Preston University organized a mega festivity under the banner of “Fall Fest 2015”. This annual event of the University was held in the month of December 2015. A gamut of inter-university competitions were organized during the festivity that kicked off in Islamabad on December 7, and continued through December 9, 2015. Fall Fest 2015 provided the students of public and private universities, situated in the northern regions of the country, an amazing opportunity to unleash their talent in the competitions held during the festivity.

The range of activities organized during the festivity included Qirat, Bilingual Debate, Dramatics and Singing competitions. The sports events comprised of T-20 Cricket, Badminton, Table Tennis and Football. Public and private universities of eminence from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Kohat, Lahore and some other cities of Punjab took part in these competitions.

It is deemed appropriate to mention here that Preston University has always attached due importance to co-curricular and extracurricular activities. This continues to be done with the specific intent of building up the confidence and rounding off the personalities of not only its own students but also that of the students of the other universities of the country. Through organization of such extracurricular activities the University has also been making a conscious effort to prepare the youth of this country to face the challenges of today’s highly competitive world resolutely.

The enthusiasm with which the institutions participated in all the competitions made Fall Fest 2015 a great success. Preston University owes its utmost gratitude to the management and students of the participating universities for their significant contribution towards the success of Fall Fest 2015. It earnestly hopes that with sustained support from its counterparts it would be able to organize events of the magnitude of Fall Fest 2015, on regular basis, for the benefit of the youth of this country.

Chancellor’s Message
An inter-university Qirat Competition was held at the Islamabad Campus of Preston University on December 7, 2015. The referenced event was organized as part of Fall Fest 2015. Public and private universities of eminence from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kohat, Peshawar, Lahore and other cities of Punjab participated in the competition. The Islamabad, Kohat and Peshawar campuses of Preston University also took part in this and other events held during the week-long festivities.

Former Minister of State for Industries and Production and former member National Assembly, Mr. Ayatullah Durrani presided over the Qirat Competition as Chief Guest. Member National Assembly (MNA) and Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Malik Abrar Ahmed was the Guest of Honor on the occasion.

Universities represented in the Qirat Competition were from Islamabad, Kohat, Peshawar, Lahore, Faisalabad and Haripur. In Qirat Competition first position was won by Qari Abdul Basit of Preston University Islamabad. Second position was awarded to Hafiz Mohammad Mudassir of University of Agriculture Faisalabad, and third position in the competition was taken by Hafiz Asad Sharif of Punjab University.

In their brief remarks on the occasion Chief Guest Mr. Ayatullah Durrani and Guest of Honor Malik Abrar Ahmed highly 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 the students of other universities of Pakistan to unleash their talent in various inter-university competitions, organized by the university annually, was also profoundly eulogized by them. They heartily congratulated the first, second and third position holders of the Qirat Competition on their remarkable triumph, and also appreciated the performance of all the other participants who took part in the event. Later, they awarded shields to the winners of the competition.

Earlier, in his brief welcome address on the occasion Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University at the outset expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chief guest, Mr. Ayatullah Durrani and the Guest of Honor, Malik Abrar Ahmed for their distinguished presence at the event. He also highlighted the achievements of Preston University during over three decades of its existence. Dr. Abdul Basit immensely appreciated the talent of the participating students and congratulated the position holders who performed exceedingly well in the competition. Later, prizes were distributed among the first, second and third position holders of the Qirat Competition.
An inter-university Bilingual (English/Urdu) Debate Competition was held on December 7, 2015. The referenced event was organized as part of Fall Fest 2015. Topic of the English Debate was “Tough times never last but tough people do”, “Muhay tehezeb-e-hazir nai ata ki hai woh azadi” was the topic of the Urdu Debate. Reputed public and private universities of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kohat, Peshawar, Lahore and other cities of Punjab participated in the competition with immense enthusiasm. The Islamabad, Kohat and Peshawar campuses of Preston University also participated in this and all other events held during the week-long festivity.

In English Debate, Ramsha Khan of Punjab University grabbed the first position. Second position in this competition was won by Saad Khan of G. C. University, Lahore. Third position in the English Debate Competition went to Abdul Sattar of Preston University, Islamabad. In Urdu Debate, Syed Joann Hassan Zaidi of Punjab University won first position. Second position was awarded to Fahad Shuhaz from G. C. University, Lahore. Qurratul Islam Gardes of Preston University, Islamabad stood third in the Urdu Debate Competition.

Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhangra, Member Senate of Pakistan and Secretary General PML (N) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Addressing the students of the competing universities and faculty and students of Preston University, Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhangra said that it has always been his earnest desire to see Pakistan attain at least 90 per cent literacy rate at the earliest possible time. He emphasized that education is the key to socio-economic advancement. He said without education no society could ever attain its developmental and societal goals successfully. Senator Jhangra said there is no dearth of talent in the country. It is always a matter of immense of pride and honor to see Pakistanis excel in their respective fields of expertise both within the country and abroad. He said the emergence of Pakistan as the seventh nuclear power in the world stands testimony to this fact. Senator Jhangra expressed his full confidence in the youth of today. They possess tremendous talent and if harnessed effectively they could compete and succeed in every field, he stated with a sense of pride.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest, Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhangra for his honored presence at the event. He also spoke about some of the landmark achievements of Preston University during over three decades of its existence. Dr. Abdul Basit profoundly appreciated the debating skills and knowledge of the participating students and congratulated the position holders on performing exceptionally well in the competition. Later, prizes were awarded to the first, second and third position holders of the Bilingual Debate Competition by the Chief Guest.
The third event held on December 8, 2015, as part of Fall Fest 2015, was inter-university Drama Competition. Theme of the Drama Competition was “Gaya Naqiq Phir Hauth Aata Nahi”. The universities which took part in the Drama Competition were: Punjab University Lahore, International Islamic University Islamabad, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Institute of Space Technology Islamabad, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Sarhad University Peshawar, University of Haripur and Preston University Islamabad, Iohat and Lahore. Eminent supermodel, actress and TV host Natasha Hussain was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The competition was adjudicated by renowned actor/director, Anjum Habibi, Chaufdry Hamoon Rashid Chauhan, actor/talk show host and Rohail Khan, director/producer and writer.

The students of the participating universities enthralled the exuberant audience comprising of students, staff and faculty of Preston University and other distinguished guests by their outstanding acting prowess. The scintillating performances of the participating teams made it extremely difficult for the judges of the competition to determine the first, second and third positions. Performance of the team of Punjab University, Lahore was adjudged the best by the judges and was awarded first position. Second best performance was that of the team of Sarhad University, Peshawar which was awarded second position in the competition. The team of Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad stood third.

In her brief comments on occasion, eminent supermodel, actress and TV host Ms. Natasha Hussain said the acting talent of the students of the participating universities was indeed remarkable. She said that the youth of Pakistan is extremely talented and if opportunities were provided to them to show their talent they could do very well not only in the field of acting but in every sphere of life. She congratulated the winning teams and the respective universities that they represented at the competition.

In his brief address on the occasion, Chancellor Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit said that the acting capabilities of the students who participated in the inter-university Drama Competition were undoubtedly outstanding. He fully endorsed the views of the Chief Guest of the occasion, Ms. Natasha Hussain and the judges of the Drama Competition that the Pakistani youth are extremely talented. He said that the government of Pakistan should provide ample opportunities to the youth of this country to unleash their talent in all spheres of national life and make Pakistan stand out conspicuously in the comity of successful world nations. Later, awards were distributed among the teams which won 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions by the Chief Guest. Certificates of participation were also given to all team members of the participating universities.
As part of Fall Fest 2015 an inter-university Singing Competition was held on December 9, 2015. Eminent playback singer Shahnaz Majeed was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Eminent singers Mr. Khalid Siddiqui, Mr. Hassain Javed and Ms. Sana Pervaiz 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: Punjab University Lahore, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, COMSATS Islamabad, GC University Lahore, HI Tech University Taxila and Preston University Islamabad, Kohat and Peshawar.

The students of the participating universities enthralled the exuberant audience comprising of students, staff and faculty of Preston University and other distinguished guests by their outstanding performances. The scintillating performances of the participating students left the Chief Guest of the occasion, eminent singer Shahnaz Majeed, the judges and the audience totally spellbound.

In the female category of the competition, Sana Batool of Punjab University beat her counterparts from other competing universities out-and-out to win the first position. Mehar Anjum of Preston University, Islamabad was adjudged the 2nd best singer of the competition and was awarded second position. Third position was won by Yusra Fayyaz of COMSATS Islamabad.

In the male category, Muhammad Muslim Shagan of Punjab University, Lahore performed exceedingly well and grabbed first position. Second position in this category was awarded to Aslanullah of Preston Institute of Nano Science and Technology (PINSAT) Islamabad. Mirza Shahzur-Rehman of HI Tech University, Taxila stood third in the competition.

Addressing the enthused audience present on the occasion, Chief Guest, singer of national eminence Ms. Shahnaz Majeed immensely appreciated the outstanding singing prowess of the students of the participating universities. She said all the participating students performed very well. Performances of those students who stood first, second and third in both categories of the competition were simply awesome, she maintained. The singing talent of the competing students was equally lauded by the judges of the competition.

The Chancellor of Preston University, Dr. Abdul Basit who was conspicuous by his presence at the event said that the performance of the participating students was excellent. Fully endorsing the views of the Chief Guest and the judges, he said the youth of Pakistan are very talented and they possess all the qualities required to excel in every sphere of life. He congratulated the students who won first, second and third position in the singing competition. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners of both categories of the competition.
An inter-university Sports Gala was organized from December 7-9, 2015. The referenced event was held under the banner of Fall Fest 2015, an annual festivity organized by the University. The inter-university competitions 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, Haripur, Taxila and Lahore enthusiastically participated in all the sports events organized during the three-day festivity.

In the male T-20 Cricket Competition, Preston University, Kohat and Preston University, Islamabad beat the teams of all the participating universities through and through to reach the finals of the competition. The team of Preston University, Kohat outclassed the team of Preston University, Islamabad in T-20 Cricket to win first position. Preston University was declared runners up.

In the inter-university Football Competition, performance of the team of Preston University, Islamabad was outstanding. It beat the team of University of Haipur to win first position. The University of Haipur remained runners up in the competition.

The winning teams of all the tournaments held during the Sports Gala organized by Preston University were awarded prizes at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the Marghzar Gymkhana Cricket Ground, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the award distribution ceremony, Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, Director General HRM and Sports, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Col. (R) Nadeem Ahmed, Director Sports Preston University distributed prizes among the winners of different sports competitions held during the three-day festivity.

While addressing the students of the participating universities Chief Guest Mr. Farman Ullah Anjum, Director General HRM and Sports, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Col. (R) Nadeem Ahmed, Director Sports Preston University appreciated the performance of the teams of all the competing universities. However, they particularly eulogized the outstanding performance of the teams of those universities which reached the finals of all the games held during Fall Fest 2015, and were awarded first and second positions. They profoundly congratulated the winning teams on their remarkable achievement. They expressed the hope that the teams who were not able to win positions in the competitions in which they participated, this time, would make efforts to do better in the future and win laurels for their respective universities.
An inter-university Sports Gala was organized from December 7-9, 2015. The event was held under the banner of Fall Fest 2015, an annual festivity of the University. The competitions 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, Haripur, Taxila and Lahore participated in all the sports events organized during Fall Fest 2015 with immeasurable enthusiasm.

In the finals of male Badminton Competition, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, beat University of Haripur out-and-out and grabbed first position. Preston University, Islamabad outshined 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 Competition, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, beat Air University, Islamabad, after a tough fight, to become champions of the tournament. Air University, Islamabad, was declared runners up in this tournament. In the female Table Tennis Competition, Air University, Islamabad, was awarded first position after it beat the team of International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad out and out in the competition. IIU Islamabad was declared runners up.

The winning teams of the male and female Badminton and Table Tennis Competitions were awarded prizes at an impressive ceremony held at the Marghazar Gymkhana Cricket Ground, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the award distribution ceremony, Mr. Farman Ulah Anjum, Director General HRM and Sports, Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Col. (R) Nadeem Ahmed, Director Sports Preston University, awarded prizes to the winners of the Badminton and Table Tennis Competitions held during Fall Fest 2015.

In their address to the students of the participating universities, they said all the participating teams had performed well in the respective tournaments in which they took part. However, the teams which were declared the best and second best had performed exceptionally well for which they were awarded first and second positions. They heartily congratulated the winning teams on their outstanding achievement. They expressed the hope that the teams who were unable to win positions this time would work harder to excel in future.
A grand Alumni Reunion was held on December 12, 2015. The event, in effect, marked the conclusion of ‘Fall Fest 2015’, a week-long festivity organized by Preston University in Islamabad.

The Alumni Reunion was truly a grand fete. It brought the former Preston graduates on one platform and provided them a unique and memorable opportunity to renew their old associations.

On the occasion, an all-encompassing multi-media presentation was made by Mr. Murtaza Zaidi, Adviser Corporate Affairs Preston University, on the rejuvenated Preston Alumni Association and its present and future plans. The presentation was followed by brief remarks by two eminent Preston Alumni, Kamran Malik, former Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor UNDP Philippines and Syed Kaukab Mohiuddin, Chairman State Engineering Corporation.

Preston Alumni Mr. Kamran Malik and Syed Kaukab Mohiuddin who did their MBA and EMBA respectively from Preston University, Islamabad while expressing their views on their educational stint at Preston University said pursuing higher studies at the University was indeed a highly enriching experience. They profoundly eulogized the quality of education that the university imparted to them during the entire period of their association with the institution. In this regard they particularly appreciated the efforts of their mentors.

In his keynote address on the occasion at the outset Dr. Abdul Basit, Chancellor Preston University warmly welcomed the Alumni of the University to the Get-together. In his brief address, Dr. Abdul Basit wished them happy homecoming and said it was truly a matter of immense pleasure for the University to see its former graduates gather at one place and renew their old associations. He said the University has always regarded its Alumni very highly. In fact, it considers the Alumni to be a vital lifeline of this University, he emphasized. It is this glaring truth that inspires us to assign Alumni Relations’ top priority in our agenda for advancement, Dr. Basit said. Preston, he said, could never undermine the significance of Alumni support in attaining the goals it has set forth for itself in the years to come.

The Alumni Dinner was followed by a grand musical evening. Eminent singer Mukazim Hassan of the ‘Sur Kshetra Singing Competition fame performed on the occasion.