

UBL announces winners of the 8th UBL Literary Awards



Sima Kamil, President & CEO, UBL along with the presenters, judges and winners of different categories at the 8th UBL Literary Awards 2019 held in Karachi recently.

The 8th UBL Literary Awards were held in at a local hotel in Karachi on Saturday, 15 June 2019. Celebrating the literary efforts of Pakistani writers, UBL held these awards for the eighth year running. The awards were held at a local hotel and the event was attended by a host of writers, literary & media personalities, socialites and celebrities.

Over 130 entries were received as nominations for the seven categories of the awards. The books, which were written by Pakistani authors and published in Pakistan in 2017 & 2018, were shortlisted by an esteemed panel of judges which included the likes of Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed, Dr. Asif Farrukhi, Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Dr. Arfa Syeda, Ms. Kishwar Naheed, Dr. Anwaar Ahmad and Mr. Masood Ashar.

The winners from each category as announced at the ceremony were:

- Urdu Fiction: ***Jindar*** by Akhtar Raza Salimi
- Urdu Non-Fiction: ***Us Ko Ik Shakhs Samajhna Tou Munasib Nahin***
by Dr. Nasir Abbas Nayyar
- Urdu Poetry: ***Tum Kabeer*** by Fahmida Riaz
- Translation into Urdu: ***Dur Uftada Shehr Say Aik Taveel Nazam***
by Munawar Hussain
- Children's Urdu Literature: ***Nazmein, Pahelian Aur Nasr Paray*** by Shanul Haq Haqqi
- English Non-Fiction: ***The Faltering State*** by Tariq Khosa
- Children's English Literature: ***Partition*** by Amina Azfar

For the first time in the history of the Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award was also presented to Ms. Zehra Nigah for her extensive and extraordinary body of work.

The event, hosted by Mr. Wasi Shah and Ms. Rabab Hashim, started off with an address from the President & CEO of UBL, Ms. Sima Kamil. "Pakistan is a wonderful mix of cultures, languages and ethnicities and our literary lineage is best proof of that. UBL considers it incumbent upon itself to recognize and inspire writers to continue contributing to the country's literary wealth. We hope that the literary impetus does not slacken and that future generations continue to take advantage of these literary treasures", she said during her address to the audience.

This was followed by the presentation of the Awards interspersed with a classical dance act by Samia Mumtaz and readings from the winning books. Awards were presented to the winners by some of the jury members along with well-known personalities like Ms. Hasina Moin, Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashidi, Ms. Zeba Bakhtiar and Mr. Jimmy Engineer. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by President & CEO UBL. The evening ended with an enthralling musical performance by noted vocalist Mr. Salman Alvi.