



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2025



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, established in 2005, is the first women's university of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As the pioneering women's higher education institution in the province, the university is committed to empowering and equipping its students with knowledge, skills, and opportunities that many female learners are often deprived of in co-educational settings.

Education is the cornerstone of progress, development, and empowerment, without which no nation can truly flourish. SBBWUP strongly upholds this belief and strives to provide quality education in a supportive and conducive learning environment. The university aims to nurture students' academic, moral, and professional potential, enabling them to become confident and capable contributors to society. In the years ahead, SBBWUP is poised to achieve far more than initially envisioned, continuing its journey of excellence and growth.

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**SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO WOMEN UNIVERSITY PESHAWAR**

# MESSAGE FROM THE **VICE CHANCELLOR**

*Inspiring Progress, Building Tomorrow*

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present this edition of the Women's University Newsletter, highlighting the achievements, initiatives, and vibrant activities from October to December 2025. This publication reflects the unwavering dedication, creativity, and hard work of our students, faculty, and staff, who embody the university's vision with passion and excellence.

Within these pages, you will discover stories of academic accomplishments, innovative research, professional growth, and community engagement. Each milestone demonstrates our shared commitment to nurturing an environment where women are empowered to learn, excel, and lead with confidence.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our academic community for their continuous efforts and to the editorial team for their meticulous work in bringing this newsletter to life with clarity and precision.

Let us celebrate these successes together and move forward with renewed energy and determination to shape a future defined by opportunity, excellence, and lasting impact.



**PROFESSOR DR. SAFIA AHMAD**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**SBBWUP**



## SEMINAR ON ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET: VISION TO REALITY

On 23 October 2025, the Department of Economics, SBBWUP, organized a seminar titled "Entrepreneurial Mindset: Vision to Reality" in collaboration with LOLA at the DVC Hall. The event was organized by Dr. Khadija, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, along with Dr. Fariha Sami, Dr. Sonia Shafiq, Ms. Shandana, Ms. Saira Khan Afridi, Ms. Huma Johar, Ms. Maryam Khattak, and Ms. Hafsa Taqqadus, all from the Department of Economics, SBBWUP. Dr. Hina Haram, Lecturer at the Department of Economics, served as the speaker and shared practical insights on entrepreneurship, innovation, and creative problem-solving, linking the topic with students' coursework, capstone projects, and internal assessments. The interactive session enabled students to relate real-world entrepreneurial experiences to their academic learning and encouraged them to transform innovative ideas into viable business ventures. The speaker was presented with a certificate of appreciation, photographs were taken during the event, and refreshments were provided to the participants.



## AWARENESS SEMINAR AND WALK ON BREAST CANCER



On 9 October 2025, the Department of Microbiology, SBBWUP, in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, organized an awareness seminar and walk on breast cancer. The event aimed to raise awareness about early detection, prevention, and the importance of timely medical consultation. Students from various departments of the university actively participated, demonstrating strong engagement with this important public health initiative.



## AWARENESS SEMINAR ON THALASSEMIA FREE PAKISTAN

The Department of Microbiology, SBBWUP, in collaboration with Dosti Welfare Organization, organized an awareness seminar on “Thalassemia Free Pakistan” to educate students about the disease, its prevention, and early diagnosis. The seminar aimed to enhance students’ understanding of thalassemia and promote informed health practices among young individuals. The session was interactive and informative, encouraging active participation and awareness on an important public health issue.





## AWARENESS SESSION ON ENGAGING FAITH ACTORS AND ACADEMIA FOR JOINT CLIMATE ACTION

On 27 November 2025, the Department of Economics, SBBWUP, in collaboration with PCWR-FF, organized a one-day awareness session titled "Engaging Faith Actors and Academia for Joint Climate Action" at the DVC Hall. The session was organized by Dr. Khadija, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, along with Dr. Fariha Sami, Dr. Hina Haram, Dr. Sonia Shafiq, Ms. Shandana, Ms. Saira Khan Afridi, Ms. Huma Johar, Ms. Maryam Khattak, and Ms. Hafsa Taqqadus. The speakers included Dr. Khadija Shams, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Economics; Dr. Khadija Aziz, Assistant Professor at Department of Islamiyat; and Ms. Saira Khan Afridi, Lecturer at the Department of Economics, SBBWUP. Faculty members and students from the Departments of Economics and Islamiyat actively participated in the session, which aimed to raise awareness about climate change by bringing together perspectives from faith-based and academic communities. The event featured an interactive discussion with students and was documented through photographs taken during the session.



## ONE-DAY CASCADING TRAINING ON GLOBAL STEM EDUCATION



On 30 October 2025, the Department of Mathematics, in collaboration with the ORIC Section of SBBWUP, organized a one-day cascading training titled "Global STEM Education and Challenges in Universities" at the DVC Hall, in collaboration with NIHE-HEC Pakistan and the British Council, UK. The session was led by Dr. Nasra Nadeem, Lecturer at the Department of Mathematics, who highlighted innovative STEM methodologies, activity-based learning, and the need for practical and student-centered teaching in higher education. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Farhat Ameen and Director ORIC Dr. Nargis appreciated the initiative and emphasized the role of STEM education in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Guest speakers Dr. Raisa Bano, Dr. Khurram Shahzad Munawar, and Dr. Javid Iqbal discussed project-based learning, micro-teaching, gender equity, assessment strategies, and the role of IoT and AI in modern education. The training concluded with an interactive discussion, distribution of certificates and shields, and a collective commitment to integrate STEM practices into university teaching.

## FREEDOM PITCH 2025 – TWO-DAY ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENT

On 19 and 20 November 2025, the Department of Economics, SBBWUP, in collaboration with National Influencers, organized Freedom Pitch 2025, a two-day entrepreneurship event at SBBWUP. The event was organized by Dr. Khadija, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Economics, along with Dr. Fariha Sami, Dr. Hina Haram, Dr. Sonia Shafiq, Ms. Shandana, Ms. Saira Khan Afridi, Ms. Huma Johar, Ms. Maryam Khattak, and Ms. Hafsa Taqqadus. Freedom Pitch 2025 provided undergraduate and graduate students with a platform to transform innovative ideas into viable business ventures, with startup grants of Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 50,000 awarded to the winning teams. Students from various disciplines and universities participated and presented creative business ideas. The event was graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and the Head of the Department, and was documented through photographs taken during the sessions.





## STUDY TOUR TO STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN, PESHAWAR

On 11 November 2025, the students of the Department of Economics, SBBWUP, visited the State Bank of Pakistan, Peshawar Branch, under the supervision of Miss Huma Johar, Lecturer at the Department of Economics. The study tour provided students with valuable first-hand insight into the core functions of the State Bank, including monetary policy formulation, financial regulation, and digital innovation, enhancing their understanding of Pakistan's central banking system and its role in the national economy. The informative session was well received by the students and was honoured by the presence of the Chairperson of the Department of Economics. The visit concluded with a group photograph and a working tea for the participants.



## 7th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



On 1 October 2025, the 7th meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of Economics, SBBWUP, was held. The meeting was convened by Dr. Khadija Shams, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Economics, SBBWUP. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sher Ali, Chairman and Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, Islamia College Peshawar; Dr. Zahoor Khan, Associate Professor at IMSciences Peshawar; Dr. Khadija Shams; and Dr. Fariha Sami, Assistant Professor, SBBWUP. Invited participants included Dr. Sonia Shafiq, Ms. Shanadana, Ms. Saira Khan, and Ms. Maryam Khattak, all Lecturers in Economics at SBBWUP. The Chairperson welcomed the members and expressed optimism that their contributions would benefit the department. All agenda items were discussed in a cordial and constructive environment, with members actively sharing their views. The meeting concluded with refreshments, a group photograph, and a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.



## MS. SHUMAILA ASHEE PRESENTS AT ASFLA CONFERENCE 2025: SFL IN DIALOGUE FOR A DYNAMIC FUTURE

From 3 to 5 December 2025, the ASFLA 2025 Conference was held at the University of South Australia, where Ms. Shumaila Ashee, Lecturer at the Department of English Language & Literature, delivered a remarkable paper presentation. This achievement was partially funded by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association. Her research, titled "Justice for Animals in the Anthropocene: A Lexico-Grammatical Analysis of the Representation of Nonhumans in Green Courts' Judgments," explored how legal discourse represents nonhuman life in environmental jurisprudence, combining linguistic analysis with ecological advocacy. The study highlighted the critical role of language in shaping public understanding of environmental justice in the Anthropocene era. At the conference, Ms. Ashee had the honour of meeting several eminent authors, scholars, and theorists in the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics, including Dr. Martin, Dr. van Leeuwen, Dr. Alison Moore, Dr. Dreyfus, Dr. Derewianka, Dr. Coldwell, and Dr. Ahmar Mahboob. These interactions provided valuable feedback and enriched her ongoing research in ecolinguistics and environmental legal discourse.





## AFGHAN TV HONORS SBBWUP FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Dr. Nargis Jamila, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry, SBBWUP, along with six students from different departments of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, were awarded by Afghan TV in acknowledgment of their outstanding services and achievements in various fields. The award recipients included Fizza Hussain (Law, 5th Semester) for the Social Services Award; Malaika Noor (Law, 7th Semester) for the Sports Excellence Award; Ishrat Bano (Political Science, 5th Semester) for the Excellence in Education Award; Warda Sultan (MS Bioinformatics, 2nd Semester) for the Digital Creator Award; Alina Khan (Department of Art & Design) for the Outstanding Artist Award; and Qudsia Bano (Department of Psychology) for the Talent Achievement Award. Dr. Nargis Jamila was also honored with the Research Excellence Award in recognition of her academic and research contributions. This achievement highlights the dedication, talent, and academic excellence of SBBWUP faculty and students, bringing recognition to the university at a broader level.





## HEC PINK RIBBON AWARD



Dr. Sadia Butt, Assistant Professor and In-Charge of the Department of Microbiology, SBBWUP, was honored with the HEC Pink Ribbon Award in recognition of her efforts in conducting awareness campaigns and organizing seminars. She serves as the focal person and ambassador for the Pink Ribbon Program of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

## PHD PUBLIC DEFENCE BY DR. SANIA SIRAJ

On 21 November 2025, Dr. Sania Siraj, Lecturer at the Department of Art and Design, SBBWUP, successfully defended her PhD dissertation. Her research, titled "A Semiotic Study of the Lotus Depicted in the Art and Architecture of Gandhara," examined the symbolic, cultural, religious, and philosophical meanings of the lotus as represented in Gandharan art and architecture. The study offered an interpretive framework for understanding the semiotic significance of the lotus within the historical and cultural context of Gandhara. The public defence marked an important academic milestone and reflected Dr. Sania Siraj's scholarly contribution to the fields of art history and visual semiotics.

