



## Over 900 get degrees at IoBM convocation

By Fizza Iyaz

**KARACHI** It was a shared celebration for the over 900 graduating students of the Institute of Business Management, their proud parents and teachers, who had all gathered for the IoBM's 19th convocation on its Korangi Creek campus on Saturday.

Wearing blue (for the bachelors) and beige (for the masters) robes, embellished with a colourful border based on the Ajrak design, the students were all jubilant on what was indeed their big day.

"We are privileged to study at such a prestigious institution and extremely thankful to our parents and teachers for putting in great effort to bring out the best in us," said Anam Akhano, who received the Jinnah Memorial Distinguished Gold medal in Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), adding that sheer hard work and consistency made her stand out among the rest.

Sharing her sentiments, Neha Siddiqui, recipient of the Inayat Ali Khan Memorial Gold

Medal in Bachelor of Science (BSc) honors, said that though it was equally tough and challenging to be an IoBM student as the journey strictly adhered to the principles of quality education, the time spent here was both meaningful and memorable.

Hani Ghulam Akhtar, who received the Yehle Foundation Gold Medal in BBA in financial science and risk management, said, "Being attentive in class and having the right reading skills are key to obtaining great marks. I am lucky to have gotten a job recently in my field, though the scope of the actuarial science hasn't yet developed in our country."

Earlier, chief guest and former senate chairman Mohammad Mansoor Soomro, IoBM president Nurgulhan Karim and guest of honor Rameez Chishti greeted the students on their achievements and urged them to set the bar higher for their future endeavours.

Mr Soomro, who had held key government positions, also serving as caretaker prime minister and president, in his brief speech asked the students not to forget the roles played by their parents, teachers and the institution in their

lives and, being a privileged member of society, always demonstrate loyalty.

"Be ambitious. Try harder but don't be greedy. Do something that also benefits society. You may excel in isolation but that's not enough. You must excel in competition," he advised them.

"Don't forget that you are the future of Pakistan and that Pakistan is your future."

Sharing some words of wisdom, Mr Chishti, the chief executive of Pakistan Cotton Ltd, said that one should always aim for the stars and never underestimate any situation.

"Dream big, but at the same time, keep your feet on the ground. Remember each success is a probability to be more successful," he said.

"Patience may be a virtue, but perseverance is an art. Pay your dues and don't forget to give time to humanity."

Mr Karim in his speech highlighted the performance of the IoBM over the years. The institution that started off as a modest school building at the PAF base two decades ago now has a sprawling custom-built campus compris-

ing four colleges that provides undergraduate and graduate level education to over 4,000 students.

Chancellor Najmuddin A. Sheikh said the distinguishing feature of the IoBM was its breakthroughs in exploring international educational and professional horizons from North America to Europe and now in Asia with South Korea, China and Thailand.

Aafia Aziz, recipient of the S.H. Haidari Memorial Gold Medal in BBA (honours), made the valedictory speech on behalf of all the 193 graduating students.

The students who received merit certificates were Alisha Malikhani, Farika Hanif, Shiba Javed, Anusha Samad Khan, Sana Khalid Khatirwala, Tayyaba Paracha, Mashal Gajani, Alizeer A.Habib, Faiz Mohiuddin, Syeda Anam Nusrat, Raziya Raziya, Marina Arif, Rameez Komar, Aisha Akther Rahman, Anam Amira Marwan, Sami Arshad Siroj, Rameez Khatani and Sanaa Saad.

The institution's first doctoral student Sumera Saad received a PhD in education at the convocation.