



July – September 2020

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IBA PUBLIC SCHOOL SUKKUR NEWSLETTER



Saying Adieu to Professor Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui

Eminent Educationist and Founding Vice Chancellor of Sukkur Institute of Business Administration (IBA) University Professor **Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui** departed for his eternal abode on Monday June 22, 2020. He was 76. Professor Nisar Siddiqui remained Chairman of the Board of Governors of IBA Public School Sukkur, the School from where he laid the foundation of the Sukkur IBA University.

Born in Piryaloe, Khairpur District, Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, sought his early education from his native town then proceeded to Sindh University to earn his Masters degree in Economics and later on Masters in Education as well. He did his MBA from Boston University, USA. Starting his career as a teacher for a decade, he joined Civil Services of Pakistan and remained on a number of senior positions in Sindh Government bureaucracy as Secretary of various Departments as well as Commissioner Sukkur Division. He dedicated much of his life to education, providing opportunities for equitable and quality schooling for students in rural Sindh. Recognising his valuable services for the education sector, the federal government honoured him with Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

He laid the foundation for Sukkur IBA in 1994, while he was serving as Commissioner, Sukkur Division. He transformed the Institute into a modern state-of-the-art University that has been ranked among the country's top

educational institutions today. Upon retirement from government service, he was appointed as IBA's director in 2004. With his utmost efforts, it became an independent degree-awarding institution in 2006 after a bill was passed in the Sindh Assembly. When the institute acquired the status of a full-fledged University in 2017, he became its founding Vice Chancellor. He transformed Sukkur IBA University into an institute symbolising merit, competence and innovation. During his period, the university emerged as a leading institute of Sindh that attracted students and faculty from all areas of Pakistan.

Mr Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui also pioneered the concept of Community Colleges in Pakistan. There are currently 10 community colleges and 29 schools operating under the umbrella of Sukkur IBA University.

With heartfelt emotions we at IBA PSS say you our Salams! May you feel our love, and our respects embrace you during this difficult time!

**Words are few,
thoughts are deep,
memories of you we will always keep.
You fell asleep without a goodbye,
but memories of you will never die.**

New Vice Chancellor, and Chairman Board of Governors (IBA PSS) Appointed

The Government of Sindh, through a notification appointed Professor Dr Syed Mir Muhammad Shah as the Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University with effect from 22 July 2020. Professor Dr. Syed Mir Muhammad Shah is one of the pioneering faculty members of Sukkur IBA. He sought his higher education (MBA) from Shah Latif University Khairpur, (MS) from SZABIST Karachi and finally his PhD from University of Utara Malaysia. He remained Head of Business Administration Department of SIBAU, Provost of hostels and also worked as Director of International Accreditations at SIBAU. Apart from working at Sukkur IBA, he has also taught at University of Karachi as well as IBA Karachi.

With his elevation to the Vice Chancellor of the Sukkur IBA University, he has assumed responsibilities as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IBA Public School Sukkur.



Online Classes

As the entire world faced an unprecedented emergency in the shape of COVID-19 early this year, every walk of life including the Education Sector suffered the most, as academic institutions were closed. In Pakistan, the number of affected students stood at 47 million (as reported in the press).

Considering the ongoing uncertain pandemic situation IBA Public School Sukkur undertook academic process going in a way to reduce the academic loss of students by engaging them in a variety of ways. The class-wise student groups were formed and invited to join social media platforms like YouTube to listen **recorded lectures**. **Google Classroom** and **Zoom** platforms were used as a "Learning Management System and for hosting online interactive classes". The parental **WhatsApp groups** of different classes were formed in order to facilitate parent-teacher coordination in an efficient and effective way for updated communication, resource sharing, teaching and learning.



18th Board of Governors Meeting of IBA Public School Sukkur

The 18th meeting of Board of Governors of IBA Public School Sukkur was held on 21st August 2020 at the Conference Room of the School. The meeting was chaired by Professor Dr Syed Mir Muhammad Shah, Vice Chancellor SIBAU and Chairman Board of Governors of IBA PSS. The BoGs took important decisions including launching of evening shift of the school, approving the School's Annual Budget for 2020-21, introducing compatible salary structure for teaching and non-teaching staff of the School and approving timelines for new Academic Session 2020-21. The Board decided to access public sector development funding to fulfil the developmental needs of the school. The Board unanimously demanded that a public road in Sukkur should be named in the memory of Mr Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui (Late) to commemorate his invaluable services to the society in the field of Education.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Sukkur Division, Engineer Shafiq Ahmed Mahesar, Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh, the Registrar Sukkur IBA University, the Director, IBACC&S, Head of Department of Education, SIBAU, the President, Sukkur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Principal, IBA Public School Sukkur.



“Professor Nisar Siddiqui Community Libraries” Being Launched

Libraries are important cornerstones of a healthy community to nurture learning desire in students and career professionals. There is a great need and yearning for public libraries in Sindh, which are hard to find, except in metropolitan cities. Further, in these hardly available libraries, the students and professionals have to face tremendous problems due to lack of facilities such as electricity, quality books and a conducive reading environment.

Sukkur IBA University (SIBAU) in line with its vision to “Serve Community”, aims to offer candidates/students, the facility of State-of-the-Art libraries in its Community Colleges and Schools in the afternoon time. These libraries are being initiated in the name of SIBAU’s founding Vice Chancellor, **Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui**. IBA Public School Sukkur is one of such destinations, where this public library is being initiated, alongwith IBA Sub Campus in Kandhkot and IBA IET Khairpur. These libraries will operate from 3:00 pm till 8:00 pm in the evening. The first phase of the library would focus on Competitive Examination Preparation. All the required facilities are being made available including book resources, Computers with necessary accessories and internet connection etc. The libraries will be made available to interested members/students from the first week of October 2020.



Professional Development Trainings

In education, research has shown that teaching quality and school leadership are the most important factors in raising students achievement. For teachers and school leaders to be as effective as possible, they continually expand their knowledge and skills to implement the best educational practices. Keeping this goal in mind IBA PSS organized following events for the teaching staff of the school:

- 1. Writing Skills Workshop for Teachers:** The workshop was organized on 17 August 2020 at the Conference Room of the ECE Section of IBAPSS. Mr Rashid Hussain from Sukkur IBA University facilitated the event. Eleven English Language Teachers participated in the training session.
- 2. Training Workshop on English Phonetics:** A two week training workshop on "English Phonetics" was organized from August 31 to September 11, 2020 at IBA PSS. Ms Hina Mahar, a graduate of NUML University facilitated the workshop. The contents of the workshop included phonetics and phonology, features of speech sounds, phones, phonemes and allophones, voiced and unvoiced sounds, etc and pronunciation versus accent.
- 3. Training on Basic Drawing Skills:** A training on basic drawing skills for teachers was organized from August 31 to September 11, 2020. Mr Muharram Ali Shar from the IBA PSS facilitated 22 participating teachers from different sections of the school to learn basic drawing skills. The course contents included: introduction to art/drawing and basic colour study, line work, pattern drawing etc.
- 4. Training on "Assessment for Early Childhood Education":** a professional development course for ECE teachers was organized from September 14-16 for the 60 ECE teaching staff of the IBA

PSS, Community Colleges and Education Management Organizations. The course was facilitated by Dr Naseem and Ms Shairoz Noor. The course contents included: kinds of assessment, areas of assessment like reading and language arts, the world around us, mathematics and science, methods and skills required for assessing learning and teaching.

- 5. Training Workshop on DARTS:** A pedagogy workshop based on "DARTS- Directed Activities Related to Text" was conducted for STEM teachers across the sections on December 25, 2020. Mrs Sanam Zaryab Shaikh, Section Head Cambridge was the resource person of the workshop. The workshop turned out to be invaluable to all teachers of all subjects at all levels who have written materials that they want to use with learners. The Session was a full-house, and teachers enjoyed being involved in a multitude of DART activities that vary in complexity, content and in the amount of pre-planning and resource creation required to use them in the classrooms. Not only teachers participated bit also, they were given expertise to craft their own DARTs. This fruitful workshop ended with certificate distribution to all participants and vote of thanks.
- 6. Training on Tajweed:** A training on Tajweed-ul-Quran was organized at IBA PSS for the teaching staff from August 31 to September 11, 2020. In all 22 teachers participated in the training. The objective of the training was to learn Quran in its true sense. The word Tajweed linguistically means 'proficiency' or 'doing something well'. When applied to the Quran, it means giving every letter of the Quran its rights and dues of characteristics when we recite the Quran and observing the rules that apply to those letters in different situations. The learners were provided practical skills to read and recite Quran. Qari Ubedur Rehman of IBA PSS facilitated the training.



I-CATS Creative Writing Contest

At IBAPSS, we believe in developing critical thinking skills of students and creative writing encourages kids to exercise their creative minds and practices using their imaginations. International Competence and Aptitude Testing Services (ICATS) Art / Creative Contest 2020 which are held at National, Provincial, and School levels in Pakistan. The theme of the competition was 'time' and the students (aged 10 to 18 years) had to write a composition on the topic of their choice but related to the theme. Around 12 students from IBAPSS (Class O levels) participated in this writing competition. It was a great experience for both teachers and students of the first time, Alhamdulillah 2 students from the CAMBRIDGE section were among the provincial toppers and 2 students topped at the district level.



Laiba Khan



Ayesha Shaikh



Umm-e-Farwa



Soha Bhatti

Agreement with Pakistan Sweet Home

Pakistan Sweet Home is a national institution working under the flagship of Pakistan Baitul Maal, providing shelter and education services to orphan boys. Pakistan Sweet Home signs contract agreements with educational institutions throughout Pakistan for the provision of quality education to orphan children. An agreement between Pakistan Sweet Home and IBA PSS was signed to accommodate 100 such students. Under the agreement, the students are provided education on highly subsidized cost along with provision of books, school bags, four (4) uniforms and pocket money. The children are also given extra/remedial classes in the evening time as they could catch up with other students in their studies.



SEF Scholarship Programme

The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), a major arm of the Government of Sindh for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the Education Sector, has been supporting the students in the Sindh province for the provision of quality post-primary education to hundreds of high achieving students (from remote under privileged areas) under the School Education Scholarship Program (SESP). Through an agreement, IBA Public School Sukkur has been entrusted with 167 students (boys and girls) for the purpose. Apart from quality education, the students have been provided with suitable accommodation, food and various facilities inside the school.



COVID-19: At a Glance

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) is an infectious disease caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei, China, and has resulted in an ongoing pandemic. As on 10 September 2020, more than 27.7 million cases were reported across 188 countries and territories with more than 902,000 deaths; more than 18.7 million people have recovered. In Pakistan 301,201 confirmed cases and 6,377 deaths have been reported. Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, and loss of smell and taste. The incubation period may range from two to fourteen days.

The virus spreads primarily via small droplet from coughing, sneezing, and exhaling. The droplets are not usually airborne.

However those standing in close proximity may inhale them and become infected. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although its spread is possible before symptoms appear, and from people who are asymptomatic. Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent handwash, social distancing, quarantine, covering coughs, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. The use of cloth face coverings such as a scarf has been recommended by health officials in public settings to minimise the risk of transmissions. There are no proven vaccines or specific treatments for COVID-19. Management includes the treatment of symptoms, supportive care, isolation and experimental measures. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_disease_2019)

The infographic is titled 'COVID-19 SOPs Protect yourself and others'. It features the IBA University logo on the top left and the Public School Sukkur logo on the top right. The background is blue with a virus particle illustration. It lists six key SOPs with corresponding icons: 1. 'Face mask is mandatory' with a person wearing a mask icon. 2. 'Cough and Sneeze into a tissue or elbow' with a person coughing into their elbow icon. 3. 'Keep your distance Stand 1 metre or 3 feet apart.' with an icon of two people with a red arrow indicating distance. 4. 'Stay at home if you feel ill' with a house icon. 5. 'Avoid shaking hands' with an icon of two hands shaking. 6. 'Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly' with an icon of hands being washed under water. At the bottom, it says 'IBA-PUBLIC SCHOOL SUKKUR www.pssukkur.edu.pk'.

Planning Meeting for Re-Opening of School and Colleges

A meeting of the Principals of IBA Community Colleges and Schools was convened by the Directorate of IBA Community Colleges and Schools on September 8, 2020 to discuss preparations for re-opening of Community Colleges and Schools after a long closure due to Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting chaired by the Director, IBACC&S was attended by all the Principals and project management staff of EMO Schools. The IBA PSS was represented by the Principal in the meeting. The meeting discussed in detail the arrangements required for school opening along with the strategy to adopt standard operating procedures. It was decided that in schools where the classrooms are spacious, normal class size will be allowed and in case the classes are small in size half of the student strength will be allowed and classes for the remaining half students will be organized on alternate days on in two shifts every day.

The meeting agreed guidelines for students, parents and the school administration for smooth running of the Schools and



Colleges during post Covid-19 re-opening. It was decided to not to allow students without masks, not to handshake, maintain a safe distance and avoid gatherings like standing and sitting in groups.

Teaching and Learning Resumed at IBA Public School Sukkur

After a long break of around seven months the teaching and learning process at IBA Public School resumed finally on 15 September 2020. In the first phase the students of Grades IX to XII were allowed to resume their studies. The IBA PSS made full arrangements to ensure safe and smooth opening of School by following Standard Operating Procedures announced by the Government as well as the Directorate of Community Colleges and Schools of Sukkur IBA University.

Walk through gates for disinfection were put in place in the school, whereas hand sanitizers, and hand wash soaps were arranged in wash rooms. A safe distance of 3 feet was maintained inside the classes. Government functionaries and representatives of different civil society groups visited the School to look at the arrangements.

From September 28, 2020 the school was opened for middle, junior and pre-school sections as well. The students have rejoiced while joining back their school, school mates and studies. The School and Examination Boards have planned with a reduced coverage of



Student Learning Objectives considering the reduced time span available in the academic session. The Board of Governors of IBA PSS has approved the following timeline for the academic session 2020-2021:

#	Important Activities	Tentative Dates
1.	Admissions announced and completed	June - July 2020
2.	Online Classes for New Academic Session	July - August - September 2020
3.	Commencement of Face to Face Classes	September 15, 2020 (immediately after resumption of Schools after COVID-19 Emergency)
4.	First Term Examination (all classes)	December 07 to December 19, 2020
5.	Winter Break	December 21, 2020 to December 3, 2020
6.	Parent Teacher Meetings	2 nd week of January 2021
7.	Sports Week	January 04, 2021 to January 07, 2021
8.	Pre Board Examinations for AKUEB Students (IX, X, XI & XII)	Thursday, March 15, 2021
9.	Pre Board Examinations for CAIE Students (O'Level and A Levels)	Thursday, March 15, 2021
10.	Annual Examination (all classes)	May 2021
11.	Parent Teacher Meetings /Result Announcement	Last week of May 2021

Admissions for the Academic Year 2020-21 and Parental Orientation Sessions

The IBA Public School Sukkur launched admissions in various classes from ECE to Class XII and Cambridge O and A Levels. The admissions this year were announced belatedly in the month of June 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. In all, around 1,200 students applied for the admissions. The admission test was conducted on July 26, 2020. In all, 560 students qualified and were offered admissions accordingly. Orientation sessions with parents of newly admitted students were held, wherein the parents were briefed about the school policies, procedures, timelines for the academic session, hostel, transportation and other allied services and facilities being provided by the school.



Launching of Afternoon Session at IBAPSS

The Board of Governors of IBA Public School Sukkur in their meeting on August 21, 2020 decided to allow the launch of Afternoon Session (evening shift) of the School, considering the immense response from the parents as well as to utilize the School resources optimally in support of the students.

The admissions for the Afternoon Session have been announced and will remain open until September 26, 2020. The classes will commence from the 19th of October.



IBA PSS Alumni Association

Creating an engaged, supportive alumni network is crucial to an institution's success. If communication once stops, the graduates leave an institution, their understanding of the institute/school will become blurred. Instead, they should be kept informed so that they can remain engaged and keep abreast on the progress of the School.

Public School Sukkur is an institution established 45 years ago with a cause to promote quality education in the region. There are thousands of alumni since then serving at even the highest positions in public and private domains. IBA PSS has decided to tap this most crucial resource giving the alumni members an opportunity to voice appreciation for the education and personal development the school provided them and pay back and contribute in many ways to their alma mater.

The alumni members are being mobilized and organized to bring them to a platform where they could play their effective role for the overall betterment of the school and society. The alumni are being contacted through various means and ways. It is expected that in January 2021, a formal Alumni Association will be formed.



Cheque Distribution to Retired Employees of IBAPSS

The Vice Chancellor, Sukkur IBA University, Professor Dr Mir Muhammad Shah gave away cheques worth Rs. 9.5 million to 10 retired/ex-employees of IBA Public School Sukkur. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor eulogized the contribution of staff in their respective capacities. He recalled good old times, when Sukkur IBA was established modestly in two rooms of this very institution (Public School), while he was himself part of the pioneering team. The Vice Chancellor encouraged ex-staff to highlight positive image of the school. Besides he directed the school management to engage ex-staff in productive school activities. The distribution ceremony was also attended by the Director, IBA Community Colleges and Schools and the staff members of the school.



IBA Public School Sukkur: An Overview

High Quality Affordable Education;

Affiliation with Cambridge International, AKU-Education Boards;

120 Trained and Experienced Teaching Faculty;

75 Standard Sized Class-Rooms including 30 multimedia equipped Class Rooms;

Fully Equipped Science Laboratories (Chemistry, Physics, Biology);

Computer Laboratories (3-fully equipped);

Learning Resource Center for Early Childhood Education;

Library with 9,000 book resources and Internet Facility;

Video Conference Hall;

Empowering students thru Project Based Learning;

Focus on holistic personality development of a Child;

International Networking and collaboration;

Parental involvement;

Auditorium;

Sports Facilities (Indoor & Outdoor);

Health Facility (Dispensary);

Transport Facility for Students and Teachers;

Un-interrupted Power supply (275 KVA).



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