Keeping up with its long-practiced tradition of bringing its own students and the students of other universities together on one platform, and compete with each other in extracurricular activities, Preston University organized its mega annual festivity 'Spring Splash 2016'. This annual, week-long, event of the University was held in Islamabad. A variety of inter-university competitions were organized during the festivity. The Gala kicked off in Islamabad on April 18, and continued through April 21, 2016. As usual, Spring Splash 2016 provided the students of public and private universities of the northern regions of the country a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their talent in the competitions held during the festivity.

The selection of activities organized during Spring Splash 2016 included Qirat, Bilingual Declamation Contest, and Dramatics and Singing competitions. The sports events held during the festivity were T-20 Cricket, Male and Female Badminton Championship, Football Championship and Male and Female Table Tennis Tournament. Reputed public and private universities of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Kohat, Lahore and a few other cities of Punjab participated in these inter-university competitions.

It is considered pertinent to emphasize here that Preston University attaches due importance to co-curricular and extracurricular activities. This is done with the objective of building up the confidence of not only its own students but also that of the students of the other universities of the country. Yet another equally important reason why Preston University has been organizing these extra-curricular activities is to prepare the youth of this country to face the challenges of professional life with certitude.

The zeal with which the contesting universities participated in all the competitions organized during Spring Splash 2013 made the event a resounding success. Preston University takes this opportunity to express its sincere gratitude to the management and students of the participating universities for contributing immensely towards the success of its annual festivity Spring Splash 2016. We are fully confident that with continued support from our counterparts we would be able to organize important student-centered events such as Spring Splash 2016, and the like, on a regular basis.
An inter-university Qirat Competition was held at the Islamabad Campus of Preston University on April 18, 2016. The referenced event was organized as part of Spring Splash 2016. Public and private universities of eminence from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kohat, Peshawar, Lahore and other cities of Punjab participated in the competition. The Islamabad and Peshawar campuses of Preston University also took part in the Qirat Competition.

Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, Deputy Mayor Islamabad presided over the Qirat Competition as Chief Guest. Chaudhry Riffat Javed, Deputy Mayor Islamabad was the guest of Honor on the occasion.

Universities represented in the Qirat Competition were from Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore and Faisalabad. In female category of the Qirat Competition first position was won by Hafiza Rida Farooq of Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. Second position was awarded to Sara Sultan Butt of Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. Third position in this category was taken by Nimra Sultana of International Islamic University, Islamabad. In the male category, Hafiz Obaid Ur Rehman of Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Islamabad stood first. Second position in this category was awarded to Qari Abdul Basit of Preston University, Islamabad. Qari Mohammad Mudassir of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad was declared third in the competition.

In his brief address on the occasion, Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, Deputy Mayor Islamabad at the outset thanked Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University for inviting him as Chief Guest at the inter-university ‘Qirat Competition’ organized as part of the university’s annual event ‘Spring Splash 2016’. He profoundly commended the efforts of Preston University to promote the cause of higher education in the country. Preston’s effort to provide opportunities to its own students and also students of other universities of Pakistan to show their talent in various inter-university competitions, organized by the University every year, was also profoundly eulogized by him. He lauded the performance of the students who took part in the Qirat Competition and heartily congratulated them.

Earlier, in his brief address on the occasion Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, Deputy Mayor Islamabad and Guest of Honor, Chaudhry Riffat Javed, Deputy Mayor Islamabad for their distinguished presence at the inter-university Qirat Competition organized by Preston. He also highlighted the achievements of Preston University during its over three decades of existence. Dr. Abdul Basit immensely appreciated the talent of the participating students and congratulated the first, second and third position holders of both categories of the competition for their outstanding performance.
Inter-University Bilingual Declamation Contest

The inter-university Bilingual (English/Urdu) Declamation Contest was also held on April 18, 2016. The referenced event was organized as part of ‘Spring Splash 2016’. Topic of the English Declamation Contest was "Revolution is the Philosophy of Failure". "Hamay Puchengay Dharti Ke Jo Waris Hongay" was the topic of the Urdu Declamation Contest. Eminent Public and private universities of Islamabad enthusiastically participated in the Contest. The students of Preston University, Islamabad also took part in the inter-university Bilingual Declamation Contest.

Eminent among the universities which participated in the contest were International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Institute of Space Technology Islamabad, Air University Islamabad and Preston University Islamabad. In the English Declamation Contest, Ms. Talha Rasheed of Preston University, Islamabad grabbed first position. Second position in this competition was won by Maryam Khan of International Islamic University, Islamabad. Third position in this contest went to M. Umair of the Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad.

In Urdu Declamation Contest, M. Taji Jawad of Preston University, Islamabad won first position. Second position was awarded to Ali Gondal of Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. Adela Batool of International Islamic University, Islamabad stood third in the Urdu Declamation Contest.

Major (R) Tahir Iqbal, member National Assembly of Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the "Bilingual Declamation Contest". Addressing the students of the competing universities on the occasion, Major Tahir Iqbal (MNA) highly appreciated their debating skills. The performance of students of both (English/Urdu) categories of the contest was just incredible, he said. Extracurricular activities, he said, is very important as it immensely helps in building up the confidence of the youth and prepare them for a successful professional career. Major (R) Tahir Iqbal said there is no dearth of talent in this country. It is truly a matter of immense pride and honor to see Pakistanis excel in their respective fields of expertise both within the country and abroad.

Earlier, in his brief welcome address Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University expressed his sincere gratitude to Major (R) Tahir Iqbal for accepting Preston’s invitation to preside over the Bilingual Declamation contest as Chief Guest.

Dr. Abdul Basit highly appreciated the debating prowess of the participating students. He heartily congratulated the position-holders of both categories of the Bilingual Declamation Contest on their outstanding performance. Later, Chief Guest Major (R) Tahir Iqbal distributed prizes among the first, second and third position holders of the Bilingual Declamation Contest.

Special Report
The inter-university Drama Competition was held on April 19, 2016. Theme of the Drama Competition was “Libasain Hai Mayar Mera”. The universities which took part in the Drama Competition were: Abasyn University Islamabad, Samad University and Preston University Islamabad. Film/TV actress and TV host of national renown Ms. Noor was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The competition was adjudicated by renowned actor/director/write Khalid Siddiqui, popular Actor/Writer Muhammad Aslam Mughal and Actor/Writer of repute Afzaal Latifi. The students of the competing universities captivated the jubilant audience comprising of students, staff and faculty of Preston University and other distinguished guests by their amazing acting skills. The dazzling performances of the participating teams won the hearts of the audience in attendance. Their fascinating performances also made it very tough for the judges to determine the first, second and third positions. Performance of the team of Preston University, Islamabad was adjudged the best by the judges and was awarded first position. Performance of the team of Sarhad University, Peshawar was declared second best and was awarded second position in the competition. The Abasyn University, Islamabad team stood third in the Drama Competition.

In his address on the occasion, Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit said the acting abilities of the students who took part in the inter-university Drama Competition were indeed remarkable. He fully endorsed the views of the Chief Guest Ms. Noor and the distinguished judges of the competition that the Pakistani youth are extremely talented. He said that they should be provided ample opportunities to unleash their talent in all spheres of national life and make Pakistan stand out conspicuously in the comity respected and developed nations of the world.

Later, cash awards and shields were distributed among the teams which won 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions by the Chief Guest Ms. Noor. Certificates of participation were also given to all the members of the teams of the participating universities.
An inter-university ‘Singing Competition’ was held on April 20, 2016. The referenced competition was organized as part of ‘Spring Splash 2016’. Stage/TV folk, pop and ghazal singer of national eminence, Humaira Arshad presided over the event as Chief Guest. Popular Radio/TV/Stage singers Ms. Mehmooda Qamar, Azhar Jaffar and Sul Muhammad were the judges of the competition. The Singing Competition was divided into two categories, male and female. The universities which took part in both categories of the competition were: Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Institute of Space Technology (IST) Islamabad, Air University Islamabad, Abasyn University Islamabad, Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Islamabad, and Preston University Islamabad, Kohat and Lahore.

The students of the participating universities enthralled the lively audience comprising of students, staff and faculty of Preston University and some guests present on the occasion. Performances of the participating students left the Chief Guest of occasion, eminent singer Humaira Arshad, and the judges and the audience completely spellbound.

In the female category Ms. Teha Trinity of Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Islamabad beat her counterparts from other competing universities out-and-out to win first position. Tuba Shams of Air University Islamabad was adjudged the 2nd best singer of the competition and was awarded second position. Mehar Anjum of Preston University, Islamabad stood third in the competition.

In the male category Mr. Ahsan Ulah of Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Islamabad performed exceedingly well and grabbed first position. Second position in this category was awarded to Chaudhry Asad of Abasyn University, Islamabad. M. Jabeel of Air University, Islamabad stood third in the competition.

Addressing the jubilant gathering on the occasion, eminent singer Ms. Humaira Arshad immensely appreciated the singing prowess of the students of the participating universities. She said all the competing students performed brilliantly. Performances of those students who stood first, second and third in both categories of the competition were stunning, she maintained. The judges of the competition also highly appreciated the singing talent of the competing students.

The Chancellor of Preston University Dr. Abdul Baqi who was conspicuous by his presence at the event said that the performance of the participating students was excellent. He congratulated the students who won first, second and third position in the Singing Competition. Later, cash prizes and shields were distributed among the winners of first, second and third position in both categories of the competition. Certificates of participation were also awarded to all the participants.
Preston University organized an inter-university ‘Sports Gala’. The referenced event was held from April 18-21, 2016, under the banner of Spring Splash 2016, an annual event of the University. Championships held in the Sports Gala were male T-20 Cricket, male Football and male and female Badminton and Table Tennis. Male and female students from Public and private universities of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Kohat, Lahore and other cities of Punjab participated in the sports events, organized during the week-long festivities with immeasurable enthusiasm.

In the male T-20 Cricket Championship, Preston University, Islamabad and Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad beat the teams of all the competing universities through and through to reach the finals of the championship. The team of Preston University, Islamabad outclassed the team of Quaid-e-Azam University in the T-20 Cricket Championship and won first position. QAU Islamabad was declared runners up.

In the inter-university Football Championship, performance of the team of Air University, Islamabad was outstanding. It beat the team of Preston University, Islamabad to win first position in the championship. Preston University, Islamabad remained runners up in the Football Championship. The winning teams of the T-20 Cricket and Football Championships, held during the Sports Gala organized by Preston University, were awarded trophies and cash prizes at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the Shalimar Cricket Ground, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the award distribution ceremony, Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, Director General, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit distributed prizes among the winners of the T-20 Cricket and Football Championships held during the week-long festivities Spring Splash 2016. While addressing the students of the participating universities Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, DG Higher Education Commission (HEC) said it was heartening to know that all the competing teams had performed well in the inter-university T-20 Cricket and Football Championships. He said that the teams which were declared the best and second best naturally performed outstandingly for which they were awarded first and second positions. Mr. Farman Ullah heartily congratulated the winning teams on their remarkable achievement.

Earlier, in his welcome address Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University warmly welcomed Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, DG HEC for accepting Preston’s invitation to be the Chief Guest at the prize distribution ceremony of inter-university Sports Gala. He also extended a warm welcome to Mr. Yasir Haneed Qureshi, eminent Pakistani Test and One Day Cricketer. He expressed his deep sense of appreciation to all the universities which took part in the T-20 Cricket and Football Championships organized by Preston. Dr. Abdul Basit profoundly congratulated the teams which won first and second positions in these championships.
Preston University organized an inter-university ‘Sports Gala’. The referenced event was held from April 18-21, 2016, under the banner of Spring Splash 2016, an annual event of the University. Championships held in the Sports Gala were male T-20 Cricket, male Football and male and female Badminton and Table Tennis. Male and female students from public and private universities of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Kohat, Lahore and other cities of Punjab participated in the sports events, organized during the week-long festivity, with immense enthusiasm.

In the finals of male Badminton Championship, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad beat Air University, Islamabad and grabbed first position. Air University, Islamabad remained runners up in the male Badminton Competition. NUML University, Islamabad outclassed International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad in the finals of female Badminton Competition. IIU Islamabad was declared runners up in this competition.

In the inter-university male Table Tennis Championship, Air University, Islamabad beat Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, after a tough fight, to become champions of the tournament. Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad was declared runners up in this tournament. In the female Table Tennis Championship, International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad was awarded first position after it beat the team of Air University, Islamabad out and out. Air University was declared runners up.

The winning teams of the inter-university Badminton and Table Tennis, male and female championships, held during the Sports Gala organized by Preston University were awarded trophies and cash prizes at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the Shaitmar Cricket Ground, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the award distribution ceremony, Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, Director General, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit distributed prizes among the winners of both the championships.

In his address on the occasion, Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, DG Higher Education Commission (HEC) said it was heartening to know that all the competing teams had performed well in the respective tournaments in which they participated. He said the teams which were declared the best and second best performed exceedingly well for which they were awarded first and second positions. Mr. Farman Ullah heartily congratulated the winning teams.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University warmly welcomed Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, DG HEC to the award distribution ceremony. He also welcomed the Guest of Honor Mr. Yasir Hameed Qureshi, eminent Pakistani Test and One Day cricketer. Dr. Abdul Basit expressed his gratitude to all the universities for their valuable participation in the inter-university Sports Gala. He heartily congratulated the teams which stood first and second in the Badminton and Table Tennis Championships held during the Sports Gala.
Like every year, this year too, the University organized a magnificent Alumni Reunion. This mega event was held at the gorgeous Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad on April 16, 2016. The event actually marked the beginning of ‘Spring Splash 2016’. The Alumni Reunion was truly an exceptional event.

In his brief presentation on the occasion, Mr. Murtaza Zaidi, Adviser Corporate Affairs, Preston University highlighted the significance of connecting the Alumni with their institution and proudly announced launch of the Preston Alumni Benefit Card. Mr. Zaidi also formally introduced the appointed Alumni Council Members. During his presentation, Mr. Zaidi formally initiated Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University to inaugurate the Preston Alumni Card.

Mr. Hassan Iqbal Gardezi, President Preston Alumni Association, in his presidential address thanked the management of Preston University for organizing a gorgeous evening and providing the former colleagues an opportunity to renew their old associations. He expressed his confidence that more and more people would join the Alumni Association in the coming days. Mr. Gardezi attributed his meteoric rise to success, as an entrepreneur, to Preston University and his mentors in the institution.

In his keynote address, Dr. Abdul Basit greeted the Alumni and the faculty and staff of the University to the Alumni Homecoming 2016. He said the Alumni reunion is an occasion to cherish and reminisce the old times.

Undoubtedly, it is also a wonderful opportunity for the Alumni to interact with their former colleagues and mentors, he maintained. He said Preston University has always encouraged its students to have easy and frequent access to their mentors who helped in equipping them with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills. Highlighting the benefits that Preston continues to provide to its students, he said currently more than 5000 scholarships are being provided to them annually. Dr. Basit said the current volume of scholarships offered could be further increased with support from its Alumni.

Preston University, he informed, has established an Entrepreneurship Centre (Incubation Centre) where its trainers help the graduates to establish their own businesses instead of looking for jobs. Dr. Abdul Basit said that it would be immensely appreciated if the Alumni of the University could identify potential opportunities for the graduating students in organizations in which they are employed.

Talking about the Preston Alumni Association, he said it is an independent department exclusively working to develop strategies that could reinforce the university’s relations with its Alumni, and devise ways and means that could ensure efficient connectivity with them.

The Alumni Get-together was followed by a bubbly musical evening. Budding singer Amanat Ali, winner of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Middle East - Pakistan Challenge 2007, and finalist on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Challenge 2007, enthralled the jubilant audience by his sparkling renditions.