



PRESTON News

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Preston Hosts Seminar on "Black January Tragedy of Azerbaijan"

Preston University hosted a seminar on "Black January Tragedy of Azerbaijan". The referenced seminar was held at the auditorium of the university's Islamabad Campus. The Charge' d' Affaires of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



►► Continued on page 5



Prestonian Fawad Clinches 1st Position in "Inter-University Singing Competition"

Muhammad Fawad, a student of MBA at Preston University, Islamabad, outdid all his counterparts from universities across Pakistan in an inter-university singing competition organized by Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) Rawalpindi. The event was held in March 2011. Apart from FJWU, students from Preston University, Iqra University, NUST, Punjab University, International Islamic University, Faisalabad University, Karakoram University and University of Bahawalpur participated in the competition. On the occasion, Muhammad Fawad of Preston University, Islamabad mesmerized the audience by his dazzling performance. The judges unanimously adjudged Fawad as the best singer of the competition and awarded him first prize. The second and third prizes were awarded to students of Iqra University and Punjab University respectively. Eminent playback singer, Shazia Manzoor, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, profoundly eulogized the singing skills of Prestonian Muhammad Fawad. Praising Fawad's invincible singing prowess, she remarked that he is a star in the making and the people of this country would very soon be seeing a singing icon among the galaxy of ace singers of Pakistan.

Turkmenistan Ambassador Delivers Talk at Preston University



Sapar Berdinyazov during a talk on "Cultural and Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan" delivered by him at Preston University, Islamabad. Highlighting the importance Turkmenistan gives to its relations with Pakistan, Ambassador Sapar Berdinyazov said that Pakistan was the first country of the world to recognize independent Turkmenistan in 1991, and also establish diplomatic relations.

►► Continued on page 6

60th Workshop on “Helping and Hurting: The nature of Supporting



Behavior and Aggressive Attitude: How to Improve our Workplace Relationships”

The 60th Workshop on “Helping and Hurting: The nature of Supporting Behavior and Aggressive Attitude: How to Improve our Workplace Relationships” was held in Islamabad, in January 2011. The workshop was organized by the Gender Empowerment, Development and Management Division of Preston University. Over forty eight participants from eminent public and private sector organizations participated in the workshop. Dr. Roudaba Shuja, Principal F. G. Fatima Jinnah College for Women, Humak and coordinator of Preston’s training series with F. G. College for Women graced the Workshop as Keynote Speaker and Chief Guest.

►► Continued on page 6

Preston University Co-sponsors International Conference On “Gandhara-The Cradle of Buddhist Civilization”



Preston University was the co-sponsor of an international conference on “Gandhara-The Cradle of Buddhist Civilization”, held at a local hotel in Islamabad from March 19-20, 2011. The referenced conference was organized by the Society of Asian Civilizations (SAC) Pakistan, on the occasion of its 11th Birth Anniversary.

Raja Tridev Roy, Federal Minister and President, All Pakistan Buddhist Society graced the conference as Chief Guest. Historians, educationists, researchers and intellectuals of repute, from home and abroad, participated and presented papers on the topic of the conference. In all four academic sessions were held during the two-day conference.

►► Continued on page 6

36th Board of Advanced Studies & Research (BASAR) Meeting



The Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASAR) of Preston University, Kohat organized its “36th Meeting” in March 2011. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan, Vice Chancellor of Preston University, Kohat. Members of BASAR, comprising of senior faculty of the university participated.

Secretary BASAR, Dr. A. W. Baloch informed the house that minutes of the 35th BASAR meeting held on January 3, 2011 were circulated among the members immediately after the approval of Chairman BASAR. Since no suggestion/s or amendment/s were made or recommended by any of the Board members, he requested the House to approve the minutes. The House unanimously approved

the minutes of the 35th BASAR Meeting held on January 3, 2011.

On the occasion, synopses of three PhD Scholars also came up for discussion. While synopses of two of the scholars were approved subject to some amendments and improvements, the synopsis of one of the scholars was deferred with suggestion to re-submit after implementation of some major changes in it. During the meeting various other important academic issues pertinent to their respective areas of concern were brought to fore by the members. The House particularly eulogized the endeavors of the Faculty and Heads of Departments to streamline the M.Phil and PhD programs of the university.

Lahore Campus organizes

“Sports Week”



As a part of extra curricular activities that Preston University organizes regularly to ensure all round grooming of its students, the Lahore Campus of Preston organized a "Sports Week" in March 2011. Students of various programs participated with exuberance in all sports events organized during the week-long festivity. »» Continued on page 7

Lecture on "Health Awareness" held at Islamabad Campus

An informative lecture on "Health Awareness" was held at Islamabad Campus in March 2011. The event was coordinated and arranged by Dr. Maqsooda Hussain, Assistant Professor Faculty of Education, Preston University Islamabad.

Col. (R) Muhammad Younis Bhatti, General Secretary, Pakistan Kidney Patients Association (PKPA) was the Guest Speaker on the occasion. The lecture was attended by the



students and faculty of the university. In his enlightening discourse on the subject, Col. Bhatti spoke at length about the function of the kidneys and highlighted the reasons of their failure. He also informed the audience about the symptoms that indicate malfunctioning or failure of the kidneys and the probable measures that could be taken to rectify kidney problems. Col. Bhatti shed light on the preventive measures that could and should be taken to effectively avoid kidney diseases. The students and faculty evinced keen interest in the presentation made by Col. Bhatti. They actively interacted with him during the question and answer session and raised pertinent questions on the subject. In the end, Dr. A. W. Baloch, Registrar Preston University presented a memento of the university to the Guest Speaker as token of gratitude and appreciation.



Seminar on "Role of Character Building in National Development" Held in Peshawar



Director General National Accountability Bureau, Brigadier Muhammad Musaddiq Abbasi presides as Chief Guest.

Emphasizes upon the need for proper character building, in all spheres of life, to ensure sustained national development.

A seminar on "Role of Character Building in National Development" was organized by the Peshawar Campus of Preston University, Kohat in February 2011. Brigadier Muhammad Musaddiq Abbasi, Director General National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, chaired the seminar as Chief Guest. In his keynote address on the occasion, Brigadier Abbasi, Director General NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that character building is an extremely essential element in the upbringing and development of people of integrity. He further said that no nation can attain tangible progress without proper character building of its people. »» Continued on page 7

Peshawar Campus Organizes Annual Dinner for MBA and Technology Students

An "Annual Dinner" was organized by Peshawar Campus in honor of the MBA and Technology students. The event was held in February 2011. Students, faculty and staff of Peshawar Campus enthusiastically participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, as Chief Guest, Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan, Vice Chancellor Preston University, Kohat at the outset extended a warm welcome to all those present on the occasion.

He said that it has always been the mission of Preston University to give the best of education to all its students regardless of the disciplines in which they are pursuing their studies at this university.



►► Continued on page 7



Eid Milad-Un-Nabi: Peshawar Campus



Eid Milad-Un-Nabi: Lahore Campus

Peshawar and Lahore Campuses Commemorate Eid Milad-Un-Nabi

The Peshawar and Lahore campuses of Preston University celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Birthday of Holy Prophet Muhammad-PBUH), with religious fervor. Faculty, students and staff of the respective campuses participated in the event in large numbers. Students and members of the staff recited Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (SAWWW), Mahafil-e-Milad were also held at both the campuses. On the occasion, some senior members of the faculty and staff and guest speakers also delivered talks on Seerat-ul-Nabi, and highlighted various important aspects of the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). During their discourse they emphasized upon the need for Muslims to make sincere efforts to follow the teachings of the beloved Prophet in letter and spirit. They maintained that we, being Muslims, could enormously benefit in every facet of our lives by seeking guidance from all that Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) propagated and practiced during his life time.

Prestonian Ramla Ayub Stands First in "Inter-University Entrepreneurs Talent and Business Competition"



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with Transparency International and Muhammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU) organized an "Inter-university Entrepreneurs Talent and Business Competition". The event was held at the Islamabad Campus of MAJU in January 2011.

Students of public and private universities situated in Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the event and demonstrated their business acumen with immeasurable enthusiasm and professionalism.

Among the whole lot of students who represented their respective institutions in the competition, business project titled 'Grocers' set up by Ramla Ayub, a student of MBA at Preston University, Islamabad was adjudged the best by a panel of judges. She was awarded first position for winning the competition. While presenting Ramla a shield for winning first position in the competition, Chief Guest at the prize distribution ceremony, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, S. Ali Raza Saeed Shah profoundly appreciated her talent. He said that it is truly encouraging to see the enormous talent and business acumen that our students possess. He further said that such competitions help bring the best out of our upcoming business managers and leaders and must, therefore, be organized on regular basis.



Prestonians Excel in FAST-NU "Tamasha 2011"

Prestonians Saadia Anwar a student of MBA and Saqib Tanveer of MSc (IR) at the Islamabad Campus of Preston University grabbed second position in Painting and Essay Writing competitions respectively, organized by FAST National University (FAST-NU) under the banner of "Tamasha 2011".

In the four-day festivity comprising of several inter-university competitions, public and private universities from across the country participated. The mega event was held at the FAST-NU Campus in Islamabad from January 28-31, 2011.

In the Painting Competition, Painting of Saadia Anwar was adjudged the second best. She was awarded a cash prize of Rs.6,000/- for standing second in the competition. Saqib Tanveer stood second in the Essay Writing Competition. For winning second position in the competition he was awarded a cash prize of Rs.3,000/-.



Saadia Anwar

Saqib Tanveer

Annual Sports Week Held at Peshawar Campus

Students enthusiastically participate in various sports events held on the occasion. Vice Chancellor, Preston University, Kohat Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan extols the talent of the participating students.



The Peshawar Campus of Preston University, Kohat organized its "Annual Sports Week". The event was held at the university campus ground in March 2011. Prominent among the events held during the week-long festivity were Cricket, Badminton, Table Tennis, Racing and Tug-of-War competitions. Students from various academic programs enthusiastically participated in all the competitions held on the occasion.

» Continued on page 7

» Continued from page 1

Seminar: Black January Tragedy of Azerbaijan



In his keynote address on the occasion, Mr. Dashgin Shikarov, Charge' d' Affaires of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan said that the Black January Tragedy occurred on January 19 and 20, 1990 when the Soviet tanks and troops took the streets of Baku. Operation 'Strike', as the Soviets had named it, was intended to crush the makings of an independent movement in Azerbaijan through brute force. As for the number of people killed

by the Soviet forces during this brutal operation, Dashgin Shikarov said that officially 137 people were killed; unofficially, 300 or possibly more were killed on the tragic day. He further said that many outside the USSR failed to comprehend the significance of millions of Soviet citizens turning into ardent supporters of Azerbaijan's independence overnight following the January 20 massacre.

In his brief remarks on the occasion, Vusal Suleymanov, Counselor, Embassy of Azerbaijan said that the hilltop cemetery overlooking the Caspian Sea, the Martyrs Alley, established 290 years ago, in spite of curfew and military attempts to disperse the people is a symbol of Baku today. Eminent among the other speakers who shed light on the tragic happening of Black January in Azerbaijan were: Dr. Z. A. Qureshi, President SAC Pakistan, Mr. Zafar Bakhtwari, Chairman, Pakistan Cultural Forum, and eminent journalists Mr. Tahir Farooq, and Raja Amir Mehmood Bhatti. In their presentations they said January 20, 1990 stands out in its symbolism for the Azeri people and a fundamental building block that preceded the nation's formal independence in 1991.



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“ Hope is some extraordinary spiritual grace that God gives us to control our fears, not to oust them ”
Vincent Mc Nabb

“ Hope is the word which God has written on the brow of every man ”
Victor Hugo

►► Continued from page 1

Turkmenistan Ambassador Delivers Talk

Ambassador Berdiniyazov said that relations between the two brotherly countries have grown enormously, during the past 20 years, and sincere efforts are being made to further bolster these relations. Talking about economic relations between Turkmenistan and Pakistan, he made special reference to the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline project. This project, when completed, would prove to be a significant milestone in Turkmenistan-Pakistan relations, he maintained. However, economy is not all but only one important aspect of Turkmen-Pakistan relations, he said. In the context of social, political and cultural



relations he said both countries have made noteworthy progress. Social, cultural and political links have been established between the two countries. He said, exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries and participation of Pakistani scholars, scientists, industrialists and journalists in international conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions held in Turkmenistan is playing a significant role in giving further boost to the ever-growing brotherly relations between Turkmenistan and Pakistan.

Earlier, in his welcome address on the occasion Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Sapar Berdiniyazov. He expressed his profound gratitude to him for selecting Preston University to be the first institution of higher learning to benefit from his lecture series on "Cultural, Political and Socio-economic Development of Turkmenistan". Later, Dr. Z. A. Qureshi, President, Society of Asian Civilizations Pakistan (SACP) presented the vote of thanks.

►► Continued from page 2

60th Workshop on Helping and Hurting...

In her keynote address on the occasion, Dr. Roudaba Shuja highlighted the importance of personal enrichment and good communication skills. She said these two elements are a critical interlinking force in the society. She said, as human beings all of us have a social responsibility towards each other, at home and elsewhere. Home and office are two places where we spend most of our time. However, sometimes our behavior and attitude is different at these two places. On the occasion, Dr. Roudaba Shuja organized group activities highlighting the main topic of the Workshop. In all eight groups were constituted. Each group comprised of four participants. Every group was given a specific situation relating to the basic theme of the workshop, and was tasked to come up with their own opinion and interpretation regarding the situation assigned to them. Later, each group was provided the opportunity to make formal presentations on the tasks assigned to them, and to encourage feedback for strengthening Preston's capacity building series for women in future.



In her presentation, Dr. Shazia Khalid gave background of the topic of the Workshop. She unfolded the objectives of the Workshop and also highlighted its importance in our personal life as well as life at workplace.

►► Continued from page 2

International Conference on Gandhara Civilization



Academic Session-1, dealing with "Historic Perspective", was chaired by Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University. Rev. Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Nayaka Thero, former Vice Chancellor, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka chaired Academic Session-II on "Taxila-a Premier Center of Buddhist Learning". Academic Session-III on "Buddhist Relics and Heritage" was chaired by Prof. Sergei D. Serebriany, Director Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities, Russian State University, Moscow. The fourth Academic Session on "Gandhara Art, Culture and Architecture" was presided by Mr. Iftikhar Arif, Chairman, National Language Authority, Islamabad.



In his keynote address, Raja Tridev Roy, Federal Minister said that Gandhara is the cradle of Buddhist civilization. The two major ancient civilizations of the area, which is now Pakistan, were the Indus Valley Civilization (Harrappa in 7 BC and Moenjodaro 4 BC) and the Gandhara Civilization (500 BC to 10 AD), he said. Raja Tridev Roy informed the delegates and guests of the conference that Gandhara is the region that now comprise of Peshawar valley, Mardan, Swat, Dir, Malakand, and Bajaur agencies in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Taxila in the Punjab, and up to Jalalabad in Afghanistan. It is in this region that the Gandhara civilization emerged and became the cradle of Buddhism. It was from here that Buddhism spread towards east as far away as Japan and Korea, he maintained.



Table Tennis, Badminton, Sack Race, Tug-of-War and Racing competitions were held during the sports week. A women's cricket tournament was also held on the occasion. This unique event became a center of attraction for the participants of all the competitions as well the faculty and staff of the Lahore Campus.



At the conclusion of the week-long festivity a prize distribution ceremony was held.

Brig. (R) Obaidullah, Director General, Preston University, Lahore Campus presided the ceremony as Chief Guest. He distributed first, second and third prizes among the winners of different competitions.



He called upon the teachers and students to play their due role in this regard, and make sincere efforts to eradicate nepotism, injustice and sense of deprivation from the society.

Eminent among other speakers who spoke on the subject were Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan, Vice Chancellor Preston University, Kohat, Syed Muhammad Atiq Shah, President Peshawar High Court Bar, Prof. Dr. Alay Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Preston Peshawar. Mr. Dawood Jan, Chief of Operations, National Bank, Peshawar and Mr. Abul Qias of Bank of Khyber participated in the seminar as special guests.



Highlighting the importance of science and technical education, Dr. Anwar said that countries of the world who have achieved unparalleled success particularly on the economic front have done so because of the high place they have given to science and technical education in their roster of national priorities.

He said that progress of the country greatly depends on the students who are the future leaders of this country. Education, he maintained, is the only tool that can prepare and equip them with knowledge

and skills essentially required to be effective leaders. Preston University, he said, is dedicatedly engaged in meeting this vital need by imparting state-of-the-art knowledge and education to them. He advised the students to devote themselves to their studies and get prepared to address the formidable challenges that confront the country today.

In Cricket, the team comprising of MBA students grabbed first position. Second place was taken by the BBA students. In the Table Tennis and Badminton competitions Sohail and Ishtiaq of BBA got first and second positions respectively. In the four hundred meter racing competition Ma'az of BBA program outclassed his fellow competitors to win the first position. The Tug-of-War competition was won by the students of BBA-II program.



At the conclusion of the week-long festivity a prize distribution ceremony was held. Faculty, staff and students participated. Vice Chancellor Preston University, Kohat, Dr. Muhammad Anwar Hassan presided over the function as Chief Guest and distributed prizes among the winners of different competitions. On the occasion, he congratulated the winners of various sports events and expressed the hope that those who were unable to win a position this time would work harder to be among the winners next time.





Swiss Red Cross Delegation Visits Preston University



A three member delegation from the International Cooperation Directorate of Swiss Red Cross (ICDSRC) visited the Islamabad Campus of Preston University in March 2011. The delegation comprised of Director International Cooperation, Mr. Martin Fuhrer, Program Coordinator International Cooperation, Ms. Annette Vondeling and Country Representative ICDSRC, Islamabad, Mr. Isle Peter.

On arrival, the members of the Swiss delegation were shown around various departments of the university and introduced to the faculty and staff. During the course of formal meeting, members of the delegation were briefed about the nation-wide operations of Preston University and the academic programs being offered by it at the undergraduate and graduate level. Matters of interest and significance to Preston University, such as curriculum development, faculty training programs, organization of workshops and seminars by ICDSRC, in areas pertinent to the interest of the university, were discussed in deliberations held between the two teams. On the occasion, Dr. N. M. Butt, Chairman Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PNSAT), Preston University, gave a brief presentation on the Institute.



Dr. A. W. Baloch, Director, Disaster Research Institute (DRI) and Registrar, Preston University gave a detailed briefing on DRI to the delegation. He also highlighted areas in which ICDSRC could be helpful in further strengthening DRI's existing set up. On the occasion, he made particular mention of the Diploma and Postgraduate programs DRI is currently offering in Disaster Risk Management at the Islamabad



Campus of the University. In the domain of DRI's international collaboration, he highlighted its collaboration with AIT, Bangkok, BIT Indonesia and National Institute of Disaster Management, India. Engr. Najib Ahmed of Designmen, Islamabad spoke about DRI- Designmen collaboration in research and other areas pertinent to the interest of DRI, Preston University.

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".

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