



SMIU CHRONICLE

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Department of Media & Communication Studies

SMI Varsity VC inaugurates Festival of Arts and Ideas

By Abdul Bari

KARACHI: Vice Chancellor SMI University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh inaugurated Festival of Arts and Ideas on December 8, 2017. 40 sessions were held and attracted good audiences.

They included lectures by international and national speakers, panel discussions, screening of documentaries, photography and painting exhibitions as well as singing and quiz competitions. Shah Latif's seven heroines were depicted in tableaux during four days.

While addressing the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh who also presided the event said, "We have to

introduce our younger generation their cultural and moral values, which they have lost due to the influence of other cultures."

Talking about the objective of the festival he said, "we have organized this festival at the place from

Related stories inside

where founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had received his early education since this festival is a part of the celebrations in connection with the 70th years of Pakistan's independence."

Dr. Shaikh further said the Indus Valley Civilization was

among the great ancient civilizations of the world including Chinese, Greek, Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations.

As the Indus Valley Civilization was one of the most developed eras of the human history, it should also inspire the young people of the modern times to make Pakistan a developed country in every field of life.

He said that innovative ideas channel through deep thinking and that festival would help students to think out of the box and to be innovative and creative. He also shared the purpose of screening classic movies to make youth as well as to enable them to participate in various forms of art.



SMIU, KARACHI: VC SMIU, Dr. Shaikh cuts the ribbon to inaugurate Festival of Arts and Ideas, 2017. — Muhammad Nasir Rafi /SMIU

Reception in honor of International Media Conference's delegation held



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Sindh Madressatul Islam University hosts a reception in the honor of the delegation of International Media Conference, on January 8 at inner courtyard of Main Building of the university. Journalists of more than 24 countries along with senior journalists of Pakistan attended the reception. **Report on Page 10**

SMIU organizes first International Conference on Computing & Related Technologies

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The first-ever international conference on information technology was organized by the Sindh Madressatul Islam University

on December 28 and 29, 2017 in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan at Marriot.

Some nine experts from abroad and several others from across

the country participated in the conference. The aim of this conference was to provide an opportunity for participants to discuss recent advancements in the field of Computer Science and Related Technology and analyze challenges faced by the community in the 21st century. The target audience included Computer Scientist, Information Technology Researcher, graduate and undergraduate students, Computer and Information Technology Professionals.

The Conference covered the topics including Computer architecture and design, Artificial intelligence, Pattern recognition, Human computer interaction, Computer networking, Software engineering, Data management, DataC



KARACHI: MoU signing between SMIU and one of Romanian universities is underway.

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Foundation stone of new campus unveiled

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) formally got the foundation stone laid on December 25, 2017 by Governor Muhammad Zubair on its new campus in the Education City, Malir.

The new campus is a part of the designated site for the Education City established by the Sindh government.

On the occasion, Governor Zubair said he was proud to have visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and unveiled the foundation stone for the new campus of an institution, which was alma mater of the founder of the nation

About the new campus, Dr Shaikh said it would be completed in three phases. The federal government had approved Rs1.57 billion for the first phase which would be completed in three years.

He said during the first phase, infrastructure would be made, hostels for 200 girls and as many boys; 35 staff residences, gym, sports facilities, a building housing the vice chancellor's secretariat and other offices would be made.

The total cost of the project is Rs 12 billion. He said the HEC had funded the project. While the Sindh government and Federal government had owned it and both had chipped in accordingly.

He said former President Asif Ali



MALIR: Governor Sindh, Muhammad Zubair laid the foundation stone of SMIU's new Malir campus. — Muhammad Nasir Rafi /SMIU

"It is indeed great honour for me to be in this ceremony when the Sindh Madressatul Islam University is beginning construction of its new campus. It is one huge occasion that the Prime Minister is presiding over a function for another mega project of the Islamia College University and I am here on his behalf doing the same in SMIU."

Zardari and former Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah had supported for the cause immensely.

Besides, he added, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had allotted 10 acres of land in Hawkesbay area. Ghulam Raza Bhatti, member operation and planning, HEC, said

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SMIU's 4-day Festival of Arts and Ideas starts with film fair

By Usama Arain

KARACHI: The 4-Day Festival of Arts and Ideas started at Sindh Madressatul University on December 7, 2017 with screening of three classic films, Ben Hur (1959), The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) and The Fall of the Roman Empire (1964).

The film Bun-Hur was just a follow up of the film "The Fall of the Roman Empire." While the film The Bridge on the River Kwai was based on World War II and America's prisoners of war and Japan's role in it.

The event was held at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium and was presided by Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of SMIU.

The program was attended by students, their family members, faculty and staff of the university in a large number.

'Dual faces' scores first position

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The documentary competition was held at Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium of on December 8, 2017.

Students belonging to different universities participated in the documentary competition. Some 10 documentaries were short-listed and presented out of total 22.

Dual faces, a documentary film produced by SMIU's Zahid Abbas secured first position, while Bhawish Raj, a student of National University of Sciences & Tech-

nology Karachi and SMIU's M. Azeem Khan got second and third positions respectively for their documentaries on Heritage of Sindh. Ahmed Shah said documentary films have been produced on several ideas but still there new ideas needed for producing quality documentaries.

Speaking on the occasion another panelist, Anjum Rizvi said crazy ideas have always attracted much in the world. Dean of the Business Administration faculty, SMIU, Dr. Parvez Canar also spoke on the occasion.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: A group of participants, organizers and jury of documentary competition of Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Italian professor delivers lecture on spirituality in South Asia

By Abdul Basit

KARACHI: Prof. Thomas Dahnhardt of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy delivered an insightful lecture on the topic 'Contacts between Hindu and Muslim Sufi spirituality in South Asia' held on December 8, 2017 at inner courtyard during Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Dr. Dahnhardt said that many centuries have passed since the expanding forces of Islam brought the first Muslims to the land of river Indus between the 7th and 8th century AD. Ever since coming in contact between the pre-existing culture and environment of ancient India and the dynamic energy inherent in the message propagated by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) to Islam had led to the knowledge and ideas on numerous fruitful contacts on multiple levels and many different fields between these two civilizations.

Dr. Dahnhardt added that the co-existence of Sufis and yogis have been attested from early days and discussed the various principle Sufi orders of the time including the Chishtiyah, Qadiriyyah, Qalandariyah, and Suharwardiya which established their presence all over the sub-continent and their interaction with the Hindu yogis especially that fostered the tradition to 'go deep in the religion' in the search for the greatest truth.

He also added that over the period, the process of reciprocal



INNER COURTYARD OF SMIU: Prof. Dr. Thomas Dahnhardt of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy spoke diligently on the topic 'Contacts between Hindu and Muslim Sufi spirituality in South Asia.'

acknowledgment and assimilation led to the emergence of extremely rich and fascinating cultural environment which is described as Indo-Islamic civilization.

The charismatic presence and concerted actions are exercised for Sufis turned out to be instrumental not only in the attractively growing number of individuals in the fort of Islam but also in getting underway the process of reciprocal influence that must have characterized pre-modern South Asia during the centuries of rule by Muslim and Hindu Kings culminating in the 300 years of Mughal Imperial power. Under the umbrella of spiritual leadership, remarkable symphyses between Hindu and Muslim culture and cults overtime is inaugural center parts of the subcontinent.

In this lecture, Dr. Dahnhardt

however, made the fact clear that Sufism is considered an integral part of Islam, which could not be detached from the religion. According to the Italian scholar, Sufism should not be detached from Islam and Islam should also not be detached or deprived of Sufism. He said nowadays, the term Sufi is being used for all sort of purposes. In the old times, Sufism was the reality without a name but now it has become a name without any reality.

Prof. Thomas Dahnhardt, with the international recognition in command over many eastern languages, cultures, and religions, is a Ph.D. holder on the topic of exploration of the cross-cultural spiritual development in Naqshbandi-Mujaddidi Sufi order in colonial India, has been working on his research for several years in Oxford center for Islamic studies.

SMIU organizes lecture on oceanic exquisiteness of China

By Usama Khatri

KARACHI: Dr. Weimin Delcroix-Tang, a professor with University of Sanya, Hainan, China, presented her essay on the double-sidedness of the oceanic culture of China's tropical island Hainan on December 10, 2017.

She said located in between the South China Sea, the eastern and western, marine and continental, indigenous and Hakka cultures met and interacted. In a session on women and gender issues in Pakistan. She addressed Pakistani expertise culture. We can have friendly relations with Karachi and Sanya. She lives in Xisha Island. Here she discussed The Analects of Confucius she translated the language and discussed eastern and western culture.

The roots that are linked by the Oceanic culture versus continental culture. China is associated with

the color of yellow temperamental difference between eastern and western. She show the graphical culture perfect impression of the tropical geographical island. She also discussed about the gate way of China 200BC-200AD from the mainline which travelled to China.

She also discussed about the border lands. In the book of Anazaldua's speaks about the hybridity that articulates simultaneously Hainan Island as a borderland.

She suggested shared experience of hybridity. There is no industry or close to marine. As the literature is concerned more about ocean land and sea.

Dr Weimin also said many people travelled to western areas. Adopted different culture.

As we always see the China in same culture but as the culture has been exported and imported massively therefore, the relations and culture is shared.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Dr. Tang while receiving the shield of participation and appreciation from the VC SMIU, Dr. Shaikh (L) and delivering her lecture (R).

Scholar questions Dravidian theory of Sindhi language's root



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Dr. Cook being given honorary award by VC SMIU. He talked about standardizing the Sindhi language in colonial South Asia.

By Muhammad Abdullah

KARACHI: Dr. Matthew A. Cook, a professor of NCCU, USA, gave an international lecture on December 9, 2017, the third day of the four-day Arts and Ideas Festival being organized by the Sindh Madressatul Islam University at its campus.

He is an eminent scholar from the North Carolina Central University with PhD in anthropology and an expert on Asian studies and Indian languages. Topic of his lecture was the 'origins of the Sindhi language'.

In that thought-provoking lecture he discussed the 'politics' that

the formulation of the Sindhi script ensued 170 years ago a few years after Sir Charles Napier conquered Sindh against the wishes of most of the bigwigs of the British colonial empire. However, he focused chiefly on the issues that arose when it came to decide for the standard script for a language, which reigned the region for millennia. He said there were four theories about the origins of Sindhi, three of which explored its roots in the Indo-Aryan system. However, the remaining one insisted that today's modern Sindhi was derived from the Proto-Dra-

vidian system with other Dravidian languages and the Indo-Aryan system as a whole as its sisters.

"I personally have issues accepting this fourth theory," said the professor. "This model is hard to sustain." He, however, said there were different answers about the origins of Sindhi language.

However, there were certain amusing information available in the records, which gave fascinating debate and intellectual argument between the two British officers, also eminent linguists, when it came to decide for the script for the modern Sindhi.



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Communication is important, says Mehtab Rashdi

By Zubair Suleman

KARACHI: Sindh Madressa-tul-Islam University organized "Distinguish Lecture" as the part of SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas on December 08 Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Auditorium of SMIU. Mehtab Akbar Rashidi, a journalist, teacher and producer was the Chief Guest of the event.

The aim of the event was to convey message that communication is an art. Communication is necessary in our daily life. Nowadays people using new media for communication for example, whatsapp, facebook etc. In her address she said that while she was a student her parents asked her to become a doctor but her aim was to become a good teacher just because she wants to spread love and peace through communication, the students of her class called her "Phoolon wali miss", students



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Ms. Mehtab Rashdi speaking to audience.

give her flowers just because due to the way she communicate.

She further discussed that communication is important in every aspect of life.

She also told that social media is the fastest medium to communicate but in my point of view verbal communication is very important to understand the feelings and thoughts.

Even she gave the best example that the youth nowadays take a keen part in using internet but if sometimes due to some reason they lost their internet connection they realise that their family members are also nice people.

At the end souvenir was presented by Shaista Mohammad Ali Sheikh to Mehtab Akbar Rashidi.

Elections are pathway towards democracy: Iftikhar Ahmed

By Syeda Qandeel Zehra

KARACHI: On Saturday, 9th December, organized a lecture from seasoned journalist Mr Iftikhar Ahmed on the topic of 'Democracy and phenomenon of election' in inner courtyard.

It was organized on the 3rd day of the festival where Mr Iftikhar said that vote is the most powerful thing a common man have in their hand.

Every single person should come out for bring change in the politics of the country and for better development but unfortunately only 40% people come out for casting their votes which is not as productive as 60% votes can be.

He also discussed about the role of political parties that they must have a clear vision, honest workers and strong leadership for convincing those 60% people to cast their votes who do not participate in election. he added, it could only be made possible when the political parties were themselves strong, carried programs which reflected basic issues of the general public.

He remind the elections of 70s when the resources were less but leaders made people agree to vote and people played their role in fair and free elections.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Seasoned journalist and intellectual Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed while addressing SMIU students and faculty.

He added, we counted the votes in lanterns but there were no corruption in election.

He asked the youth to take active part in elections and use their vote for the change. "At least 60 per cent turnout ratio in general elections is must for the real change in the country." he said.

In response of a question, he said, A common man should compare the vision of political parties and should vote for the one whose vision is more clear and beneficial for the country.

Dean of Business Administration Department, Dr. Zahid Chanar presented the souvenir to the guest.

Class system is the biggest hurdle: I A Rehman

By Muhammad Abdullah

KARACHI: Senior human rights activist Mr. I. A. Rehman, who has received many national and international credentials for human rights activism, delivered a lecture at the inner courtyard of the main building of Sindh Madressatul Islam University during Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Mr. Rehman recited Iqbal's poetry, "lap pe aati hai dua ban k tamana meri" and then shed some light on the history of human rights internationally and then in Pakistan. He also shared some incidents of dark ages occurred due to lack of knowledge of human rights.

Mr. Rehman discussed the issues of society. He was of the view that class system is a big hurdle in resolving general issues. According to him, no society can prosper if it does not respect the poor.

"We did not have the right to education until the Article 25A was added to the Constitution of Pakistan in 2010.

It's been 70 years that human



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Dr. A.I. Rehman while giving lecture on human rights.

rights have been declared but still people are not getting the rights they deserve", He added.

Furthermore, Mr. Rehman encouraged the youth to be more active and start working for the country at the grass root level, as the young blood has to manage the governing system of the country in the future.

He also suggested the students to empower themselves with the knowledge of the rights of a common man. While talking on the

issues of the country, he told the audience, a society can never develop without the participation of women in the struggle.

Question and answer session held at the end.

Honorable Vice Chancellor SMI University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh appreciated the efforts and struggle of Mr. I. A. Rehman in the field of human rights and also presented an honorary shield to him.

Reading habit still persists: OUP managing director

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Ameena Sayyid, managing director, Oxford University Press, Pakistan, spoke over the rampant book piracy issues in Pakistan on December 10, 2017.

She said it deprived writers from being paid royalty they deserved and also cost heavily on publishers. She said reading habit had not faded away in Pakistan, but it was a country of many cultures and identities, thus, the standards vary vis-a-vis topics of books.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Ameena Sayyid delivering her speech.

Ex commissioner gives administrative accountability priority over financial

By Saqib Saleem

KARACHI: Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, federal secretary for planning and development and former commissioner of Karachi, said administrative accountability is needed more than the financial accountability.

He shared his opinion while delivering a lecture at SMIU Festival of Arts and Ideas on December 10, 2017 in the inner courtyard of the main building.

He also said that many projects were pompously inaugurat-

ed but because of little follow-up they did not become functional.

He further said, "The same has been happening in Karachi. A number of such projects have met the same fate.

Unless administrative accountability is not begun, the country cannot progress in real terms," He was of the view that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was extremely important project for the country because construction of roads was very foundation of a country's development."

Through this project Pakistan



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Ex-commissioner Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui delivering his lecture.

will link with other countries of the world and it would fetch wealth in terms of increased exports.

The CPEC will help increase the country's GDP by 23 percent," he added. He also dispelled the impression that more Chinese than Pakistanis will be employed with the CPEC projects.

Mr. Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui also highlighted the different development prospects of Pakistan, he encourages the youth to take part in the efforts of government for the real progress of the country.

Panel discussion highlights issues of Pakistan's economy

By Hafiz Maaz Bin Khalid

KARACHI: A conversation corner entitled 'State of Economy in Pakistan' was organized by Sindh Madressatul Islam University during Festival of Arts & Ideas in Sir Shah Namwaz Bhutto Auditorium on December 8, 2017.

Mr Ateeq ur Rehman, CEO at Coastal Packers & Movers, Mr Nasir Zaidi, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Mr Zahid Ali Channar, Dean Business Administration, Management and Commerce SMIU and Ms. Mahnoor Pervaiz, student SMIU were among the panelists.

Ms Quratulain Nazeer, Lecturer, Department of Business Administration moderated the program. Mr Rehman talked about the infrastructure improvement and said that we are far behind many countries, we export less but import more as a result we face deficit in budget.

While Mr. Nasir Zaidi talked about the youth initiatives and initiatives and causes, he said that in India 96% children go to

the school while if we talk about Pakistan only 67% children get their primary education. He further added that from 1960 to 1990, Pakistan's economy was in its best condition and at that time country's GDP rate was around 6% while today it has fall to 5.28%.

Dr. Zahid discussed the causes and hurdles of the production process. He said that China has 40% saving rate while our saving rate is very low, and then we have to borrow and recently we borrowed 16 Billion dollars, the problem lies in the policy making. We are the poor economy of richest country and 10th emerging economy in Pakistan. Mahnoor represented the young generation of Pakistan and was of the view that we spend more and save less. We have to motivate our youth towards entrepreneurship. She quoted that around 13.1 million savings in decreases due to Inflation.

Question answer session was followed at the end and Dean Information Technology Dr. Syed Asif Ali presented shields to the guests.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: The panelists discussing the state of economy in Pakistan.

'Pakistan's education system: A robot factory'

By Uzair Khan

KARACHI: Pakistan's education system is a robotic factory: said Dr. Iqbal Memon while talking to in a conversational corner on the topic "Pakistan's educational system: A robot factory" held on December 8, 2017 during the Festival of Arts and Ideas.

The Panelists for this conversational corner included Dr. Iqbal Memon, Chairman Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Hyderabad, Ms Sadiqa Salahuddin, Executive Director Indus Resource Center, Ms Amar Sindhu, Chairperson Department of Philosophy, University of Sindh Jamshoro and Mr. Irshad Ahmed, Academician.

Dr. Memon compared students with robots and said that robots

have skills. They do all the things that they have learned.

Similarly, students do the things that they learn from the school. On these basis, he compared students with robots and the schools with robot factories.

Ms Sadiqa Salahuddin while expressing her views said, "according to survey, 60% students left the school just because of the attitude of the teachers and there are no facilities to study; libraries are almost finished." She said that Mass Education is a big deal and it is the responsibility of government and parents to not make it complicated.

Fault line is not in our schools or other institutions; it is in our society.

While talking on this topic, Ms Amar Sindhu said that

4 things are important to make a society educated like to think, to have a choice, to have skills and to transform the knowledge.

But these days our society and education system is not working on these four principles. Ms Sindhu said, "this education system is just banking system".

Mr. Irshad Ahmed made the teachers responsible for this type of education system. He said that "teachers are responsible because they are the instructors and they should be trained properly".

At the end of the discussion, question and answer session was conducted while Dr. Syed Asif Ali, Dean Faculty of Information Technology presented the shield to the panelists.

Laws must be implemented to stop gender based violence, say experts

By Abdul Basit

KARACHI: A conversation corner was held on the topic "Women & Gender issues in Pakistan" in SMIU Festival of Arts and Ideas at its inner courtyard on December 10, 2017.

The panelists were Dr. Khalida Ghous, Human rights activist, Ms. Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, & Mrs. Shaista Muhammad Ali. Dr. Khalida Ghous said that "there are many laws which ensures the gender equality and equity but these laws are not helping to create the social justice".

She also highlighted the importance of working women that their work is not documented, these are those skilled women who are doing the home based work but unfortunately they are not getting as much importance as they should."

Ms. Mahnaz Rehman highlighted the issues and discussed the



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: The panel discussed gender related problems.

historical background of struggle of women. She emphasized that there is a need of holistic approach to resolve these kind of issues.

She further said that it's not only about economic empowerment of women but it is about changing the social and wrong cultural norms that are associated with women & gender.

Mrs. Shaista Muhammad Ali

highlighted some cases that were reported on mainstream media due to harassment and domestic violence.

They said that the women and gender issues will not be decreased until and unless the laws are properly implemented.

The event was followed by question and answer session and lucky draw at the end.

Experts see electronic, digital media as way forward

By Syed Zahid Abbas

KARACHI: One of the events of Conversational corner was panel Dissuasion on Electronic Media: A way Forward on December 9, 2017.

It was hosted by Ms Sidra Agha, a lecturer in the department of Media and Communication Studies.

Guest speakers of the panel discussion were Director, CEJ-IBA, and renowned journalist Kamal Siddiqui, Najia Asher Journalist, Dr. Ambreen Fazal, In-Charge Chairperson of media department at SMI university and Abdul Basit, student of SMI university.

Mr. Kamal said about modern

media; "These days, media is being used for only business purposes. No one cares about what they are showing on television and what it will cause. Total destruction of our society."

He further said that every channel is busy in the race of increasing their ratings. So, it will be use-

less to hope for any betterment.

Abdul Basit said; Channels will get matured and one day, they will start producing better programs.

Mr. Kamal replied that, they will not get matured unless they have the system of ratings.

He also asked students to use social media carefully and try to switch the channel, when Media is broadcasting wrong or unethical programs.

The more you will watch their shows, the more ratings they will get and the more, programs they will produce.

Ms Najia Asher said that from last 17 years, we have seen huge development of digital media and because of social media, the process of producing verified News is disturbed. Resulting the fake News is being promoted without getting checked.

She claimed that talk shows' ratings was decreasing on television because social media has emerged as the powerful facet of the modern

journalism. Social media is easy to use and more fast in speed. That's why people are diverting toward it.

Dr. Ambreen Fazal also agreed with Ms Najia Asher and said that social media is a very fast and easy to approach. It has allowed women to speak for their rights. They have raised their voice through internet because on the internet, there is no one stop them and to force them.

"Does the social media decrease the value of any Television personality?" asked by Ms Sidra Agha.

On this question, Ms Najia Asher replied that the social media does not decrease the value of any Television personality but it does increase. Instead of spending so much time on television, these Personalities can increase their value by just creating their own videos, blog, tweets, photos and shows on social media in very less time.

In the end of the event, students were asked to question the guest speakers.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: The panel questioned the maturity of digital media.

Media is restricted, says panelists

By Uzair Khan

KARACHI: SMIU organized Conversation Corner entitled "Freedom of media: Corporate, State and non-state interest" during Festival of Arts and Ideas on December 9, 2017 at inner courtyard of the main building. Panelists of the session included Ghazi Salahuddin, Mazhar Abbas and Dr. Ayoub Shaikh.

Dr. Ambreen Fazal, Chairperson Department of Media and Communication Studies moderated the session. While talking on the freedom of media Ghazi Salahuddin said it is the objective coverage with the responsible behavior and freedom lies in raising the voice of the rights.

He was of the view that Pakistani media is working in the right direction but there is no input from the audience. People are not reading newspaper as a result circulation of newspapers is decreasing.

He also added that media is not fulfilling the job with honest behavior and journalists are also failed in fighting for their freedom. Dr. Ayoub Shaikh said that Pakistani media has 50% power and the rest of half power is restricted from different platforms and usually they have to follow and obey the restrictions.

He said that Pakistan has literacy problem. There is no culture and freedom to question and challenge the authorities. He was also of the view that press and nation fall together.

Mr Mazhar Abbas said that Journalists and their different bodies have done great struggle during the regimes of dictators. While discussing the work of media he said that people in the media industry are irresponsible, they don't create awareness of rights. People are also not supporting media channels.



INNER COURTYARD , SMIU: The panelists discussing freedom of media in Pakistan.

'Climate change to have huge impact on environment'

By Faiza Fatima

KARACHI: "Environmental Issues of Pakistan" was held on December 9, 2017 in the Inner Courtyard from 01:45pm to 2:45pm.

The following guests who were on this conversation corner were Ms. Tania Saleem (Social Activist, Founder of SNF), Dr. Amin Qureshi (Assistant Professor SMI University), Mr. Zeeshan (Student of SMIU). The Moderator was, Dr. Hashim Zuberi, (Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, SMIU).

Head of the festival: Dr. Abdul Malik Abbasi was present there. Organizers were; Mr. Wadeed Baig, (SMIU Student, Department of Media Studies), Mr. Syed Maaz Jilani, (SMIU Student, Department of Media Studies)

The major and daunting reason of environmental issues in the country is due to the climate change, explained by Ms. Tania Saleem.

She further said that it causes more disasters and earthquakes which we can witness in Baluchistan, Hazara, and Kashmir.

Coming to the urban areas, this issue is increasing day by day. Because of lack of oppor-



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Dr. Ameen Quraeshi (second from left) while answering a question from audience. The topic of the discussion was 'Environmental Issues of Pakistan.'

tunity, people of these places are unable to work and live peacefully.

Unfortunately, authorities of our country are not serious on this matter and don't talk much but with hesitation about the environmental issues of Pakistan.

Mr. Zeeshan expressed his woe-filled words by discussing that there is no pertinent management system which gives attention to this cause and work it out. Industrial lives are quickly increasing

and even causing a great deal of problems for the societal peace.

People are just watching, few of them are aware of the imminent danger related to environmental hazards but nobody reflects or highlights the issue. Making the matter worse, all the disasters that have been encountered by the country yet are nearly neglected by the political parties and the government agencies.

Dr. Amin Qureshi said about this issue claiming it as not the isolated

issue. "Climate change is the main thing for our 'survive' and as we know that the earth is covered with 80% of water. But due to this issue in 2050, we will not have wheat crop that could not complete biological cycle". He sadly added that, "Pakistan is backward in this situation and has no contribution".

Mr. Zeeshan raised the issue of deforestation in which people burn the trees that contains a huge smoke and everyone faces its terrible effects in our environment.

Experts link prosperity in Pakistan to entrepreneurial mindset of youth

By Salman Khan

KARACHI: A conversational corner on 'Entrepreneurial potential for youth in Pakistan' organized on December 10, 2017 in the inner courtyard of the main building during SMIU Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Mr. Rizwan, CEO Medisave Pharma and Ms. Naheed Memon, Chairperson SBI were the panelist of the session while Ms. Sehrish Abro moderated the program.

She told about the current entrepreneurial conditions in Pakistan. Mr. Rizwan said that our universities and institutions are not producing entrepreneurial mindsets, they are only discussing theoretical concepts. Even students after completing their MBA aims to get a good job but why don't they think of starting their own business.

For initiating a startup, creative business idea is required and not a big investment, ideas automatically attract investors in the market. While citing examples

he talked about Facebook who does not have their content, similarly UBER a big transport service does not own their cars.

He was also of the view that before starting a business a person should work in the field as an employee to get experience and expertise. He shared his own example and said that he started his business with hundred and twenty-five thousand rupees and at the moment is an owner of three companies.

Ms Naheed Memon said that commercial banks in Pakistan are not playing vital role, as in the region we have lowest ranking in entrepreneurial sector due to lack of access to financial markets.

She was of the view that to start a new business, there is a need of financial support and backup which is not provided by banks and other public sector organizations. As a result, many businesses close down within a year.

She also suggested that business communities should support aspiring entrepreneurs in coming up with new startups.

SMI Model school takes part in festival



KARACHI: Students of SMI Model School also took part in the festival of Arts and Ideas by presenting a show on Quaid-e-Azam Karachi mein, quiz, folk performance in Sindhi, Mazahiya Musharia in Urdu and Sindhi Boli, a Sindhi tableau on December 9, 2017.

Development of Karachi as mega city discussed

By Salman Khan

KARACHI: SMI University organized a conversational corner entitled "Development of Karachi as a mega city of Sindh" held in Inner Courtyard of main building during Festival of Arts and Ideas on December 9, 2017.

Panelists of the session included Ms. Yasmin Lari, Chair and Chief Executive, Heritage Foundation of Pakistan and Mr. Arif Hassan, Architect, while the moderator was Ms. Zonaira Jalali, Student Welfare Officer at SMIU. While talking about "Development of Karachi as a mega city of Sindh", Ms. Yasmin Lari said that

the development of Karachi is not one man's responsibility but is the responsibility of every single citizen without any discrimination.

She also shared that there was no pollution before but citizens of Karachi can make and develop their city in a better way. Some areas are not developed; drainage system is not built properly for example Liaquatabad. She said our youth can be active for this work as they can work as volunteer.

Government should also play the role for the benefit of city and we citizens should also play our role rather complaining. Ms. Lari was of the view that women can bring a big change. While answer-

ing a question she said that Laws help people to know what should be preserved and valued, secondly by laws are supposed to be made. Mr. Arif Hassan shared a movement where students participated as volunteers and worked for one elevated station.

He was of the view that for the mutual benefit, we should work together and look how the system operates by working together. One issue is the policy. He said that we have best schools, colleges, universities and talented students to work on this goal, we have 78% home sectors here.

If we seriously work on these issues, the future generations can

grow on it and understand the problems and they will try to resolve it. Vice Chancellor SMI University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali

Shaikh, deans, faculty members and students attended the event. Session was followed by question and answer at the end.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Moderator Ms. Zonaira Jalali (L) engaged in conversation with Mr. Arif Hassan (C) and Ms. Yasmin (R).

Significance of festivals

Sindh Madressatul Islam University's four days Festival of Arts and Ideas commenced from Thursday, 7th December and continued till Sunday, 10th December, in its premises.

The festival was organized to celebrate 70 years of the independence of Pakistan. Therefore, during four days of the festival, international lecture programs, distinguished lectures, conversation corner, bookshelf sessions, documentary competition, painting and photography's exhibition, performance by SMIU's students on seven famous folklores of Sindh, singing and quiz competitions, screening of classic film, Message of Peace and Universalism in Mystic Poetry, fun fare, national and international cultural shows and school show were organized.

Festivals are always an occasion of conscious, meaningful and purposive celebrations, mainly geared towards recreation, prevalent in all well-organized and developed

societies irrespective of geographical differences, religious creed, social status and economic conditions.

No doubt, they are integral components of a culture, reflecting materials as well as non-material aspects of societies spanning all over the world.

To be more precise, it is a joyful celebration that includes eating, drinking, singing and dancing. Likewise, festivals show extrovertness, gregariousness, outgoingness and sociability of an individual in a society.

Besides, there are multiple types of festivals, e.g. music, art, cultural, drama, film, dance and seasonal festivals.

Interestingly, festivals are marked at micro as well as macro levels by local communities. In other words, there are local, national and international festivals across the world to entertain and educate the participants.

In fact, it always infuses a fresh spirit in the soul of dead societies and is regarded as

an emblem of a progressive nation. Most importantly, it indicates enlightenment and aesthetic taste of celebrators in a society.

The celebration of festivals develops the intellectual and moral faculties, especially by educating those who take a keen interest and participation in observing convivial gatherings.

Similarly, it has also the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge of cultural beliefs, customs, arts, values, attitudes, material traits and practices to succeeding generations.

Surprisingly, there are several variables in festivals of different societies yet there are cultural universals prevailing in all festivals of world societies.

More importantly, festivals help in preserving and diffusing cultural artifacts through celebration of festive activities.

The effects of festivals are very wholesome for an individual and for the society. They



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relieve people from monotony of life and create an environment of cultural harmony and peaceful coexistence accompanied by national cohesion.

Festivals teach us to forget our enmity and embrace one another in a bond of love. They are expressive ways to celebrate glorious heritage, culture and traditions. They are meant to rejoice special moments and emotions in our lives with our loved ones.

In addition, they connect us with our families and backgrounds. They give us a dis-

traction from our day to day, exhausting routine of life, and give us some inspiration to remember the important things and moments in life.

In the last, festivals play a paramount role in character and nation building, personality development a socialization of people, exposing them to a variety of experiences of life.

Without any iota of doubt, festivals are the cradle of cultural base and has a versatile role to play by entertaining and education the people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters to the Editor at
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Opportunities of students in Pakistan

There are various opportunities for the students studying in Pakistan.

If they want to become a doctor there are numerous medical universities from which they can graduate and same as if they want to become an engineer there are various merit base universities like NED, MUET etc.

After graduating from these universities or other institutes in Pakistan they can have multiple job opportunities and can be provided with internship offers like practice year.

Those students who want to study abroad, many universities or institute provide them abroad studying facility from Pakistan, For those student who want to be a media person or a journalist, there are various institutes in Pakistan which are giving mass-communication or media science degree with internship facility. For them there are various platforms like T.V studios news room, etc. provided by institutes.

And in Pakistan there are various ARTS institutes, which give the chance to enhance those students those are interested in acting, film making, dance, painting etc. Like NAPA So in Pakistan students have bright future with hundreds of opportunities.

Aqsa Shah

Department of Media and Communication Studies

SMIU Festival of Arts and Ideas.

The blithesome and monumental festival of ARTS and IDEAS in Sindh Madressatul Islam University was arranged in the month of December from 7th to 10th. Our honorable Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh started festival with the opening ceremony. The festival was consisted on multitudinous events with many informative lectures and also talk about social issues in the country and discussed their solutions.

On the other side, the entertaining and amusing sessions were also followed in which students show their talent and skills in the competitive

sessions and won prizes. Moreover, multiple stalls were arranged. There were different varieties in the food stalls. Students and their guests also enjoyed. Students were also facilitated with transport due to late night events.

People enjoyed with highly enthusiasm and wholeheartedness that they will never forget it. They wish to celebrate more festivals like this again in future.

Faiza Fatima

Department of Media and Communication Studies

In the celebration of completing 70 years, Sindh Madressatul Islam University arranged 40 different events and the festival was named as "Arts & ideas" one of the event was "documentary competition", in which many talented students applied but only three students managed to win the cash prizes and awards. These three students were selected from top ten. Every student was supported and got the platform to enhance their skills. These kind of events will definitely help the students to learn and have a brighter future.

Syed Zahid Abbas

Department of Media and Communication Studies

Give way to the ambulance

With the increasing traffic on roads, ambulances are facing some troubles in performing their duties. More and more vehicles in the busy roads of Karachi and other major cities of Pakistan are refusing to yield to emergency vehicles. Instead of clearing and pulling to the side of, when an ambulance approaches, many vehicles are racing ahead of ambulance or following closely behind them to pass more quickly through traffic. The bottom line is that people who don't stop for ambulance increase the chance that someone who is in critical condition will die because ambulance can't reach them or get them to a hospital fast enough.

Whenever an ambulance red light is flashing, whenever its siren is on, It means a life is at stake, you must give way to the ambulance, so that it can

quickly get to the scene to treat the sick or injured. Save lives Give way to the Ambulance

Hafiz Maaz Bin Khalid

Department of Media and Communication Studies

Technology

Technology is important for everyone. In previous era, there was a dark ages. People lived on mountains and forests, but today is the modern era. Scientists has invented a lot of technology. Technology made life easier. We use a lot of technology in daily routine.

We operate a computer in daily. Computer is a modern technology. Nowadays the information is on our fingertips. We visit all places within second, but there are some disadvantages in technology. Scientists invented some dangerous weapons like hydrogen bomb and atom bomb. Nowadays, countries are scared of another country, because many countries have an atom bomb

Herman Pir

Department of Media and Communication Studies

Necessity of Public Libraries

Libraries urge individuals to explore the world through books and to lead them to think critically and play an important role in the life of a nation. It is essential for the enhancement of moral, educational and social values of a society. In the big city like Karachi, we can hardly find few libraries which clearly shows our priorities in this domain. The absence of sufficient public libraries creates lack of awareness of important issues and is problematic especially for students. Attainment of knowledge is the fundamental right of all the individuals of a society. I wish we realize the importance of public libraries and try to incorporate some in our localities and communities.

Sameer Ali Khan

Media and Communication Studies



SMIU CHRONICLE

SMIU organizes national, international cultural performances

By Kazim Mansoor

KARACHI: SMI University organizes national and international culture performances in the Festival of Arts & Ideas 2017 on December 9, 2017 in Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium.

Students reflected the cultural heritage of different national and international cultures through their performances in two different programs themed on culture. While portraying international culture, they performed on Italian, Arabic, Chinese, African, South Asian, American culture.

The participants performed the traditional dance performances on Chinese fan dance, South Asian "dandiya" dance, Arabic "dabke" dance, African mask dance, Central Asian "whirling" dance. "Qawali" and Italian poetry were also recited. Students on national cultural performance



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Female students of SMIU presenting cultural dance of China Republic.

section highlighted Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, and Pashto culture.

The event was attended by large number of students, faculty members and guests. Students were attired in different cultural and traditional dresses.

The participants were wearing the Turkish, Italian, Asian, African costumes during their dance performances.

The audience lauded the efforts of the participants. At the end of the program, an



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Dhamal, traditional folk dance was performed by the male students of SMIU.

Asian cultural walk was also presented to the audience to show beauty and diversity of different cultures.

Prof. Dr. Syed Asif Ali, Dean Faculty of Information Technology was the chief guest of the

event who appreciated the efforts of the students on portraying the cultural importance of different nations all over the world.

Event was also followed by a lucky draw where two individuals among audience won the gift.

Battle for Tansen of SMIU



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: A group of students performing a musical item in Battle of Tansen.

By Abdul Bari

KARACHI: SMI University organized singing competition entitled 'Battle for Tansen of SMIU' both in Sindhi & Urdu languages on December 9 and 10, 2017 at Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium of SMIU.

The event was organized on two consecutive days on 9 and 10 December at Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium and in inner courtyard of the main building.

The theme of the competition was "Ishq-e-Alast" (Sufism), "Bedaari" (Patriotic Songs) and "Sad-abahar" (Classical). Judges for the competitions were Mr. Wafa Mansoor, Ms. Sahar Channa, Ms. Nazia Ashraf and Ms. Maheen Iqbal from SMI University.

The Judges selected the best singer from each category. Winners of Sindhi competition were Mushahid Hussain, Samad Lashari, and Murad

Siddiqui while the winners of Urdu singing competition included Shahrukh, Asad Khan and Noman Karimi respectively.

The winners got the title of "Tansen of SMIU."

Dean faculty of Information Technology, Prof. Dr. Syed Asif Ali appreciated the efforts of the participants.

Event followed by the lucky draw and two winners of the lucky draw won the gifts.

Photography, painting exhibition held

By Ali Hadi

KARACHI: The photography and painting exhibition was arranged by the students of SMIU in the backyard of Main building as part of four days SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas-2017 where students depicted art and portrayed their work. The exhibition covered photog-

raphy from students on buildings, portraits, landscapes, streets, birds and still life.

The paintings were completely thematic possessing artistic ideas which were visited and duly appreciated by the VC SMIU, Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, and other national and international scholars.



BACKYARD, SMIU: VC SMIU Dr. Shaikh interacting with SMIU students during the exhibition of photography and painting.

Fakhr-e-Pakistan wins speed quiz competition



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Participants of the quiz while answering questions.

By Abdul Bari

KARACHI: SMI University organized speed quiz competition in the Festival of Arts and Ideas 2017 at Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Auditorium on December 8 & 10 in order to encourage and appreciate students to urge for knowledge gaining.

Four teams participated on the first day of the Quiz show including Shan-e-Pakistan, Fakhr-e-Pakistan, Azm-e-Pakistan and Istaqlal-e-Pakistan as the festival

was based on the celebrations of 70 years of Pakistan so the teams were named accordingly.

Questions ranged among the eight categories including geography, current affairs, environmental science, sports, literature, information technology, international relations and Islamic studies.

After three rounds on the first day, two teams were selected for the final round on next day.

Theme of next day was Kasauti. Judges of the Kasauti included Dean

Faculty of Business Administration, Management and Commerce Dr. Zahid Ali Channar, Assistant Professor Dr. Mujeeb ur Rehman Abro and Assistant Professor Dr. Subhash.

After a tough competition Fakhr-e-Pakistan won the competition and Shan-e-Pakistan stood as the runner up. The event was also followed by a lucky draw.

Dean faculty of Information Technology Prof. Dr. Syed Asif Ali appreciated the efforts of the participants and organizers.

Abbas Hussain explains classic books to students

By Syed Athar Ali Shah

KARACHI: Student committee of Sindh Madrassa-tul-Islam University organized event named 'Bookshelf' as a part of SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas on Saturday 9 December 2017 at the inner courtyard of SMIU main building.

Abbas Hussain, the director of teacher's development center was the speaker of the session. Sindh Madrassa-tul-Islam University organized the 4 days festival of Arts & Ideas to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's independence where series of events and lectures were organized. Bookshelf was organized on the 3rd day of the festival and the event was titled as "Why we read the classics".

Chief guest of the session Mr. Abbas Hussain highlighted 14 reasons of Italo Calvino, why people read classics?

He said, Classics are those books which you cannot forget for your entire life once you have read it. Every time you

read classic you find something new in it, he further added.

He later suggested some great classics to the audience which included Masnavi by Rumi, Shara-fuddin Mureri's 'The Hundred Letters', Door Lessing's 'Shikasta' and many other greatest classic books. In response of a question asked to him, he said, A book should remain there at least for 2 to 3 generations to become a classic.

He also highlighted the importance of Hamlet by William Shakespeare in our lives.

In his concluding remarks, he appreciated the idea of the SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas and applauded the efforts of the management for organizing the event.

He said, these events and festivals help youngsters to learn new things and groom their personality. Dean of Business Administration Department, Dr. Zahid Chanar presented the souvenir to the guest and thanked him for the informative session.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Mr. Abbas Hussain engaged himself fully with the audience during his session.

Shah Latif Chair's director reviews most popular Sindhi books

By Usama Khatri

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University organized an event "Bookshelf" as the part of SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas on Saturday 9 December 2017 at Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Auditorium of SMIU. Prof. Saleem Memon, Ex Director of Karachi University was the Chief Guest of the event.

First he talked about Shah Jo Risalo, the book based on the poetry of "Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai". On this occasion he said, "When Latif used to recite his poetry his companions used to write it.

One day Latif thought that if the poetry he recited could not inspire the people and the people would admire him as a "Fitnah" so he asked his companions to throw all the work in the river". He talked at great length about

the themes, heroines, topics, language, background, context, diction, cultural importance, symbolism, similes, metaphors, and other things present in the Risalo.

He could not speak about

the other book, as he had consumed all time over Shah Jo Risalo.

He thanked SMIU for giving him a chance to speak to students of SMIU over the occasion.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Prof. Saleem Memon addressing the audience while pondering Shah Latif's life and work.

'Literature is more philosophical than history'

By Abdul Bari

KARACHI: Professor Sehar Ansari was invited as the speaker on three popular books on December 10, 2017. The event was a part of SMIU Festival of Arts and Ideas 2017.

Prof. Sehar first of all appreciated the event and expressed his happiness over the same. Speaking about Ghalib, he said that Mirza Ghalib's poetry was full of Sufism, morality and motivation.

One can clearly understand the aim of life while reading Mirza Ghalib. Of all the qualities Ghalib had, one of the finest was "hu-

muor" and he frequently used this quality in his literature. He also talked about the diction, phrases and the style of his poetry.

The second book about which he talked was "Zavia" written by Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed who is a well-known writer, dramatist and broadcaster. He said that In Zavia, Ashfaq Ahmed has briefly discussed the human life and we can learn as much as we want from it. In his fictions, Ashfaq Ahmed has tried his best to present the real life of common man so his readers could get a lesson from his prose.

If someone read Zavia, he or she might feel that Ashfaq Ahmed

had written about the philosophy and life style of a common man.

Third book was from Miss Quratulain Hyder, it was her novel "Aag Ka Darya" which is a landmark novel that explores the vast sweep of time and history.

Musing over the novel, Prof. Ansari said that Aag Ka Darya (River of Fire), her magnum opus, is a landmark novel that explores the vast sweep of time and history.

It tells a story that moves from the fourth century BC to the post-Independence period in India and Pakistan, pausing at the many crucial epochs of history.

Mystic message of peace, universalism explored

By Faiza Raiz

KARACHI: An event on Day three of Sindh Madressatul Islam University's Festival of Arts and Ideas highlighted the message of peace and universalism through documentary, poetry, and performances on December 09, 2017 at Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Auditorium.

The event popularized the message of three famous mystic poets: Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Bulleh Shah, and Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi.

Program was divided in three parts: Life and journey of the great saints, recitation from the selected verses, and dance performance on the kalams related to those enlightened Sufis.

The audience and the chief guests were thrilled by the dance performance on the kalams on Shah Latif and Bulleh Shah.

However, the performers depicting the whirling dervishes on the mausoleum of Rumi caught the audience by awe and surprise.

The verses instilled the spirituality in the hearts of the listeners. Program ended with loud cheers and applause by the spectators.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: The students performing Rumi's whirling dance.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Ms. Noorulain was the compare of the event.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Kalam of Bhitai was presented in the form of performance by students.

Fun fair adds colour to festival

By Ali Hadi

KARACHI: SMIU festival of Arts and Ideas 2017 included fun-fair which was organized near library during 8-10 December, it caters various stalls arranged by students and different societies.

Vice Chancellor SMIU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh visited the stalls while inaugurating the festival, he appreciated the efforts of the students.

Book stalls, food stalls, a sec-

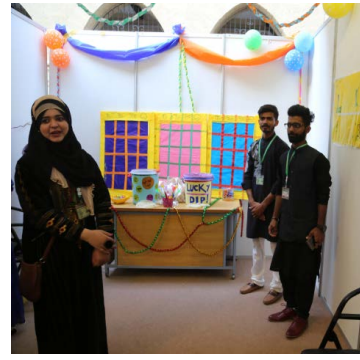
tion for palmistry, environment awareness section, cultural related items, nail art and mehndi designs, gaming zones, digital photographic booth with different props, SMIU radio stall, wall of kindness stall were part of the funfair.

SMIU Radio stall caught the attraction of visitors where they convey their messages, sang songs and entertain the public.

Funfair was the crowded area throughout the three days of the festival.



SMIU: SMIU VC visiting stalls on the first day of Festival of Arts and Ideas.



SMIU: The view of one stall of fun fair. Students display their art and craft work.



SMIU: Female students pose for the photo on their stall.

Seven queens of Latif presented in plays

By Rehan Khan, Hammad Saleem and Hamza Arshad

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University Organized "Seven Heroines of Folklore" as a part of SMIU Festival of Arts & Ideas on 8-10 December, 2017 at Inner Courtyard of the main Building and Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium, where students performed on legendary folklores.

Performances on "Seven Heroines of Folklore" were organized to highlight mystical stories of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai among the young generation. Seven heroines is a name commonly referred to the seven female characters that appear in the poetry of great Sindh poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai.

In his acclaimed work 'Shah Jo Risalo'. They famous character included Marui, Moomal, Sassui, Noori, Sohni, Lilan and Sorath. They have conveyed the mystic & poetic message of Shah Bhit-tai, these seven queens have remained celebratory icons in the history of Sindh for their bravery, passion, loyalty, commitment and character's strength.

On December 8 2017, play on '**Sassui Punnu**' was organized at the inner courtyard.

Sassi was the daughter of the Raja of Bhambore in Sindh. Upon Sassi's birth, astrologers predicted that she was a curse for the royal family's prestige.

The Raja ordered that the child be put in a wooden box and thrown in the Sindhu.

A washer man of the Bhambore village found the wooden box and the child inside. The washer man believed the child was a blessing from God and took her home. As he had no child of his own, he decided to adopt her.

When Sassi became a young girl, she was as beautiful as the fairies of heaven. Stories of her beauty reached Punhun and he became desperate to meet Sassi.

The handsome young Prince therefore travelled to Bhambore. He sent his clothes to Sassi's father a washer man so that he could catch a glimpse of Sassi.

When he visited the waterman's house, they fell in love at first sight. Sassi's father was dispirited, hoping that Sassi would mar-

ry a washer man and no one else. He asked Punhun to prove that he was worthy of Sassi by passing the test as a washer man. Punhun agreed to prove his love.

While washing he tore all the clothes as being a prince he had never washed any clothes; he thus failed the agreement.

But before he returned those clothes, he hid gold coins in the pockets of all the clothes, hoping this would keep the villagers quiet.

The trick worked and Sassi father agreed to the marriage. The second phase of these stories was organized at auditorium on Saturday, 9 Dec 2017 and where three stories were performed by student and the stories were "Noori Jam Tamachi", "Sohni Mahiwal" and "Umar Marvi"

Noori Jam Tamachi is a famous tale of Prince Jam Tamachi's falling in love with the charming fisherwoman Noori. Noori makes Jam happy with her perfect surrender and obedience which causes him to raise her above all the other queens. Jam Tamachi was a Samma

prince, a ruler of Thatta, Sindh. A girl of this class, Noori, attracts the attention of Jam Tamachi, who madly fell in love with her and raised her above the ladies of royal blood.

Sohni Mahiwal is a tragic love story which reverts the classical motif of Hero and Leader.

The heroine Sohni, unhappily married to a man she despises, swims every night across the river using an earthenware pot to keep afloat in the water, to where her beloved Mehar herds buffaloes.

One night her sister-in-law replaces the earthenware pot with a vessel of unbaked clay, which dissolves in water and she dies in the whirling waves of the river.

Umar Marvi or Marui is a folk-tale from Sindh and about a village girl Marvi Maraich, who resists the overtures of a powerful King and the temptation to live in the palace as a queen, preferring to be in simple rural environment with her own village folk.

On the last day of festival remaining three stories were performed at the inner courtyard on

Sunday, 10 Dec 2017 and the stories were "Momal Rano", "Sorath Rai Diyach", Lilan Chanesar.

Momal Rano or Mumal Rano is a romantic tale of Momal and Rano from the Sindh folklore and Rajasthani folklore.

It is a multifaceted story that entails adventure, magic, schemes, beauty, love, ordeals of separation and above all romantic tragedy.

The love of Momal and Rano is an allegorical metaphor for the love of the soul and divine.

The separation and longing between two lovers parallels the separation of the Divine and the human soul and longing of both the divine and the human soul to merge and dissolve into each other much like Momal and Rano were unified in the burning fire.

The human soul, ruh, longs for Allah and in absolute overpowering self-abnegating devotion cares nothing for the world or society and seeks union with divinity in the crazed love experienced by Sufis.

Sorath Rai Diyach is one of the historical romantic tales from Sindh. It is included in seven popular tragic romances. Sorath was the queen of King Rai Diyach of Girnar, Junagadh now in Gujarat who sacrificed herself for the sake of her love for husband.

Diyach gave his head to wandering minstrel and followed him to the world of dead. Highly pleased with the songs of minstrel, Bijal, Diyach offered him to ask for anything he liked to have.

As the intrigues of fate would have it, his son asked for his head. The kind and generous king gave it.

Lilan Chanesar is traditional story which dates back to the time of Jam Chanesar, one of the Soomra rulers in the 14th century Thatta, Sindh. It has often been retold in Sindh and Persian.

The main idea to present these legendary stories in this festival was to highlight the importance of these fictional stories among the youngsters. Many youngsters don't have knowledge about these and many other stories about their civilization.

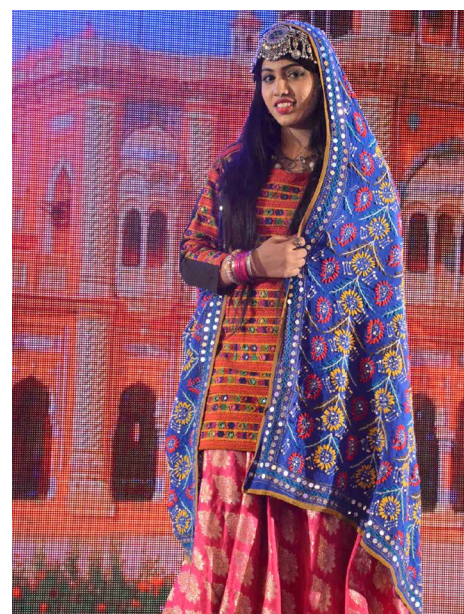
The students performed brilliantly and were applauded by the audience. In the concluding remarks Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh appreciated the efforts of the students and said these type of events help youngsters know about their heritage and increase their knowledge.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: Saeed Shah and Mahnoor Perveez hosted the session.



INNER COURTYARD, SMIU: A beautiful scene from the play 'Noori Jam Tamachi.'



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Momal Bughio performed the role of "Moomal" in Moomal Rano.



INNER COURTYARD: A scene from the play 'Lilan Chanesar.'



INNER COURTYARD: A scene from the play 'Sorath Rai Diyach.'

Festival ends with majestic ceremony



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: VC SMIU Dr. Shaikh giving certificate to one of student committee members, Ms. Kainat Memon.

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Closing ceremony of the Festival of Arts & Ideas was held on January 04, 2017 in which the prizes and certificates were distributed among the students

and faculty members, who had organized different events and set up best stalls during the festival.

Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University has said that the students of SMIU have tremendous talents and creative and leadership abilities, which they exhibited by organizing a most successful event of Festival of Arts and Ideas, recently.

The vice chancellor gave away honorarium to 53 students of the university who had organized about 40 different events during the festival.

Also seven faculty members and twenty students were awarded certificates on their best performance during the festival.

He also gave prizes to the students on their best documentaries.

He further said that during the festival both the male and female students played a very significant role by organizing different events.

This all happened because SMIU believes in gender balanced policy.

Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh said that the SMIU Festival will be a yearly feature, because it provides opportunities to its students to learn from their own experiences while organizing such events, attending different thoughtprovoking sessions and listening different successful persons.

Dr. Ambreen Fazal, convener of the festival, Mahnoor Pervaiz, student's convener and faculty members Mr. Abdul Malik, Ms Sidra Agha and Ms. Nausheen Hussain also shared their views regarding the festival.

Sindh cultural day celebrated in campus



SMIU: Students pose for picture while clad in Sindhi cultural dress.

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Students of Sindh Madressatul Islam University observed Cultural Day of Sindh on Monday December 4, 2017. They did Jhumar (a form of Sindhi dance) in the ground of SMIU on the rhythm of Ho Jamalo, a folk song of Sindh.

All male and female students had attired Sindhi cultural dresses including Sindhi Topi and Ajrak.

They showed great joy and pleasure while organizing gatherings in campus to highlight the importance and cultural beauty of the day.

Prior to it the students of SMIU Model School had also observed the cultural day.

SMIU celebrates Eid Milad-unNabi

By Staff Report

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University celebrated Eid Milad un-Nabi (P.B.U.H) on December 15, 2017 at its Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium with a great religious zeal and fervor.

Begum Syed Qaim Ali Shah, spouse of Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh Mrs. Shaista Muhammad Ali, and female students, faculty and staff members of the university and SMIU Model School attended.



SIR SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO AUDITORIUM, SMIU: Female faculty and students while participating in the Milad.

Entry test for Masters, PhD programs held

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) conducted an entry test on December 16, 2017 for admissions in Masters and PhD programs for Spring 2018 in the premises of the university.

The candidates gave the test for different disciplines of MS & Phd including Department of Business Administration, Commerce and Management Science, Computer Science, Media and

Communication Studies, Environment Science and Education. The candidates had come from all parts of Sindh, because SMIU offers admissions on open merit.

While talking before and after the test, some candidates said that they are aspirant to get admission in this historic institution that it provides quality education at its campus on the low fee and has emerged as a most modern university specially of the province of Sindh.

malir campus

the HEC's 129 projects in 112 universities of the country were going on. He said in the past 15 years, the HEC had completed 847 projects. At present, he said, projects were being funded for the University of Sindh, SMIU, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto University of Law, IBA Sukkur etc.

HEC was establishing 66 campuses in various districts of the country. In Sindh, six such campuses had been established and five of them were functional in Umerkot, Shahdadkot, Ghotki, Jacobabad and Kashmore.

Mr. Gul Mohammad Leghari from the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, the era of industrialization, which dominated the world in 18th century, was overwhelmed by the knowledge-based economic development in 1990s, which too was there to be replaced by the looming digital era in 2030.

Computer conference

base systems, Cloud Computing, Computer languages, Information security and cryptography, Emerging computing technologies.

The conference was declared open by Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of the SMIU, as dozens of international and Pakistani scholars were there.

Dr. Shaikh welcomed the guests from Pakistan and abroad and said that mankind at present was living in the era of revolution of information technology in which 3.6 billion people of the world were enjoying the facility of internet.

"This has turned the world in a global village, thus, has created its own challenges and issues, which too would be discussed during this conference," said Dr. Shaikh.

He added, without class difference, IT had offered opportunities to the poor and small nations equally to what it offered to the rich countries, however, the real challenge was for the developing countries as to how they could get benefit from it.

Three memorandum of understanding were inked by the SMIU, two Romanian universities and a Nigerian college during the two days' conference.

The SMIU's vice chancellor, Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh signed the MoUs with Dr. Ramona Lile F of University of Arad, Dr Florin Popentiu of University of Oradea and Dr Muahmmad Adamu Jebba of Niger College of Education, Minna, Nigeria. In the MoUs, SMIU and the three institutions of Romania and Nigeria agreed to work together in the field of information technology, and share each other's experience and scholarly work.

Earlier, Prof. Syed Asif Ali, dean of the faculty of Information Technology, said in his welcoming speech that it was the first conference of its kind for the SMIU and the country itself.

He said the SMIU had received around 60 research papers from as many scholars belonging to the countries in Europe, North America, Africa, Antarctica and across Asia, of which, some 40 such papers had been selected to be presented in the conference. He said it was the first conference globally in which a session had been dedicated for the people of special needs who had improved their way of life by getting benefits from the information technology. SMIU VC, Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh congratulated the faculty of IT for organizing the successful event, thanked the international scholars who visited Pakistan and shared their knowledge with their counterparts and students in Pakistan.

Reception for the International Media Conference's delegates held

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University hosted a reception in the honor of the delegation of International Media Conference, on January 9 at inner courtyard of Main Building of the university. Journalists of more than 24 countries along with senior journalists of Pakistan attended the reception.

In his welcome address Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice

Chancellor of SMIU said that he feels proud that a large number of noted journalists from all over the world have visited Pakistan and attended the reception hosted by SMIU in their honor.

The VC said that being a professor of media and communication studies, he understands that presently, world media is playing a major role in connecting all parts of the world and spreading awareness among people of all regions about na-

tional and international issues. This is why, the role of journalists has become more important and challenging.

Mr. Jim Boumelha, a senior journalist of UK said that he has been very much impressed from the architectural beauty of SMIU's buildings. Talking about relationship of journalists and students, the UK journalist said that we both, journalists and students have been a part of same mission and also

have been curious in investigative field. He said that every day journalists are going through very bad time in the world. Therefore, one of their biggest allies are students. He said that students understands what we say and identify the issues.

Senior journalist Mr. Ameen Yousuf and head of the Pakistan Media Development Foundation Ms Durdana Shaheen also spoke. On this occasion veteran journalist Rahimullah

Yousufzai along with other journalists presented a memento to Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of SMIU.

Journalists from more than 36 countries attended this conference which was held in Karachi from January 5 to January 8 at hotel Avari. The conference was jointly organized by the federal, provincial and city governments with different professional bodies of journalists in the country.

Continued from Page 01

Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of SMIU holds meeting with newly appointed faculty

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University has said that the SMIU will send its faculty members for PhD programs to its partner countries from the current year. Besides it, SMIU is starting faculty development program also on January 11.

He said this while addressing to the meeting held with newly appointed faculty members of various academic departments of the university, at Senate Hall of the university on January 08. Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh said that SMIU offers all opportunities for elevation of faculty, but in response they have to perform their duties honestly and with dedication.



SANTE HALL, SMIU: VC, Dr. Shaikh addressing the new appointees in faculty.

The Vice Chancellor said that the SMIU is providing world class education to the students of lower class and has emerged as one of the best universities of the country. "SMIU believes in merit system, this is why it has made all appointments on merit, Dr Shaikh said and

added that the teachers have a very significant role in shaping lives of young people through education.

Hence, they have to understand their basic responsibility and perform accordingly. The meeting was attended by deans and heads of various departments of SMIU.

Three new HODs take charge

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Two faculty members take the charge of chairpersonship of their respective departments.

Associate Professor Dr. Malook Rind took the charge of Chairperson of Computer Science Department on January 16. He earned his Ph.D (Information Technology) from International Islamic University Malaysia.

He has more than 14 years of diversified industry, teaching and

research experience and played major role in the deployment, analysis and optimization of large scale nationwide IT/Telecommunication projects.

Dr. Yasmeen Sultana, Assistant Professor, became In-charge Chairperson of the department of Media and Communication Studies on January 25.

She completed her PhD from the Department of Mass Communication, University of Karachi (UoK). Prior to joining SMIU, she served as Chairperson of the Department of Media Studies at Jinnah University for Women and had 9 years of teaching experience.

Dr. Munir Mossa Serwani, Assistance Professor, Department of Education is new In-charge Chairperson of Department of Education from January 25.

He holds Ph.D in Education with a concentration in Human Rights



Dr. Yasmeen Sultana

Education. He has 5 years of post-M.Phil teaching experience at university level and 5 years of research experience.



Dr. Munir Mossa Serwani



Dr. Malook Rind

SMIU senate nominates Dr Shaikh for civil award

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Syndicate of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) in its unanimously passed resolution has requested the Government of Pakistan to nominate Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University for the Civil Award of Pakistan due to his remarkable services rendered particularly for Sindh Madressatul Islam University, the Alma-Mater of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and generally for modern and quality education in the country on January 12.

This resolution was moved by Federal Ombudsman and member of SMIU's Syndicate Mr. Salman Farooqui in the 15th meeting of the Syndicate, which was held on Friday, at the Committee Room of the university and was unanimously passed.

The other members who attended the meeting were former judge of Supreme Court of Pakistan Mr. Justice (retd.) Syed Deedar Hus-

sain Shah, former Chief Justice of Shariat Court of Pakistan Mr. Justice (retd) Agha Rafique Ahmed Khan, nominee of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Mr. Rahim Bux Channa, representative of Governor Sindh Prof. Dr Abdul Rasheed, nominee of Secretary Education Mrs. Aziz Fatima Mangi, dean and elected members of SMIU and other members. In his resolution Mr. Salman Farooqui said that Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh besides getting elevation of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's Alma-Mater Sindh Madressatul Islam to the level of university, he has performed a great service for making it one of the best seats of learning of the country. Also, due to his day and night efforts the university got one hundred acres of land in Education City of Karachi, 10 acres of land in Hawks bay and recently has gotten back its precious plot, located behind SMIU Model School, from illegal occupants.

"Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh is a great academician of the coun-

try and author of many valuable books, who has been serving Sindh Madressatul Islam for last 24 years; therefore he should be awarded Civil Award of Pakistan," the resolution said. Mr. Salman Farooqui in his resolution further said that he himself has remained a student of S. M. Science Collage, which was a part of Sindh Madressatul Islam, therefore he feels proud while seeing progress and development of SMIU.

He said that it was a remarkable achievement of SMIU, that it got back its plot from encroachers. The Syndicate also appreciated role of Registrar of SMIU Mr. Gulzar Ahmed Mughal specially for putting efforts to get evacuated SMIU's plot from encroachers.

The Syndicate authorized Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor SMIU, to prepare plan for construction of an academic block on the said plot.

The Syndicate also praised the role of Government of Sindh for providing 100 acres of land for SMIU's Campus in Education City and

SMIU organizes faculty training program

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University's ORIC Department organized a 5-Day Faculty Training Program-2018 for newly appointed faculty members of the university at its Quaid-e-Azam Conference Hall.

Ms Uzma Batool, Deputy Director HRM and focal person of the training program in her introductory speech said that it was a very important training program especially for young faculty members. She said that development of staff of SMIU is a regular feature at the university. This is why; the said in-house training program was purely designed for faculty members.

Ms Batool said that the purpose of the training was to improve quality of teaching, research and communication skills of the faculty. Also to provide them a platform to experience different ways of learning and self-development.

During all the five days of the training program nine training sessions were conducted by different noted resource persons including Dr. Abuzar Wajidi, Dr. Shahid Qurush, Mr. Mr. Yousuf Ikram, Mr. Asif Iqbal, Mr. Samad Abbas, Dr. Stephen John, Ms Ambreen

Barwani and Mr. Faheem Mustafa Maher on the subjects of Teaching Pedagogy, Emotional Intelligence, Entrepreneurship, Research software, Communication Skills, Mindfulness & Mapping Techniques and Motivational Skills. Mr. Gulzar Ahmed Mughal, Registrar of SMIU said that the main objective of the training program was to provide ability to communicate with the language itself and create connections with a wider range as well as helpful to maintain academic integrity in employees work. Mr. Ghulam Ali Surhio, Director Finance, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Abro, Director HRM and others also spoke on the occasion.

On the completion of the training the certificates were distributed among the participants.



QUAID-E-AZAM CONFERENCE HALL, SMIU: Ms Uzma Batool, focal person of the training program interacting with faculty.

New transfers, postings ordered

By Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Under Sindh Madressatul Islam University ACT 2011 and Statutes made there under, the Competent Authority ordered following transfers and postings on January 25.

Dr. Stephen John, Assistance Professor from Department of Education has transferred and posted as Director, Office of the Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC).

Dr. Syeda Rakshanda Kaukab, Assistance Professor, Department of

Education has transferred and posted as Director, Directorate of Student Affairs.

Ms. Nausheen Hussain, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communication Studies has been assigned additional responsibilities of the Departmental Coordinator of the Department of Media and Communication Studies.

Mr. Uzma Batool, Duty Registrar has been transferred and posted as in Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) as Manager University Industry Linkage-ORIC.

federal government for providing 1.57 billion rupees for first phase of its construction through HEC.

The meeting also lauded the role of Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah for giving 10 acres of land to SMIU in Hawks bay.

The Syndicate gave approval of setting up the Institute of Information and Technologies on the said plot in the hawks bay.

In this respect, the Syndicate authorized Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Vice Chancellor SMIU to prepare its plan and then submit it to the Government of Sindh.

The Syndicate highly commended SMIU's Festival of Arts and Ideas and International IT Conference, which were held recently, its National and International Leadership program and standard of education of the university.

The Syndicate approved the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Malook Rind, associate Professor of SMIU as the Chairman of Department of Computer Science for three years period and approved promotion of Director HRM Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Abro from BPS-19 to BPS-20.



CONFERENCE ROOM, SMIU: 15th Meeting of SMIU syndicate in progress.



SMIU CHRONICLE

3rd National Leadership Program at SMIU

By Abdul Bari

KARACHI: Sindh Madressatul Islam University organized 3rd National Leadership Program (NLP) from 14-23 January, 2018. More than 70 students, faculty and staff members was the part of NLP in which they visited federal capital of the country and got exposure of visiting

great institutions including National Assembly, Senate, Federal Ombudsman, Supreme Court of Pakistan and others, they met parliamentarians, senators and leaders of the country who are actively working in different domains.

Delegation also explored different fun and tourist places to get the most out of their visit.



HEC, ISLAMABAD: SMIU delegation initiated the visit of Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. Chariman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed delivered his keynote speech to the faculty members and students of SMIU.



NAB HEADQUARTER, ISLAMABAD: SMIU delegation visited the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) headquarter. Chairman NAB held a very detailed interactive session with the students.



CABINET HALL, ISLAMABAD: Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan was kind to meet and address the students and faculty of SMIU. SMIU delegation was hosted in the hall where cabinet meets. It was an interactive session where the PM answered questions from students relating to CPEC, India-Pakistan relations, environmental issues etc.



PIPS, ISLAMABAD: A seminar was held today for the students of SMIU on the topic of "Constitution and Working of Parliament" by Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Service (PIPS) at its office.



NUST, ISLAMABAD: Students of SMIU visited National University of Science and Technology (NUST) today, where they were briefed about various departments of the university.



PRESIDENCY, ISLAMABAD: VC SMIU Dr. Shaikh presenting shield to President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain. It was wonderful to meet with the President of Pakistan at Presidency, Islamabad.



USEFP, ISLAMABAD: The USEFP works in Pakistan as Fulbright Commission. Delegation had a session over there on educational and scholarship opportunities in US. They were briefed by its Executive Director Ms Rita Bruun and her colleagues.



COSMSTAS, ISLAMABAD: SMIU students and faculty members visited COMSATS Institute of Science and Technology, Islamabad on the opening day of National Leadership Program-2018.



GHQ, ISLAMABAD: SMIU delegation visited General Headquarters (GHQ) of Pakistan Army under SMIU's National Leadership Program, where Chief of General Staff briefed them on national security.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ISLAMABAD: A delegation goes to Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, and meets Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman.



AIR UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD: SMIU delegation led by worthy Vice Chancellor SMIU Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh visited Air University, Islamabad.



SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD: SMIU student paid visit to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, where they were able to witness the proceedings of the court being conducted by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Mian Saqib Nisar. They also visited museum and gallery of the Supreme Court and observed historic judicial documents.



MURREE: The delegation visited Muree on weekend. During the visit of Muree students went round the various spots of Hill City.



LOK VIRSA HERITAGE MUSEUM, ISLAMABAD: Delegation when to museum to see the cultural heritage of Pakistani people.



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD: SMIU delegation of NLP visited Parliament House of Pakistan. Deputy Speaker Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi welcomed them on their arrival in the visitors' gallery, during the proceedings of the session. Respected members of the Assembly also welcomed them by thumbing desks.