

'IQBAL AS HISTORY, IQBAL AS COMMODITY' — IBA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES BY DR. NOMAN UL HAQ

Institute of Business Administration, Karachi organized a distinguished lecture series by Dr. Noman ul Haq, Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, IBA on 'Iqbal as History, Iqbal as Commodity' at the IBA City Campus. The welcome note was delivered by Mrs. Malahat Awan, Head of Alumni Relations, IBA, followed by the recitation of the holy Quran. Eighty years after the death of Allama Iqbal, the lecture aimed at assessing the literary, philosophical, and political status of Dr. Allama Iqbal. Dr. Haq's assessments were based essentially on primary sources, particularly Iqbal's Urdu and Persian poetry as well as his private letters. He commented on how the irony lies in the fact that despite their ideological rejection of Iqbal's 'philosophy', Pakistan's leftist groups still appeared to be utterly charmed by Iqbal's verse in their private moments.

Before delving into Iqbal's poetry, Dr. Haq expressed how Urdu as a national language is undergoing a process of getting lost. This language vacuum, he argued, appears regardless of numerous Urdu electronic media channels, Urdu print media publications, and emerging Pakistani film industry, which uses Urdu as its underlying carrier. And this happens primarily due to the lack of proper cultivation of language in schools and colleges that fail to teach how to articulate speech.

Dr. Haq linked this apparent language blackout with blocked access to Iqbal's poetry. He stressed that Iqbal's poetry is not aimed for 'declamation in a performance



assembly to display the poet's virtuosity'. In poetry for reading.

"The loss of languages, together with the retention of what was rising as a reading culture of beyond sheer hearing - these two historical actions long way in explaining why Iqbal-the-poet is in darkness from the skies of contemporary culture," remarked Dr. Haq. However, he added that there exists another force that fuels this culture: the talk about Iqbal's message and philosophy to an extent that concludes his poetic expression.

The Professor acknowledged that there are many aspects to Iqbal's work, such as philosophy, political economy, international relations, and community affairs of his time. He added, "It ought to be difficult to fully that whatever else Iqbal was to be, his primary abode, in all, is the abode of poetry."

The session concluded with the Director Dr. Farrukh Iqbal presenting Dr. Noman ul Haq with a shawl as a note of thanks. The lecture was well attended and appreciated by faculty and students of the IBA.



"...have half of Cairene in slums, when you don't have clean water, when you don't have a sewerage system, when you don't have electricity, and on top of that you live under one of the most repressive regimes in the world, that together, and it's a ticking bomb. It's not of a question of threat; it is question of looming disaster." — Amartya Sen