

IBA NEWS

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Parvaaz Mentorship Program – connecting the graduating class with industry experts



The School of Mathematics and Computer Science (SMCS) successfully launched the '**Parvaaz Mentorship Program**'! A joint initiative of SMCS, the Career Development Center, and Alumni Affairs, Resource Mobilization and Corporate Relations, connects the BS Computer Science students (Class of 2024) with industry leaders for their successful transition into the corporate world.

The event brought together national and international mentors who will guide over 50 CS students through sessions on goal setting and assessment, progress monitoring and problem-solving, skill development and future planning.

The launch of Parvaaz featured a highly engaging panel on 'From Classroom to Boardroom - Journey of a Tech Leader' with esteemed panelists who shared their journey with the graduating class.

CBER and WaterAid Pakistan hold provincial dialogue



A provincial dialogue on '**Integration of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in Provincial Policies and Strategies and Tax Reforms on Sanitary Products**' was organized by WaterAid Pakistan in collaboration with the IBA-CBER.

The dialogue featured an engaging panel discussion led by Dr. Lubna Naz, Director, IBA-CBER, on the 'Significance of Integration of MHM in Relevant Department Policies and Strategies and Tax Reforms on Sanitary Products'.

Distinguished panelists included: Sadiqa Salahuddin, Zofeen T. Ebrahim, Dr. Naima Shaikh and Paras Shahab Memon.

Rana Ansar, Member of the National Assembly and Ex-Leader of the Opposition in Sindh, delivered the concluding remarks, followed by a vote of thanks from Dr. Abdul Haque Chang, Assistant Professor, SESS.

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MARCH AT A GLANCE

International Women's Day – celebrating the dreamers, doers and achievers!



IBA hosts the 16th HEC All Pakistan Intersarsity Women's Cricket Championship 2023-24



IBA was proud to host the **16th HEC All Pakistan Intersarsity Women's Cricket Championship 2023-24** organized by the Department of Sports and Community Engagement. The Chief Guest at the opening ceremony was Javed Ali Memon, Director Sports, HEC Pakistan with Moeid Sultan, Director Finance, IBA, as the Guest of Honor. Other esteemed guests included: senior sports journalist, Syed Yahya Hussaini and international women cricketers, Rameen Shamim and Javeria Khan. Thirteen teams from all over Pakistan competed in the championship with Lahore College For Women University (LCWU) winning the final match against University of the Punjab, securing victory by 7 wickets.

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MARCH AT A GLANCE

CEJ-IBA 'Climate Reporting Awards'

The Awards, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH was organized to highlight and promote journalistic expertise in environment and climate change after 24 journalists across the country attended the Green Media Initiative bootcamps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Punjab.

Dr. Rüdiger Lotz, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Karachi delivered the welcome remarks mentioning the importance of the work of journalists in enabling climate action.

Amber Rahim Shamsi, Director CEJ, highlighted the Centre's efforts to provide opportunities for journalists to learn climate reporting on ground.

The keynote speaker, Ahmad Shabbar, Founder and CEO, GarbageCan emphasized the "corrective mechanism" of nature.

Winner and the runner-up from Rahim Yar Khan are: Irfan Ulhaq, Correspondent, Dawn Media Group and Mahjabeen Abid, Producer/ Anchor, PTV National Multan.

From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the winner is Arif Ahmad, Reporter, Zama Swat and the runner-up is Laiba Hussan, Reporter, Aaj News.



Asian Development Bank delegation visits IBA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation visited IBA's Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER) to discuss Pakistan's current macroeconomic outlook and potential avenues for future collaboration. The two agreed on fostering partnerships in policy research, capacity building, and promoting discourses on socio-economic issues.

The discussion focused on Pakistan's dependence on fuel imports, inefficient subsidies in agriculture and energy, political instability, digital economy, and non-conventional businesses, low productivity and low growth trap, human capital crisis, implications of delegating resources to local governments, supply chain issue in the food industry, and IMF's conditions for Pakistan and its implications.

The IBA team was led by Dr. Lubna Naz, Director, CBER, and included faculty members from SESS. The ADB team included Asad Aleem, Deputy Country Director along with others.



MARCH AT A GLANCE

Women empowerment through discovHER finance opportunities



The IBA-CED, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), BankIslami Pakistan Limited and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) celebrated **empowerment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion** on International Women's Day. The event titled '**Women Empowerment Through discovHER Finance Opportunities**', sponsored by BankIslami and NBP, displayed a united front in the mission to empower women financially and foster gender equality within Pakistan's economic landscape.

Malahat Awan, Director, AARC at IBA commenced the session by addressing the financial challenges faced by women and commending the financial institutions and banks' efforts in mitigating these obstacles. Uzma Mansoor from SBP shared illuminating statistics and emphasized the institution's initiatives for financial inclusion, while Ayesha Ashraf Jangda from BankIslami introduced tailored financial solutions for women, including the Mashal Women Banking program. Sabeen Shah from NBP discussed the bank's initiatives for women's education and financial independence.

Distinguished members, including Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA and Ali Asad Heemani from Jaffer Family Foundation (JFF), graced the event. Dr. Zaidi passionately addressed the myriad of challenges faced by women and underscored the need for society to recognize, appreciate, and advocate for women's contributions across all sectors. The ceremony concluded with Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Director, IBA-CED, expressing gratitude to the sponsors, guests, and the CED team.

Annual Iftar Dinner – An evening of unwinding, recharging and socializing



The annual iftar dinner brought together the IBA faculty and staff on a pleasant evening to unwind, socialize and recharge! The evening, arranged by the Human Resource Department, was attended by more than 250 members where everyone got to know each other better outside of the workplace.

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MARCH AT A GLANCE

The second session of the **FYP Industry Connect Spring'24** featured Astera Software for Computer Science students. The experts from Astera talked about the ongoing projects and introduced potential final year project ideas centered around data governance, AI/ML and other areas for the students to explore.

The **CIMPA Research School on Algebra and Algebraic Geometry for Applications**, jointly hosted by the SMCS and Department of Mathematics at the Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering at LUMS, featured a series of intensive courses delivered by esteemed speakers from around the world, covering cutting-edge topics in mathematics and their applications.

The School provided the attendees with a comprehensive understanding of advanced mathematical concepts, and facilitated interaction with leading experts in the field.

On the **International Day of Mathematics**, the Department of Mathematical Sciences at SMCS, and the IBA Math and Astronomy Club organized a two-day event which included exciting talks, quizzes and a STEM circle.

Day 1 featured engaging talks by the SMCS faculty on 'Loosing Your Socks in a Black Hole' by Dr. Babar Ahmed Qureshi; 'Proofs Without Words' by Dr. Junaid Alam Khan; and 'The Bizarre Nature of Time' by Dr. Shabana Nisar, followed by stimulating math quizzes which were enjoyed by students from various colleges.

There was also a STEM circle session for middle and high-school students led by Dr. Nisar and Dr. Adnan Khan from LUMS, with the goal of igniting students' interest in science and math.



MARCH AT A GLANCE

The **Social Inequality Lab** at SESS organized a dynamic one-day workshop which served as a platform for distinguished speakers and participants to engage in thought-provoking discussions on the issue of social inequality in today's globalized world.

The event was graced by Former Federal Minister, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha. Dean, SESS, Dr. Asma Hyder, delivered the welcome note. Distinguished speakers, comprising renowned academics and economists from IBA, LUMS and other esteemed institutions, contributed diverse perspectives to the discourse.

The workshop emphasized the critical role of economic growth in reducing inequality by increasing real income, expanding access to essential goods and services, and creating opportunities for socio-economic advancement.

The **AACSB Review and Execution Committee (AREC)** in collaboration with CILET conducted the Assurance of Learning (AoL) workshop and parallel sessions at SBS to discuss AoL assessments and rubrics for Spring 2024.

Dr. Sana Tauseef, Chair of AREC, led the workshop, reinforcing the importance of AoL and its continuous improvement. She provided valuable insights into AoL fundamentals, especially for new faculty members, and explained its implementation at SBS. Through purposeful dialogue, faculty members actively discussed challenges and explored avenues to bolster the AoL system at SBS. The workshop was followed by sessions with faculty of undergraduate and graduate business programs facilitated by AREC members in which the assessment tools and rubrics were discussed.

Our students, Maaz Bin Kashif and Muhammad Ahmad won medals at the **3rd Sindh Junior Archery Championship 2024!** Maaz bagged a silver medal, while Ahmad won bronze in the 30-meters category! Well done, boys!

At the **18th Sindh Games**, Mr. Khalid, a talented member of our ground staff, won a silver medal in the javelin throw event! Previously, he participated in the Sindh and national games and won many medals, which is a testament to his commitment to the sport.

