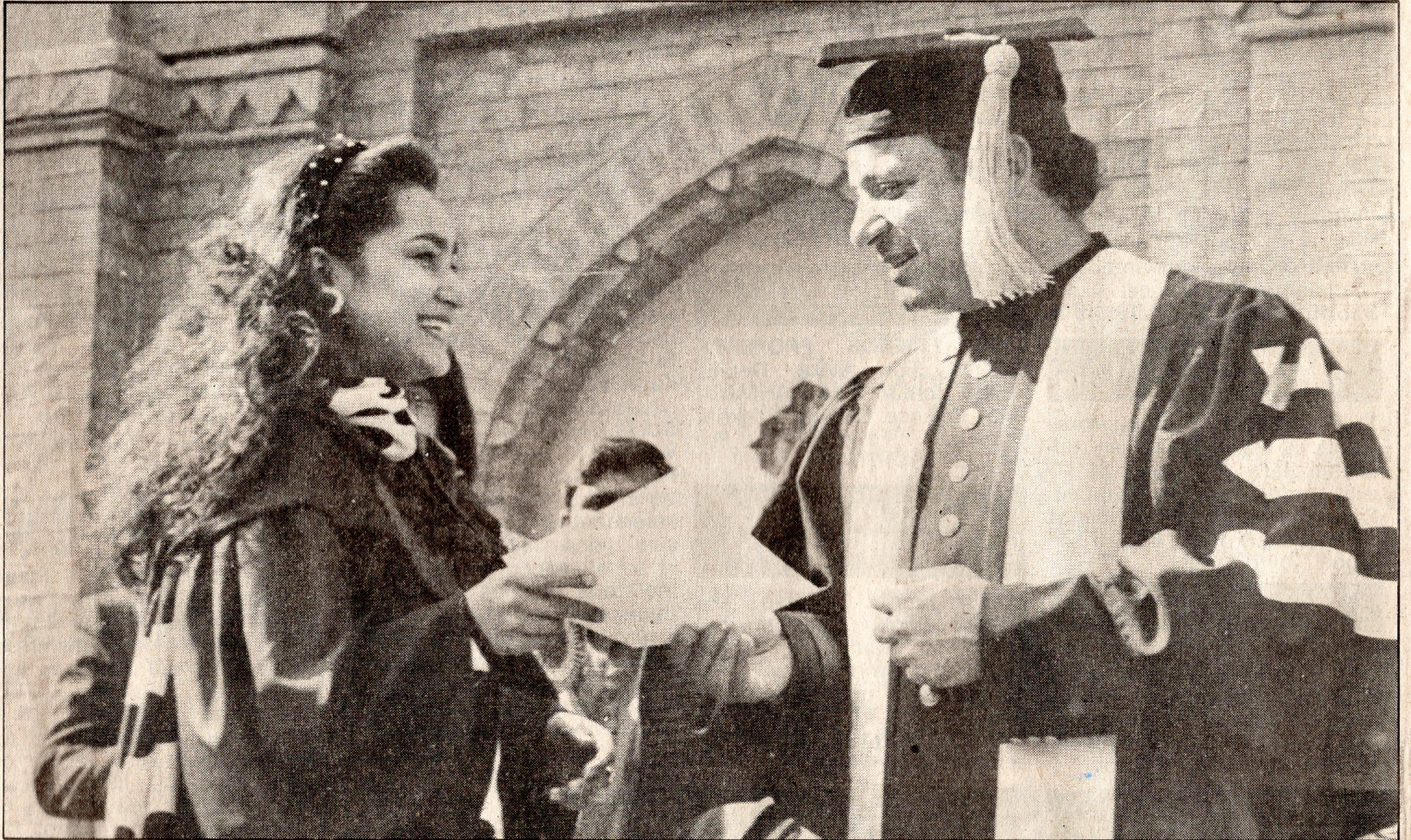


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L A H O R E

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Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif giving away a certificate to a student of National College of Arts. --F.P. Photo.

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By Our Reporter

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LAHORE Jan 21 (APP/DDA)

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Science, technology govt's top priority: PM

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By Our Reporter

LAHORE, Jan. 21: Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that education is on his priority list and his government is trying to meet the demands of rapidly changing science and technology.

Addressing the first convocation at the National College of Arts here on Thursday, the prime minister maintained that the policies of his government would open ways for the youth to achieve modern technical knowhow.

He stated that the world was passing through a period of free "competition" and we should work hard to meet this challenge.

Change was taking place in almost every field of life and fine arts have also been affected, PM said. He promised to provide all facilities to fine arts students for their higher education.

In his short speech, he main-

tained that Education Foundation would provide ample chances to youth for employment and for increasing literacy rate in the country. He stated that this scheme would also help in the uplifting of educational standards.

He said that the IJI government would provide assistance to the NCA in its expansion. He said that he would talk to the Chief Minister Punjab Ghulam Haider Wyne to hand over the building of Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) to the NCA.

The prime minister took the opportunity to take on the CMIT. He said that he had been the CM for a long time and the poor functioning of this department does not entitle it to such a huge place. He further said that the offices of CMIT could be shifted from here to a smaller place.

He was of the opinion that the NCA should help the government in planning the restoration of Old

Lahore and conservation of old buildings. The restoration of the wall of old city and gardens, Mian Nawaz said, was underway but the executing agency no proper coordination.

He said that old buildings like the Government College buildings, Old Campus buildings and other adjoining buildings should be preserved. He pledged that he would not allow anyone to demolish old buildings for constructing plazas and markets.

Earlier, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif gave away the awards and letters of fellowship. The fellowship letters were awarded to Dr. Louis, Prof. Collin David and Prof. Iqbal Hassan.

'Shakir Ali Award' was given to Miss Shazia Sikander of Fine Arts department while Miss Samia Qureshi and Miss Shireen Gull of Architecture department were awarded 'Bhai Ram Singh

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'Government for better cooperation with Opp'

LAHORE, Jan. 21, (APP/PPI): Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said the present government would take requisite steps for better cooperation with the opposition.

Talking to newsmen here at the National College of Arts, the prime minister said that the present government wanted to promote democratic process to put the country on the road to progress and prosperity.

The prime minister said that the issue of the candidate for the election of the president of Pakistan would be decided at an appropriate time. He said it could not be decided through the newspapers as was being published in the press nowadays.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif, answering a question about the withdrawal of presidential ordinance regarding powers of the special courts, said

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