

## **Press Release**

01 February 2012

## NBP Dedicated Regional IT Centre Lahore in Memory of Arfa Karim Randhawa

Karachi: February 1, 2012: President & CEO NBP, Mr. Qamar Hussain inaugurated and dedicated Regional IT Centre Lahore in memory of Arfa Karim Randhawa, the world's youngest Microsoft professional. Arfa Karim Randhawa was awarded number of national and international awards for her remarkable achievemnts at a very young age. Arfa Karim is also the recipient of the President's <u>Award for Pride of Performance</u>, a civil award usually granted to people who have shown excellence in their respective fields over a long period of time. She is also the youngest recipient of this award.

President NBP, while inaugurating IT Data Centre Lahore said that Arfa Karim is truly Pakistan's pride. She is a youth icon, a role model for generations to come and for that very reason we have named our Data Center after her. It is sad that we have lost her at such young age, however the charisma around her personality and achievements should be used to motivate our youth.

Recently National Bank of Pakistan has put special emphasis on automation and online banking. Having remotest branch network in far flung areas, NBP has converted its entire branch network on-line in 2 provinces Gilgit/Baltistan (all 14 branches) and Balochistan (all 62 branches). Federal Capital, Islamabad (all 24 branches) is also completely online. From Sind province 219 out of 226; from Punjab 522 out of 632; from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 123 out of 212; from Azad Kashmir all 88 branches have been made completely online. From all regions of the Bank, 10 regions, namely Sukkur, Quetta, Larkana, Gilgit, Gwadar, Islamabad, Jhelum, Karachi South, Lahore Central and Lahore East are also completely online. Cumulatively the Bank has converted its more than 1000 branches online out of its countrywide network of 1271 branches.

NBP has recently initiated a number of IT projects to make the bank one of the most technologically advanced financial institution in the country. Currently the Bank is in the implementation phase of Core Banking System which is one of the largest IT projects in Pakistan and covers all the banking functions.

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