

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND (WMF) WATCH DAY 2014

SHIKARPOOR – A PROMISING HERITAGE SITE

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SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur's prospects for developing into a cultural heritage site are significantly high as emphasized at a seminar on the occasion of World Monuments Fund 'Watch Day 2014' at Shikarpur jointly organized by the Heritage Cell, Department of Architecture & Planning, NED University and EFT-Endowment Fund Trust for Preservation of the Heritage of

Sindh In the 3rd week of November 2014 at Government Boys High School No.2

The celebration of WMF Watch Day 2014 at Shikarpur under the theme of 'Promoting Heritage Awareness' brought together a large section of local community, professionals, government officials and people from various walks of life from Pakistan to discuss and debate on the past, present and future of Shikarpur which was once the center of a significant trade route.

connecting Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran to the Indian Sub-continent. The day-long celebration included a seminar, heritage walk and stonching activities engaging school children to raise awareness in present and future custodians of this historical place.

The objective of the seminar was to highlight the historic importance of the built and cultural environment of the city and to explore the opportunities for the local communities to work together with the professionals, government organisations,

ations, corporate sponsors, and others for the preservation of the heritage legacy which, unfortunately, is finding away rapidly.

The historic city of Shikarpur has been included on the World Monuments Watch list consecutively three times in 2008, 2010 and now in 2014 by World Monuments Fund (WMF) to draw attention to the fading cultural legacy of the historic city and its compromised state of conservation. Every two years since 1996,

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never-ending economic growth that has resulted in increasing pollution, environmental waste, environmental degradation, social disintegration and dehumanization". Kamil Khan was sad on the current run-down architectural heritage of the city which was once considered as "the jewel of Shahjahan's urban life".

Following the keynote speech by Kamil Khan Mumtaz, the former

ing for heritage conservation", said Anil Kishore. The new development processes should respect the past and its relationship towards existing historic fabric, said Kishore who called for a role that only with a balanced approach for nurturing both of these aspects, heritage areas and unique living cultures can remain intact in their true essence for future generations to cherish.

The former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu, Lok Sabha Assembly, Mr Abid Shahab Mirza also addressed the gathering on the occasion. Hearing through the greatest chattering story of the city which he has lived on since his birth, he remembered the resilience and tenacity of the people of Shikarpur.

the past grandeur of Shukrapur when it had an impressive relationship with its residents and was a place where people could live and work together. According to Shabir Mirani, one way to save the city would be to establish the Shukrapur Building Control Authority to look over and control construction and renovation activities in the city's old buildings.

He also suggested forming a "Shukrapur Watch Group" to scout through the city and ensure that woodwork and other furnishings or artifacts of heritage buildings did not get demolished, broken, or stolen.

Addressing the Health government to implement its notification, dissolved December 1, 2003, buildings in

Shikarpur as 'protected heritage'; Shabnam Mirza motivated the participants to put up a fight for the love of Shikarpur and follow the government to enforce Heritage law with its true spirit.

ment of the Sindhi language movement, University of Sindh, Jamshoro; Mughal, Rzeszow, Poland; Dr. Waqas Hussain Mehar, Government Polytechnic Shikarpur and Mr. Syed Shah, Anthropologist.

Again, in his presentation he explained the historic significance of the monument.

In perspective of ruling classes in Shikarpur, Nasreen Ali spoke about the tangible and intangible cultural aspects of it. Her research was based on past, present and future of Shikarpur via a historical comparison of past and present. He mentioned a detailed inventory of the architectural structures in Shikarpur. Room, windows, metal and wood work, sculptures and many artifacts depict the history and culture of Shikarpur.

Shakespeare from the historic
and literary life of an unconquered
city.

In his presentation, Weigert
stated that he had been a
Shakespeare enthusiast since
he was the reason behind
the construction of the
Shakespearean Hall. The
Shakespearean Hall was once a city, with
its own board of trustees,
and its own mayor who furthered
the cause of Shakespeare.
He also mentioned that
Shakespeare before partition
was a sub-continent. He felt
that it was important for
the purpose of declining Shakespearian
Performances of today.
The audience was given the
information about the
catalogue of the pencil
sketches of the artist, which
was available at Rs. 847 to 1960 AD as available
in the bookshop of the
Shakespearean Hall.
The hall was open for all
students to interact with
the artist.

