching Strategy in Social Sciences’. The participants of the conference immensely appreciated her paper. Her paper has also been published in the proceedings of the referenced conference: Volume 1, page # 425-429.

The Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit expressed his profound appreciation to Prof. Dr. Aamna Saleem Khan for her remarkable contribution towards both the above high profile conferences.

Professor Lawrence Dupre Delivers Lecture at Preston University Islamabad



Prof. Lawrence Dupre Bhatti, Professor of Economics and Business Studies at the University of Paris Est Marne-la-Valee – Meaux, Paris delivered a Lecture at Preston University, Islamabad in October 2013. The Department of International Relations of Preston University, Islamabad was instrumental in organizing the referenced lecture. The topic of her presentation was “How Asymmetries in European Economies Jeopardise the Euro?”

The lecture which was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Sohail Mahmood, Associate Professor and Dean Department of International Relations, Preston University, Islamabad was attended by the senior faculty, management and students of International Relations and Economics of the university in large numbers.



In her thought provoking and enlightening discourse on the subject, Professor Dupre discussed, in detail, the history of introduction of Euro in the European Union. She termed it a political decision based on legal considerations which lacked economic input regarding the inequalities of intra Europe economic systems. Professor Dupre discussed the reasons of the fragility of Euro at length. She also shed some light on the future of Euro which, she said, is under tremendous pressure in many of the less developed countries in the region which contribute towards its instability. Dr. Dupre’s presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session. The

faculty and students in attendance raised several questions pertinent to the subject, which she responded to with great pleasure.

Prof. Dr. Sohail Mahmood had the privilege and honor to present the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the lecture. He extended profound gratitude to the distinguished Guest Speaker, Professor Lawrence Dupre Bhatti on behalf of the Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit and the management, faculty and students of the university. He also eulogized her for her informative and analytical presentation on the subject.



Faculty and staff of the university converge at the quake-hit Margalla Towers in Islamabad, to pay homage to hundreds of those who lost their valuable lives in the October 8, 2005 tragedy. Lay floral wreath at the venue of the tragedy on behalf of Chancellor Preston University Dr. Abdul Basit.

The faculty and staff of Preston University converged at the venue of the quake-hit Margalla Towers, Islamabad on October 8, 2013 to pay homage to men, women and children who became victims of the devastating earthquake that hit the country’s capital Islamabad and the northern part of Pakistan on October 8, 2005.

A floral wreath was laid at the venue of the tragedy, the Margalla Towers, on behalf of the Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit. The faculty and staff of the university who assembled at the site of the tragedy offered fateha for all those who lost their lives in the catastrophe that has no parallel in the country’s history. They also sympathized with the kith and kin of the victims of the earthquake who had gathered at the site of the tragedy to pray for the departed souls of their near and dear ones.



In his message on the sad occasion, the Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit said that the tragedy of October 8, 2005 has no parallel in the country’s history and the nation could never forget those innocent people who became victims of the quake, for decades to come. He said that we should, as a nation, make it an obligation on our part to not only remember our brothers and sisters and innocent children who lost their valuable lives in the tragedy of October 8, 2005 but also pray to Allah Almighty to grant their souls a place in the heaven. Dr. Basit profoundly eulogized the unity the Pakistani nation demonstrated during the earthquake of 2005. He said it was undoubtedly remarkable.

Preston Remembers Martyrs of October 2005 Earthquake



Joint Research Paper of Preston Prof. Dr. Maqbool Uddin Shaikh

Published in the Proceedings of “6th International Conference on Information Technology “ICIT 2013”



A paper titled “An Efficient Framework of Predictive Data Mining under a Case Study of Gas Energy Production in Pakistan” jointly penned by Preston Prof. Dr. Maqbool Uddin Shaikh and Sehresh Khan and Altaf Khan belonging to COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad and the University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila has been published in the proceedings of ‘6th International Conference on Information Technology ‘ICIT 2013’.

In the Abstract of the referenced paper it is stated that a lot of research has been carried out to study the energy crisis in Pakistan by using predictive data mining techniques. Many researchers have tried to analyze the situation by using different frameworks but unfortunately the authors of this paper did not find any complete, cost-effective and efficient framework for developing a predictive data mining system, which will efficiently work in scenario of forecasting with an efficient flow of work. In this conceptual framework the authors have showed twelve steps and their sequence of working in the form of algorithm. The authors of the paper under reference have applied the proposed framework on the case study for prediction of natural gas energy production in Pakistan to give a solution of the current energy crises. In this case study efforts were made to collect the historical data by covering different geographical areas of Pakistan and circumstances. The authors designed an “Energy Analytical Data Mart” to store the historical and continuously growing data. In this case study the authors have presented two approaches of forecasting the level of natural gas production in Pakistan using the artificial intelligence field neural network.

The Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit congratulated Prof. Dr. Maqbool Uddin Shaikh on the recognition of his efforts by the organizers of the ‘6th International Conference on Information Technology-ICIT 2013’ sponsored by IEEE Jordan Chapter. He said publishing of the joint paper in the proceedings of ICIT 2013 is indeed a remarkable achievement and the university genuinely appreciates it.



VC Preston University Kohat Addresses Journalists and Intelligentsia at the Peshawar Press Club’s Program “Guest Hour”

Fervently urges Pakistan’s public and private TV Channels to make concerted efforts to promote the positive image of the country. Says Pakistan’s media should make sincere endeavors to avoid negative publicity. As this not only brings bad name to the country but also gravely tarnishes its image in the comity of respected world nations.

The Vice Chancellor of Preston University, Kohat Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan called upon Pakistan’s print and electronic media to make serious endeavors to avoid building negative image of the country. He fervently urged the representatives of both public and private TV Channels of the country to make concerted efforts to promote positive

image of Pakistan and make it stand out in the comity of respected world nations. He made these remarks while addressing the media representatives at the Peshawar Press Club in December 2013.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan said Pakistan is passing through one of the most critical phase in its history. It has never ever faced predicaments of the magnitude that it confronts today. Our detractors are taking full advantage of the situation and are making all out efforts to weaken and defame our country, he said. Dr. Anwar said that we must not lend our ears to negative propaganda launched by our enemies and stand up like a rock to defend the country under all circumstances. He further said, the cultural onslaught launched against us particularly by our neighbor India, through its feature films and dramas, is also having a serious impact on our day-today life. We must not allow it to overwhelm us. Rather we should make sincere efforts to counter it through promotion of our own culture which is extremely rich and varied, he emphasized.

On the occasion, Prof. Anwar announced that the university would reserve three seats in the BBA and MBA programs for the outstanding children of the print and electronic media journalists. They would be granted 50% scholarship, he proudly confirmed. Talking about the value and importance of education, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan said that education is the key to progress and prosperity of any nation. Countries which emphasized on education have achieved unparalleled progress and are today ruling the world in almost all spheres. Pakistan, he emphasized, must also strengthen its focus on education so that it could also rank among the developed societies of the world. Preston University, country’s first institution of higher learning in the private sector, has been contributing towards the cause of higher education in Pakistan since 1984. He said, it will not only continue with this effort but also further augment it in the years to come.

Quotable Quotes

“You can tell how smart people are by what they laugh at.”

Tina Fey

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.”

Cicero

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”

Albert Einstein

GIKI "Bizfest 2014" Competition



Both the winning teams of Preston University were awarded shields and a trophy in recognition of their outstanding performance in the two competitions by the Management of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI). Their remarkable performance in the competitions organized by GIKI was also profoundly lauded by the Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit. He heartily congratulated the students of both Preston teams and their respective team leaders for grabbing top positions in the Elevator Pitch and Business Plan competitions organized by GIKI in which some eminent universities of the country took part.



Earlier, in his welcome address Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University at the outset extended a warm welcome to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov to the launching ceremony of Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Forum at Preston University. He said, the youth of Pakistan must avail this excellent opportunity and derive maximum benefit out of these clubs. He gave an assurance to the Azeri Ambassador Mr. Dashgin Shikarov and President Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Forum Mr. Asif Noor that Preston University would facilitate its students to tap all probable avenues to enhance people to people contacts between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.



In his keynote address on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University at the outset extended a warm welcome to the Alumni to the get-together. He reiterated that Preston has always held its Alumni in high esteem. It considers its Alumni to be a vital asset of the institution and takes genuine pride in their achievements. The successes attained by them in their practical lives and careers make the university genuinely proud of them, he said. On the occasion Dr. Basit expressed a strong desire to have very close and mutually beneficial rapport with the Alumni of the university. This relationship, he said, must continue to grow as time passes. In his address he also spoke at length about the achievements of the university particularly during the past one decade.

The Alumni present at the get-together expressed their profound gratitude to the Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit and the faculty and senior management for providing them a common platform to renew their old associations with their former colleagues and their mentors. The Alumni Get-Together was followed by a lively musical evening. Students of Preston University performed and mesmerized the audience by their sparkling renditions.



PINSAT-Preston University holds First Meeting of its Board of Studies



Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Preston University held the first meeting of its Board of Studies (BOS) in October 2013. The referenced meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman PINSAT. The Board of Studies of PINSAT comprises of senior faculty of PINSAT and some scientists of eminence belonging to different educational and research organizations of Islamabad. They include Dr. M. Shahid Ansari (former Prof. Quaid-i-Azam University), Dr. Abdul Hameed (former Prof. Quaid-i-Azam University), Dr. Javed Iqbal Akhter (D.G. PINSTECH) and Dr. Mazhar Mehmood (Dean PIEAS).

In his brief introductory remarks on the occasion, Dr. N.M. Butt, Chairman PINSAT at the outset traced the short history of PINSAT, the foundation of which was laid in early 2010 and the first batch of students for the 4 year BS degree programme were inducted in fall of 2010. This batch, he said, is now in the final year and is scheduled to graduate in 2014. Dr. Butt said that the faculty of PINSAT consists of some of the most eminent scientists of Pakistan in

their respective fields. Within a short span of just three years PINSAT has already completed one international project of IDRC Ottawa, Canada and one national project (2011-2013) of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). A second research project of PAS (2013-2015) has now been approved and other projects are in the pipeline, he informed. He also informed the distinguished members of PINSAT BOS that numerous national and international conferences were organized since the inception of the Institute. He said, in addition to this awareness seminars for different segments of the society were arranged and papers were published in international journals of repute. Dr. N. M. Butt said, in developing the course structure for the BS degree program in Nanoscience and Technology that has been introduced for the first time in Pakistan, not only the requirements of HEC were kept in mind but also the international trends were studied and incorporated in the scheme of studies. Since nanotechnology is a multi-disciplinary field, the courses have been structured in such a way so as to build a solid base of the students for the

first two years of their studies in some of the fundamental subjects like physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics, he maintained. He said, the courses on nanotechnology have been introduced right from Semester-I with gradual increasing emphasis on nanotechnology courses. In later Semesters upto Semester-VII and a 6-month Research Project is introduced in Semester-VIII. The workload of all the semesters I to VIII amount to 130 credit hours required by HEC for BS degree. In the final two years the focus is on topics related to nanotechnology.

With the above constituents in mind, the Board deliberated upon the scheme of studies for the 4 year BS degree programme. Each course was thoroughly scrutinized and discussed. The Board profoundly appreciated the extent of the scheme of studies presented and gave its approval, in principle, to the scheme subject to some minor revisions. These revisions will be immediately carried out and circulated to the Board members for their final approval, Dr. Butt Said.

Preston Mission Statement

“Preston is committed to providing university education of the highest quality for preparing students for professional careers, and promoting research and development. Its two-fold mission is to give students the opportunity for personal growth and development, skill enhancement and professional career advancement, and to create, sustain and promote research and development for expanding the horizons of knowledge.”

PRESTON UNIVERSITY CHARTER

Preston University, Kohat-NWFP is chartered by the Government of NWFP vide NWFP Ordinance No. LII of 2002. Preston University, Karachi is chartered by the Government of Sindh vide act V of 2004. Both, Preston University at Kohat and Karachi are fully recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) the highest regulatory body of the Government of Pakistan in the field of Higher Education, and placed in the highest category “W”. The Islamabad Campus has been upgraded to “W-4”.

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