

PU



NEWS

DECEMBER 2021

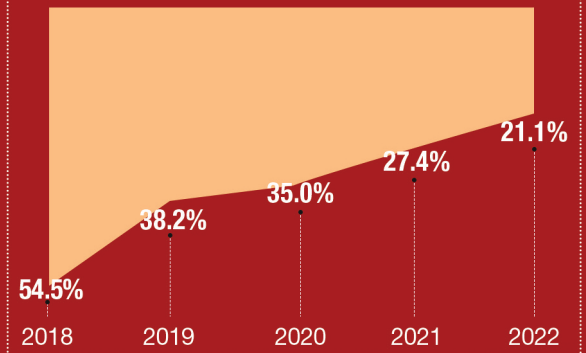
NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE - PAKISTAN (SINCE 1882)

Result of 3 years policies

QS declares PU 145th best university in Asia

PERCENTILE EVOLUTION

QS World University Rankings: ASIA REGION



Quality important not
number of universities:
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Inclusive, sustainable
growth to strengthen
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Buzdar approves disparity allowance for
university teachers, employees

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Quality important not number of universities



CHAUDHRY MOHAMMAD SARWAR
Governor Punjab/ Chancellor University

THE quality of education is more important than merely increasing the number of universities in the province. We will not compromise on the autonomy of the universities; whenever a policy is formulated, in this regard, the universities and other concerned stakeholders will be taken into confidence.

This was stated by Governor Punjab/ Chancellor University of the Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar while addressing the concluding ceremony of the Leadership and Management Program for Vice Chancellors of Universities at Faletti's Hotel Lahore.

The chancellor said, "our higher education sector is facing many challenges including quality education and research, good governance and international ranking. Another challenge is that our graduates are unable to compete in the local and international job market as they lack the necessary skills and expertise in their field. The training program would help university leaders cope with these challenges. Universities can bring institutions up to international standards by ensuring better governance and management, effective strategies.

Although we have limited resources compared to developed countries, we still have the best brains, we have the best leadership. Through cooperation, transparency, and effective teamwork we can achieve the vision of the country. ■

PU acknowledges services of Dr. AQ Khan

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmad has expressed his deepest sense of sorrow over the shocking news of death of Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. He said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah built Pakistan while Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan strengthened the country's defence and made it invincible. It's a tragic incidence for the whole Muslim world, particularly Pakistan.

Due to his services and sacrifices, Pakistanis are living in an independent atmosphere. The Muslim scientists like Dr. AQ Khan are born in centuries. Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan also rendered invaluable services in the field of social welfare and he laid the foundation stone of many hospitals, schools and other welfare institutions. He left a luxurious life to safeguard his homeland, for which the Pakistani nation would be under his debt forever.

All the Pakistanis who are breathing in an independent atmosphere are thankful to him and we will never forget him. The services of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan would be remembered forever. ■



PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

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Editorial Note

ACADEMIC restructuring, a visionary step taken by the incumbent administration of Punjab University, has started bearing fruits as the initiative has provided more working space and new horizons to the university faculty, researchers and heads of the teaching departments. Under this opening the number of faculties have been increased from 13 to 19 and the teaching departments (colleges, schools, centers and institutes) have almost doubled from previous 83 to 146. Resultantly, the number of students have also been increased this year to 49,520 on-campus students including 29,588 morning and 18,838 afternoon/evening students.

Even the critics, both inside and outside

the university, who earlier argued against this step, have started accepting this reform as a much needed measure to bring Punjab University at a par to the contemporary academic world's demands and modern trends. New heads of the departments appointed under the restructuring have started playing their proactive role in organizing research and social activities to encounter various challenges faced by our society. The university administration under this smart move has provided the faculty with an enabling environment where healthy competition among newly established academic departments could be a game changer to bring more laurels in the near future – even more than the recent upgrades in the QS ranking. ■

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Result of 3 years policies

PU position improves by 87 points in QS Asia 2022 ranking

QS World University Rankings, which is officially recognized by the Government of the Punjab and Punjab Higher Education Commission, has issued its new ranking of universities across Asia in which PU has stood 145th, making a landmark jump of 87 points in just 3 years. PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad said that QS has ranked Punjab University among the best 22 percent universities in Asia while it was counted among top 55 percent universities in 2018. Hence, the PU has improved its ranking by 33.4 percent, he added. The VC said that PU was ranked 232nd by QS in 2018 ranking of Asian universities and PU made continuous progress every year.

He said that in just three years, PU's international ranking has also improved by 16 percent, which is a landmark achievement because it was very difficult to improve university ranking at international level due to tough competition among the varsities throughout the world. He said that The Nature Publishing Group, a world-class publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online founded in 1869,

has also ranked Punjab University No 1 in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani universities. For the first time, PU's 13 subjects has been ranked internationally by QS and PU's subject of Petroleum Engineering has been ranked among top 100-150 institutions of the world. He said that in 2018, PU's five subjects were ranked internationally for the first time and PU was improving its subject-wise ranking manifold every year. He said that the initiatives the

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PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

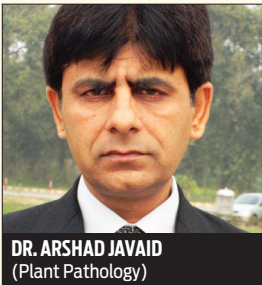
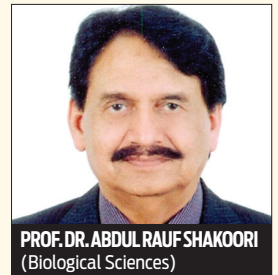
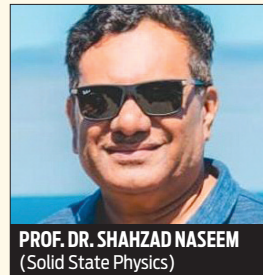
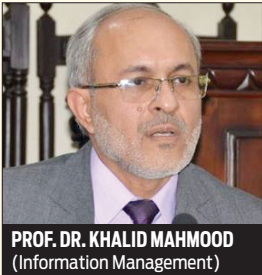
administration has taken for improvement in international ranking were bringing fruit.

Due to promotion of research culture, the research publications of the university have increased and the university for the first time in PU's history allocated a hefty amount of Rs380 million for research as it was top priority

of the administration. He said that teacher-student ratio has been maintained, appointments of PhD degree holders as faculty members has been made and collaboration with national and international organizations has been enhanced, which has mainly contributed to university's rapid improvement in QS ranking.

The varsity is making rapid progress in all the disciplines. He said that PU is full of potential and its ranking would be improved further in the upcoming world rankings. He said that the university administration has focused on good governance, restoration of PU's academic excellence and research with socio-economic impact. He said that the administration has regulated all statutory bodies of the university and all its organs were fully functional. He said that streamlining the university's system has helped improve international ranking of the university. He appreciated Chairman Ranking Committee Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood for making efforts to improve the university's ranking and congratulated PU faculty members, employees and students on this achievement. ■



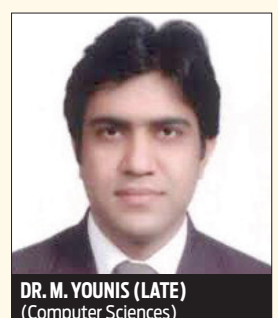
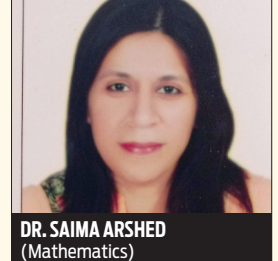
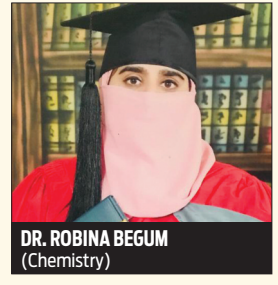


Another feather in PU's cap: 18 professors declared among best 2% researchers world-wide

AROUND 18 professors of the University of the Punjab have been included in an update list of top 2% researchers in the world. This list was issued by a team of scientists, from Stanford University, USA, led by Prof. John Ioannidis. These researchers have been selected on the basis of their research papers, citations, h-index and collaboration in research.

The PU professors included in the top global researchers are: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sharif (Mathematics), Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood (Information Management), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram (Mathematics), Prof. Dr. Shahzad Naseem (Solid State Physics), Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Shakoori (Biological Sciences), Dr. Zeeshan Yousaf (Mathematics), Dr. Muhammad Zaeem ul Haq Bhatti (Mathematics), Dr. Nauman Raza (Mathematics), Dr. Muhammad Riaz (Mathematics), Dr. Saima Arshed (Mathematics), Dr. Zahoor H. Farooqui (Chemistry), Dr. Robina Begum (Chemistry), Prof. Dr. Adeel Afzal (Chemistry), Dr. Muhammad Rizwan (Physical Sciences), Prof. Dr. Saira Riaz (Solid State Physics), Dr. Hafiz Azhar Ali (Entomology), Dr. Arshad Javaid (Plant Pathology) and Dr. Muhammad Younis (Late) (Computer Sciences).

Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar has congratulated the professors for achieving this prestigious rank and appreciated their efforts for boosting the ranking of the university. He mentioned that the present administration has taken several initiatives for improvement of the University's subject wise and overall ranking among universities. He said that PU administration would provide full support to the faculty members and researchers who are contributing positively in socio-economic development of Pakistan. ■



PU commemorates 139th Foundation Day



BY RABIA YOUSAF

ON the 139th Foundation Day of Punjab University, Deans of various faculties, heads of departments, employees and students congratulated Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar. On this occasion, Prof. Niaz Ahmad said that in 2018, when he assumed charge as Vice Chancellor, the PU had 13 faculties, 10 constituent colleges, 73 departments / centres / institutes which were not adequate for the present educational needs.

Keeping in view the needs of the country for the next fifty years, started work to adapt the structure of all faculties and departments to the modern educational and research needs, as a result of which 19 faculties have been established in PU today, he added. There are now more than 146 departments and centres. He said that the incumbent administration has taken several steps to increase the university's global ranking and promote research culture. As a result, in the last three years PU's international ranking has improved by 16 percent, he added. He said that for the first time in the history of Punjab University the 13 subjects have been ranked internationally and PU's Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Department has been ranked among top 100-150 institutions in the world by the QS.

He said that Punjab University has also improved its Asian ranking and it stands on 178th position, making a considerable jump of 54 points in just two years. The Nature Publishing Group, a world-class publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online founded in 1869, has also ranked Punjab University No 1 in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani universities, he further added.

PU PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Prof. Dr. Khalid Khan and Deans of various faculties share their memories and give tribute to alma mater with reference to its 139th Foundation Day.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar

Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab



Today, 14th Oct 2021, is a momentous day for University of the Punjab as we celebrate its 139th Foundation Day. This day is also an exceptional one for each one of us as it offers a unique opportunity to celebrate what we have accomplished, to express our gratitude to those who have contributed to the growth of the varsity and to strengthen our resolve to continue developing our institution for our future generations.

The university community thrives to explore, discover, and offer the right balance of excellent teaching and research, matched by an enviable quality of life. The varsity has maintained its quality over the years and has marked its position globally. We all look forward to our youth to follow the university traditions and work with dedication for improvement and excellence that is the hallmark of vibrant society. Let the Alma mater be known not only for its academic excellence but also for its philanthropic fragrance. On our Foundation Day, let's take a pledge to further solidify our resolve "to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement".

Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan

Registrar, University of the Punjab

14th October marks the Foundation Day of University of the Punjab! From 1882 till today, PU has produced knowledge, wisdom and guidance for millions of people including raising three Nobel Laureates as well, in the field of Medicine, Physiology and Physics.

Our journey from Sir James Broadwood Lyall to Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar has been replete with historic and revolutionary events manifold but one aim has transpired throughout: to ensure a prospective knowledge hub in the country that primarily enables discourses of betterment, fraternity and sagacity.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider

Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

The Foundation Day of the University of the Punjab is the day from which the institution has started its journey. University of the Punjab has been scaling great heights with the support and dedication of the University community. According to the QS ranking, Punjab University has been ranked among the top Universities of the World. It is worth mentioning here that Agriculture discipline of Punjab University was ranked at 250-300 in 2020. Every year when Foundation Day is marked, we take a promise to strive earnestly for the growth and development in all aspects of our Alma mater. On this day, we should honor our teachers/researchers who guided the students in the greatest way possible. Punjab University does not only produce highly academically qualified individuals, but people with the overall development and growth. On our Foundation Day, we take a vow to strive earnestly for the growth and progress of our prestigious hub of knowledge. Thanking all of you again on 139th Foundation Day for making this trip successful.



Prof. Dr. Umbreen Javaid

Dean, Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences

It has been a pleasure to be part of University of the Punjab which is the highest seat of learning, one of the oldest and also the largest in Pakistan. With an inspiring baggage of advanced intellectual and academic historical tradition, an impressive track record of contributions in cutting edge research in various disciplines, and above all catering and serving the intellectual needs of students from a diverse background, Punjab University stands out as a beacon of hope, strength, and a model institution. For the first time in its history of 139 years the number of faculties has risen to 19, its global ranking getting better, and its intellectuals and scientists making their presence felt in global academic circles. The journey of imparting knowledge and transforming the society into a better place is getting momentum day by day. I congratulate all on the 139th Foundation Day. May my alma mater progress and prosper even more.



Prof. Dr. Abdullah Khan Durrani

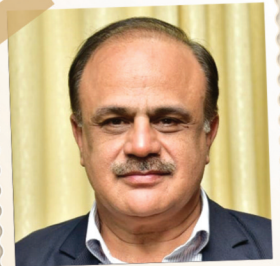
Dean, Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering

I congratulate everyone associated with this great alma mater on the 139th birthday of University of the Punjab.

The discipline of Chemical Engineering was established at PU in 1917 and it has provided trained human resource since inception of Pakistan.

Institute of Chemical Engineering has provided highly skilled human resource for defence sector, development of nuclear program, fertilizers, petroleum refineries etc in Pakistan.

The graduates of Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology have clinched a number of international and national awards. Prominent among them are PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad (Sitara-e-Imtiaz) and Engr. Arshad Nawaz Khan (Sitara-e-Imtiaz) of Kahuta Research Laboratories.



Prof. Dr. Engr. Shahzad Sarwar

Dean, Faculty of Computing & Information Technology



Being the oldest and largest seat of learning in Pakistan, on October 14, 2021, the 139th Foundation Day of University of the Punjab is commemorated with a resolve to uphold its legacy of excellence and to meet the challenges of the present and the future. Presently, though the University enjoys globally a pretty decent reputation but particularly in Asia. The University has been ranked amongst the best 22-percent universities in Asia by QS World University Rankings. Further, besides of COVID-19 pandemic still the varsity managed to climb up the ladder by improving 16-percent in international ranking. Moreover, keeping in perspective the future demands of a rapidly changing world, the varsity underwent mammoth restructuring of academic units, resulting in establishment of new faculties and departments. Now, we are ready for the challenges of the future. The legacy of Punjab University, a future guiding tool for us, is such that it has produced numerous notable scholars and scientists, whose ideas and research contributions have revolutionized and transformed the society at large. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Dr. Abdus Salam are only two from among such notable alumni. Hence, it would be apt to claim that the establishment of Punjab University on October 14, 1882 must be marked as a memorable day, as it changed the course of history, and I am confident, the varsity will continue to do so.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi

Dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies



I am glad to fulfil this pleasant duty to give my humble message on 139th foundation day of the Punjab University. Punjab University is the forerunner and bearer of the great academic, educational and moral traditions by which humanity survives and flourishes. We are all aware that the catastrophic crisis facing humanity today is a moral crisis. Although human progress has given the impression that the entire human race has reached its peak, the extremes of moral decay have made every development unpleasant. The trends of Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter cannot cure human suffering unless people living together in a society adopt a moral life. Educational institutions must play an effective and leading role in preventing the moral depravity of societies. Every educational institution, in fact, thrives and grows through the good teacher-student relationship. Today it is important that the teacher really becomes a guide and the student really becomes a learner. If the teachers and students of Punjab University combine together for fortification of morality in the society, there is hope for a bright future.

Prof. Dr. Mubbsher Munawar Khan

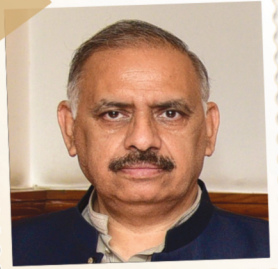
Former Dean, Faculty of Commerce



It is a matter of immense pleasure that University of the Punjab is celebrating its 139th Foundation Day. This span of time is not a numerical digit but it speaks volume about tremendous efforts of generations to bring the Alma mater to present state of institutional wisdom and maturity. It's a long story of refining and aligning pedagogy and research aimed to achieve academic excellence. By the grace of Allah SWT looking back makes us thankful for adding to the glory of our Alma mater. Development has taken place in all the areas including but not limited to teaching, research, publications, curriculum review, conferences, grooming of students, and academic advancement of faculty. Present leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhter has made real difference and university is being recognized on the global academic scene. In merely three years we are elevated from 232nd position to 145th in Asia. Through inclusivity and diversity university enjoys a vibrant culture comprising all shades of Pakistan. Hailey College of Banking and Finance, comparatively a younger component of the university also excelled. It has the honor of conducting University's first Business research conference and launching first HEC recognized business research Journal.

Prof. Dr. Nadeem Irfan Bukhari

Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy



The 139th birthday of University of The Punjab is a time to recognize that hard work must be coupled with a concerted effort and collaborative approach to spread knowledge. The Punjab University College of Pharmacy (PUCP) has always engaged with faculty, staff and students alike to learn from one another. Starting my MPhil in PUCP meant the fulfilment of a big dream where I was incredibly groomed, later allowing me to become a part of the faculty at PUCP. As dean, sharing an in-separable bond with this prestigious institute I strive to provide practical and experience-based pharmacy education, equipping our students with the intellect and moral depth. I feel proud to have played a small part by educating outstanding students. I thank all the PUCP's community for their contributions and look forward to all that we can accomplish together. It has been an honour serving PUCP.

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawazish-i-Husain

Former Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

I am delighted to express my gratitude and pay a tribute to the alma mater who groomed me, earlier, as a student and, later, embraced me as a faculty and further provided an opportunity to improve my scholarship in crafting the research skills in Pharmacology at University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK. The University has come a long way from the day it was founded in the fall of 1882 and has recently celebrated 139th foundation day on 14th of October. It was the 4th institute of higher education established in subcontinent during British rule, but first which was undertaking both examining and teaching. It excelled in research, as three Noble Laureates, namely Arthur Compton (1927), Har Gobind Khorana (1968) and Abdus Salam (1979) were associated with it. After independence of Pakistan, the University exclusively raised human resource for the country who took over the positions at various public and private sectors including education and played an extraordinary role in making it a stable state by putting it on the road of progress. The voyage is continuing and the qualified graduates of the University are rendering their services to the countrymen with more vigour. It is also providing the platform to keen researchers for turning their innovative ideas into realities and thus assisting in establishing a strong technological base for the homeland. The alumni of the University are serving the humankind with great zeal at national and international level. Though it is a long way to make a niche among the world top most universities, the quest continues and improvement in its ranking keeps the hope alive.



Prof. Dr. Amra Raza

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve at one of the oldest and most distinguished seats of learning in the Subcontinent. The nurture and skills this institution offers has focused on equipping its faculty and students, not only with professional skills, academic excellence and subject knowledge, but also in inculcating a sense of compassion and coexistence at the level of gender, race, culture and religion. The individual and his/her responsibility to the community is also a major concern. The University of Punjab has always been a beacon of light. May Allah continue to bless it with His Beneficence.



Prof. Dr. Firdaus-e-Bareen

Former Dean, Faculty of Life-Sciences

On the occasion of 139th Foundation Day of the University, I feel a pride in being a part of this highly esteemed, oldest and largest academic institution of Pakistan. This mother institution has provided leadership to all other newly established public sector and private organizations. After 36 years of joining, while I am on the verge of retirement as Director, Institute of Botany and Dean of Life Sciences, I must confess that being here was the best experience of my life! Its golden legacy will continue because it provides the ground for marching forward for those who have innovative ideas and the urge to do something new.



Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry

Dean, Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences

Congratulations to the students, faculty members and alumni of University of the Punjab on its 139th Foundation Day. Founded in 1882, PU has emerged as a leading seat of higher learning welcoming students from all over Pakistan and abroad. PU remains as the first choice for higher learning of students from all walks of life and backgrounds. PU has been able to transform lives of so many of its students occupying leadership roles across Pakistan and around the globe including government, academia, judiciary, politics, sports, media, business and armed forces. PU continues to play its positive role towards the betterment of Pakistan's economy by producing able graduates every year for all sectors of life. We must pledge to take forward our centuries' old legacy by adopting evolving best practices in teaching and research.



Prof. Dr. M. Sharif

Dean, Faculty of Science

This is a momentous day for the University of the Punjab as we are celebrating its 139th Foundation Day. This is also an exceptional for each of us as it offers a unique opportunity to celebrate what we have accomplished, to express our gratitude to those who have contributed to the growth of the University. The University started in 1882 has grown by leaps and bounds and today, we have 19 faculties, more than 100 departments and about 48,000 students. What drives us more is our university's qualitative and intellectual expansion. Hitting a new mark of excellence, Punjab University has improved its Asian ranking with 145th position, making a considerable jump of 87 points in just two years. On this occasion, let us make collective efforts towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that this alma mater rises to higher levels of achievement.



PU marks 139 years of academic excellence

QS declares PU 145th best university in Asia

■ 2018-2021 witnessed as **'most progressive years'**



BY RABIA YOUSAF

THE University of the Punjab (PU) is Pakistan's oldest research and teaching institution, which was established in 1882. It strives for excellence through the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. For over 139 years, this prestigious university worked with outstanding individuals to deliver knowledgeable leadership for a better society. PU helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generations and advance ideas that benefit the country as well as society.

The varsity has been challenging traditions for almost 139 years. It makes lives better by

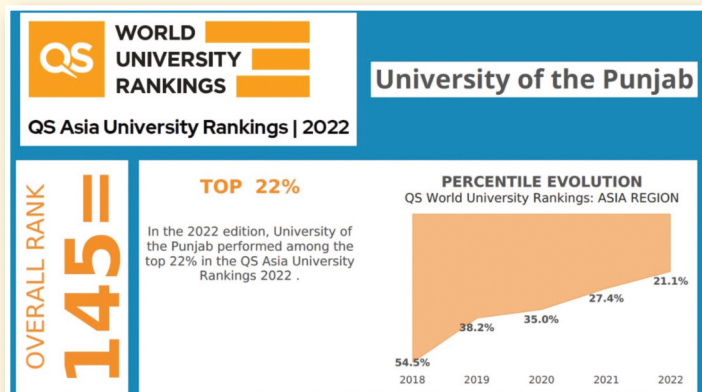
producing leaders of society and equipping its people with leadership qualities so they can serve their communities at every level. The mission of this prestigious university is to provide quality education to ensure that its graduates are nurtured to be sensitive, tolerant, law abiding, humane, carry the wisdom of knowledge, have creative thinking and research skills for their holistic development. This will hone their potential for assuming leadership roles in diverse fields of the society.

The incumbent Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad assumed his office in June 2018. In recognition of his outstanding performance in the field of higher education, engineering & technology, he was decorated with Sitara-i-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan. He took steps to restore the glory and dignity of the

university in line with its glorious past.

Good Governance

Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad pledged to provide solutions to the challenges being faced by Pakistan in all fields working on the model of universities in the developed world. In this regard, he first introduced the model of merit, transparency, accountability and good governance in all matters of the university. In order to achieve the goals of his mission and vision, Prof. Niaz Ahmad has regulated all the statutory bodies of the university. For instance, for the first time in the recent past, the meetings of the Senate, which is the highest statutory forum of the university, are being conducted regularly i.e. two meetings per year since June



2018. It is pertinent to mention here that in the past, a gap of around 8 to 10 years can easily be witnessed between the two meetings of the Senate. Since June 2018, 7 meetings of the Senate, 17 meetings of the Syndicate and 19 meetings of the Academic Council have been organized, a feat made possible due to good governance firmly set in pace by the present administration.

Appointments on Top Administrative Post

For the first time in the history of PU, professionals have been appointed on leading administrative posts and teachers have been relieved from administrative duties so that they could focus on the promotion of research. For the first time, the most coveted seats of university administration i.e. Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Resident Officer I and Resident Officer II were advertised and regular appointments of professionals have been made in a highly transparent manner to streamline important organs of the administration.

Academic Restructuring

Keeping in view the national requirements in the education sector at national level for the next 50 years, Dr. Niaz Ahmad and his team started work on academic restructuring of the university. In this regard, he convened a number of meetings of relevant forums and discussed various proposals for the development of teaching departments. Previously, there were 83 teaching departments. After approval of these proposals from statutory forums, today the university comprises 19 faculties and 146 departments, colleges, schools, centres and institutes. The university also has 658 affiliated colleges. It has 1300 full-time/regular

and hundreds of part-time faculty members involved in teaching/research and 49,520 on-campus students (29,588 morning, 18,838 evening and 1,094 diploma students).

That is why today, Punjab University has a clear role to play at the national level and all the universities in the country seem to be benefiting from the far-sighted strategy of the varsity administration in various fields.

Significant improvement has been made in the sphere of imparting higher education at the university. Innovative research in various new disciplines and new scientific courses have recently been introduced which will greatly help cultivate an atmosphere essential for acquiring a high academic standard. Progressive thinking, breaking with convention, challenging the status quo and improving the world are in its DNA. PU's innovations have made and continue to make genuinely life-changing advances.

International Ranking

When there are strong commitments and dedicated efforts, it becomes possible to realize dreams and achieve targets. After taking charge of the office of the vice chancellor, Prof. Niaz Ahmad took various initiatives and expressed firm resolve to improve ranking of Punjab University. In this regard, the reforms and policies introduced by him brought fruit in just three years and the world witnessed continuous improvement in PU's international ranking. In 2018, QS has ranked Punjab University 232nd while in 2022 ranking of Asian universities, PU has been declared 145th best university among thousands of universities in Asia. In the Asian ranking, PU was among top 55 percent universities while in the latest 2022 QS ranking, PU has significantly improved its ranking and now has been counted among top 22 percent

universities in Asia.

Until 2018, PU had never been ranked in the subject-wise ranking of the universities. However, with the swift efforts of the administration, three disciplines of the university appeared for the first time. And now in 2021, with the inclusion of 13 subjects in international ranking for the first time, the varsity has hit new landmarks in the latest subject wise positions of universities across the globe ranked by QS World Universities Rankings. In 2018, varsity's three subjects were ranked for the first time in subject-wise ranking of the universities while in the 2021 ranking, another 10 departments



My mission is to raise the productivity of our graduates through quality education and practical knowledge to contribute in a significant way to the national economy



PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

have been ranked among the top institutions of the world. PU has been ranked among top 100-150 institutions in the world in the subject of petroleum engineering, 251-300 in Pharmacy and Pharmacology, 351-400 in Chemical Engineering, 301-350 in Agricultural and Forestry, 401-450 in mathematics, 451-500 in Biological Sciences, 451-500 in Natural Sciences, 401-450 in Physics and Astronomy, 401-450 in Environmental Sciences, 451-500 in Business and Management Studies, 501-520 in Social Sciences and Management, 501-550 in Computer Science and Information System, while 501-550 in Chemistry.



Unprecedented Appointments and Promotions

Skilled and motivated teachers are integral to provide positive teaching and learning outcomes for students. PU's academic and professional staff are committed to ensuring the university continues to meet the highest academic standards and remains true to its founding principles. To ensure quality education, maintain student-teacher ratio and provide due right of promotion to all the eligible teachers on merit across the board, the university administration for the first time conducted meetings of the Selection Board and has appointed more than 100 professors, 186 associate professors, 165 assistant professors and 104 lecturers since June 2018. It merits a mention here that the number of professors and associate professors have never crossed the figure of 70 in the history of Punjab University and now at the same time PU has more than 150 professors. Besides, thousands of employees from Grade 1 to 16 have been promoted who were awaiting their promotions since many years. Punjab University has never witnessed such a huge number of appointments and promotions in the shortest period of three and a half years.

The team of academics, experts and innovators shape the university's future and ensure its continued success. PU has a stronger focus on teaching excellence, than any other in the country and thus continues to attract highest academic achievers from all over the country.

Promotion of Research

PU offers significant support to higher-degree-by-research students through a broad range of scholarships and research awards, dedicated

office spaces, skills, training, and professional development opportunities. The administration has also announced to sponsor those research projects, which address social and national problems. The research publications of the university have increased and for the first time in PU's history a hefty amount of Rs380 million has been allocated for research. Although Punjab University falls in the category of general university, The Nature Publishing Group has ranked Punjab University No 1 in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani varsities.

Around 18 professors of the PU have been



Dr. Niaz introduced the model of merit, transparency, accountability and good governance in all matters of the varsity which has been strictly implemented



PU VC PROF NIAZ AHMAD

included in an updated list of top 2% researchers in the world. This list was issued by a team of scientists, from Stanford University, USA, led by Prof. John Ioannidis. These researchers have been selected on the basis of their research papers, citations, h-index and collaboration in research. Evidence indicates that the university's research excels in both quality and impact.

PhD program is the backbone of any university. PhD simply means creation of new knowledge and reflects the volume of research being done at higher level. The administration has extended unprecedented support to PhD

scholars due to which for the first time the university produced 289 PhDs in one year.

The accomplishment of these international laurels is the fruit of the core values of merit, transparency, accountability and honesty which are prioritized by the present administration spearheaded by the incumbent Vice Chancellor. Through the restructuring of the varsity, maximum opportunities have been provided by the administration to all senior faculty members and staff to excel and work better for improvement in international ranking of PU.

National and International Collaboration

The administration has also focused on promotion of industry-academia-society linkages and 50 memorandum of understandings have been signed with national institutions. The administration also paid a special attention towards establishing relations with foreign teaching and research institutions to provide various opportunities to the faculty members and students to learn from each other's knowledge and experiences. In this regard, 57 international MoUs have been signed.

Covid 19 Initiatives

Many challenges emerged due to COVID-19, and we are proud that despite the odds, our University community continued to show up courageously. This resulted in the University winning accolades from international ranking agencies as well as QS International stated that the university has performed "very well" even during Covid-19 times.

The university administration has taken several initiatives to resolve diverse range of problems faced by the society during the severe waves of



COVID-19 pandemic.

i) Online Teaching

Though health was an immediate concern, institutions also needed to consider how they could do their best to enable students to continue their studies and take their exams. If teaching and exams were to be suspended, postponed or cancelled, students would lose important time and substantial investment, and many might not have been able to return to higher education after a long hiatus.



In QS Asia 2022 ranking, PU has been declared 145th best university among thousands of universities in Asia



At that time, the higher education sector was looking forward to PU administration for comprehensive guidelines. The University rose up to the challenge and came up with a long term strategic approach regarding this challenge.

Under the visionary supervision of Prof. Niaz Ahmad, Punjab University reacted rapidly towards a paradigm shift from traditional to new modes of teaching and assessments for educational continuation in the advent of COVID-19 pandemic and took daunting decisions on how to reorganize teaching and learning, as well as research and other activities.

Various steps were taken to ensure the smooth functioning of educational bodies. Teachers were trained rigorously to adapt to the online system of education in order to ensure the consistency with regards to the education sector. In this

regard, Prof. Niaz Ahmad convened several meetings and training sessions of IT experts and all relevant stakeholders on emergency basis to initiate online teaching and examination system for safeguarding the future of students.

The Vice Chancellor also instructed all teaching units to start online classes in order to engage students so that their studies and careers were not compromised. Accordingly, rules and regulations were also amended to facilitate students during the worst days of the pandemic. Moreover, the varsity not only confronted the issue of the continuation of academic year, but also fulfilled the social responsibility efficiently by creating awareness among general masses regarding Covid-19 protocols.

ii) Development of Diagnostic Kits

Initially, the country suffered an excess shortage of Covid-19 diagnostic kits. This led to over-pricing in diagnostic tests of suspected/infected patients. Keeping in view, the price hike of diagnostic kits, PU scientists in a short period of time developed a cheaper and reliable diagnostic kit for the detection of SARS-COV-II. It has been acknowledged as a practical achievement since thousands of people who couldn't afford the expensive tests were facilitated by none other than the prestigious University of the Punjab. To add to this, when there was an enormous hike in the Covid positivity ratio in Pakistan, PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad, on an emergency basis, dedicated one of the most advanced labs in Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology and Centre for Applied Molecular Biology to COVID testing and research.

iii) COVID-19 Tests

Not only that, University of the Punjab started conducting Covid-19 diagnostic tests and conducted thousands of tests free of cost referred by the government. This helped the

impoverished people to get their samples tested at a lower cost from highly qualified scientists of the university.

iv) Establishment of BSL III Lab

Moving further, the PU VC decided to establish and develop a BSL-3 laboratory so that a fully thriving and secure environment could be provided to scientists to do research on SARS-COV-II. This not only manifests the devotion and hard work of the university, but also an effort to Support the government during hard times. The lab was provided with the best technical support



The QS stated that Punjab University has performed "very well" even during Covid-19



and medical equipment with a vision to strive in the realm of research for a positive outcome. This would provide an opportunity to the nation to stay prepared and combat any future viral threat.

v) Cheap Hand Sanitizers

Every step counted when the nation was in the throes of a spreading pandemic. Countering it meant taking small but crucial steps. One such step was the preparation of cheap hand sanitizers which were made available free of cost to frontline workers of the government, like the traffic wardens. This also ensured that the production of such a basic commodity was monopolized by the business sector and that the hoarding trend of it was discouraged.

vi) Telemedicine Centre

The need to help patients was largely felt during the days of blanket lockdown. It was



realized that many patients couldn't afford to visit doctors personally, therefore; to cope with situation telemedicine centre was established at the Health Centre of the University where the healthcare professionals tried their best to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients online.

vii) Psychological Counselling

It is significant to note that blanket lockdown affected people adversely. It not only impacted the physical health, but also mental health. This was realized by the varsity, and Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad directed Institute of Applied Psychology to conduct free online counselling sessions. It is important to mention that Institute of Applied Psychology still provides free medical and cognitive counselling to deal with anxiety, stress, clinical depression, rage, academic burden and all other issues that people faced during Covid-19 and lockdown. One minute video series was also released every day to make the people learn about how they can live a happy life while dealing with all the prevailing issues.

viii) Kitchen Gardening

In order to provide a platform to engage people in healthy activities at home, on the instructions of PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad, Institute of Agricultural Sciences also started a video series to guide people on how to grow vegetables at their homes and keep them busy.

ix) Feeding the Birds

Similarly, university administration besides focusing on human beings, also took good care of other living beings on PU's campuses. During a complete lockdown, academic activities as well as hostels and other activities remained suspended for almost a year, so

Punjab University management did its best to provide food to all the birds and cats and did not let them suffer due to the absence of people on campus.

x) Co-curricular Activities

It is of utmost importance to shed light on curricular and co-curricular activities online for the students to maintain their physical and mental health. So, different competitions of English, Urdu essay writing, speech, debate competitions and singing of national songs



**The Nature Publishing Group
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were held in which students from all over Pakistan participated and showed their talents. Prof. Niaz Ahmad also advised College of Art and Design to provide free online courses so that the students of any age could learn calligraphy, painting and many other art forms at home and thus would be able to consume their cognitions wisely. Competitions of calligraphy and paintings were also held and Punjab University received entries from the whole country for these competitions. And the rewards of handsome amounts were also given to the winning participants of these

competitions.

xi) Free Online Courses

Punjab University College of Information Technology also started online lecture series to equip people with technical knowledge of various fields of computer sciences. Those online lectures were also helpful for the people to start small businesses and win their bread at home.

xii) Caring the Special Ones

During the pandemic, one segment of the society was completely ignored by all and sundry. However, due to the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor, steps were taken for the education and entertainment of special children, who are usually marginalized in the society. On his instructions, a YouTube channel was established in which videos relating to the education of special children were uploaded and also the children were taught many skills so that in the future they could live in this society respectfully. PU's Child Welfare Centre did its best to provide basic education to the special people through online lectures and taught several skills as well. The teachers were making the students learn about several skills at home such as the number concept, self-helping skills, music, book-binding, making shopping bags etc.

xiii) An Unprecedented Fee Waiver

The PU VC took another enviable initiative, which was appreciated worldwide. It was the complete waiving off of the hostel, library, sports and transport fees during the period of online classes. Only tuition fees were collected. This student-oriented decision was hailed worldwide as people recognized that this



institution is taking the most care of its students at a time when most private concerns were trying to make money on the basis of people's vulnerability.

xiv) First-ever Proctor-based Examinations

During the pandemic, it is one of the toughest tasks for any university to hold examinations for the students. Punjab University also dealt with it wisely and online proctor-based exams were held for the first time in the history of Pakistan. Proctor-based exam is another important success story in Pakistan. However, by keeping the difficulties of students in view, the rules were relaxed to facilitate them. Candidates were provided with the most facilities and they started getting used to the mode of online examinations.

In addition, the varsity continues to act with integrity and professionalism and uphold the highest ethical standards in Covid crisis. It is committed to transparency and accountability. The decisions ensured a responsible stewardship of the University's resources, reputation and values. PU ensured the safety and wellbeing of its people and created an inclusive and supportive university community in which achievements were celebrated and rewarded.

Restoration of Alumni Association

The varsity's outstanding alumni include three Nobel Laureates, Arthur Compton (1927), Har Gobind Khorana (1968) and Abdus Salam (1979) in the field of Medicine, Physiology and Physics respectively. Leaders in government,

law, science, public service, private sector and arts also abound. The varsity celebrates its alumni as its greatest assets. Their achievements make the university great and, in return, the varsity works hard to strengthen its reputation. In order to keep alumni connected with their Alma matter, the administration restored alumni association and for the first time a mega event was organized at Faisal Auditorium and a number of alumni gatherings were held in the teaching departments. PU has also tried to connect its fresh graduates with well-established alumni. It has also set up an employment portal in

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PU's 18 professors declared
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order to provide job opportunities to its graduates as well as provide the best human resource to the industry.

Through PU's strategic direction, the administration wants to provide a learning experience at a pace and depth that will give students the intellectual capacity and critical skills to engage in modern society. PU is committed to continue innovation in program design and delivery, and to enable its staffers and students to achieve their best by setting high standards. This is a re-energizing phase of Punjab University in which hitherto scattered resources were harnessed to serve humane and national ends. Uncanny farsightedness

and depth of vision are required to synergize apparently unaligned forces to achieve human-centric goals. Luckily, both the characteristics are being optimally utilized by the incumbent Vice Chancellor of the University.

In addition to flexibility in program choice, students can enjoy a wide range of activities during their studies, including global experiences, participating in conferences and research opportunities, accessing clubs and societies, and making use of a wide range of sporting and cultural facilities. PU is continually discovering and practising innovative approaches to fostering student retention and employability. It promotes diversity in the university community— through its people, ideas and cultures and thus creates a vibrant, inclusive environment in which ideas flourish and future generations are empowered.

PU is committed to continued innovation in program design and delivery, and to enable its staffers and students to achieve their best by setting high standards. This is a re-energizing phase of Punjab University in which hitherto scattered resources were harnessed to serve humane and national ends. Uncanny farsightedness and depth of vision are required to synergize apparently unaligned forces to achieve human-centric goals. Luckily, both the characteristics are being optimally utilized by the incumbent vice chancellor. ■

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PU launches Women's Safety Wall

A step to boost women's sense of security and safety



Begum Parveen Sarwar inaugurates the 'Women Safety Wall' organized by the Department of Gender Studies along with Member Provincial Assembly Uzma Kardar, PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar and Prof. Dr. Ra'ana Malik.

Begum Parveen Sarwar has said that a civilized society cannot be built without providing protection to women. She was addressing the inaugural function of 'Women Safety Wall' organized by the Department of Gender Studies, Punjab University. On the occasion, Begum Parveen Sarwar, PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Member Provincial Assembly Uzma Kardar, Executive Director SSDO Syed Kausar Abbas, Operations Commander Punjab Safe City Authority Team Asim Jasra, Deputy Executive Officer Fakhra Irshad, Chairperson Department of Gender Studies Prof. Dr. Ra'ana Malik, faculty members and students were present.

Begum Parveen Sarwar, in her address, said that it is because of our security agencies that we move around freely. She said the government was taking steps to ensure the safety of women. She advised the students to inform others about the safety app as well.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar said that protection of women is essential for socio-economic development. He said that the steps taken by the government for the protection of women were commendable and all should work together for the prevention of human problems.

Asim Jasra and Fakhra Irshad gave a detailed presentation on the use

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BEGUM PARVEEN SARWAR

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PU PVC PROF. DR. M SALEEM MAZHAR

of Women Safety App. They said that more than 100,000 women are using this app.

Syed Kausar Abbas said that one should prove to be a civilized citizen by cooperating with the police. He said that more and more students would get the opportunity to benefit from Safety Wall at Punjab University.

Dr. Ra'ana Malik thanked the participants and said that balance in the society would continue to play a role for gender relations and said “Using a safety app will boost women's sense of security.” ■

PU sets up air quality monitoring network

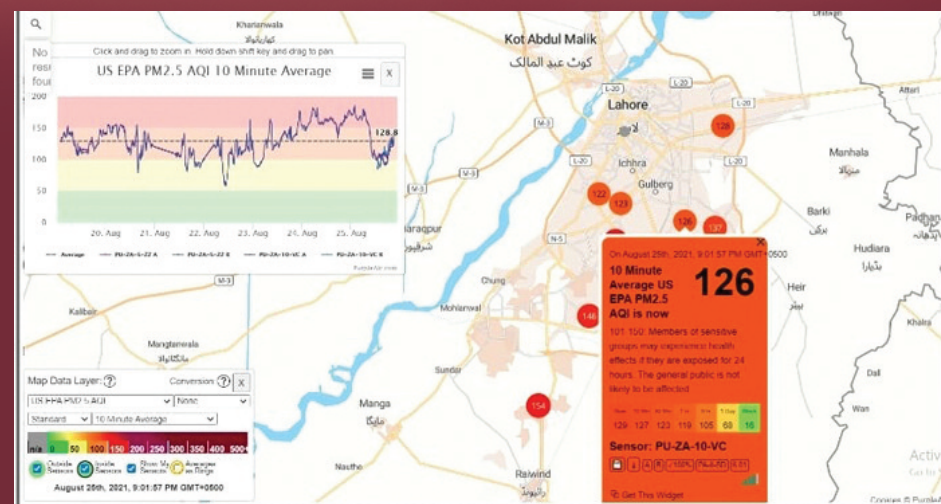
10 high-resolution spatio-temporal gadgets installed at various locations of Lahore

INCREASING levels of air pollution (indoors and outdoors) in Pakistan have significant environmental and human health consequences at regional and global levels. However, the country lacks the capabilities to manage air quality and major challenges are limited financial, human, and technical resources to improve and manage air quality.

University of the Punjab, with the help of Cranfield University in the UK, has established for the first time in Pakistan an air quality monitoring network to perform high-resolution spatio-temporal measurements of air quality. The sensors have been installed at various locations in the provincial metropolis including Anarkali, DHA, Johar Town, Bahria Town, Township, PU, Walton, Iqbal Town, Wapda Town.

These sensors will provide real-time data and will be an open access for the public, students, researchers, institutions, policymakers and international agencies. The findings will be used to educate the public, and to help the government and lawmakers to curb pollution and to control health hazards of pollutants. The data will be used by researchers to assess air quality impact on human life, animal life and environmental health.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali from Punjab University and Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Nasar from Cranfield University,



UK have already established partnership programmes to develop the capacity for postgraduate teaching and research on air quality management in Pakistan and are participating in the project entitled 'High-resolution spatio-temporal measurements of air quality in Lahore'. This study is part of a project "Enabling mitigating the air quality challenges in Hindu Kush Himalaya" led by Dr. Zaheer Nasar, Prof. Neil Harris and Dr. Chris Walton from Cranfield University in collaboration with Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (Punjab University) and Dr. Iq Mead (Regional program manager – Atmosphere, ICIMOD, Nepal).

Four workshops were conducted by academics from the UK and Pakistan prior to establishing the air quality network. Students and researchers of Punjab University participated keenly to extend their knowledge on air quality challenges and their drivers in Pakistan and the potential of low-cost air pollution sensors to investigate and manage air quality.

The University of Punjab has successfully established a network of sensors throughout Lahore and, in the next phase, this network will be further extended to the areas of Pakistan and other countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya. ■

First Lady sensitises society on breast cancer



FIRST Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi stressed the need for sensitising society to breast cancer so as to control the fatal disease in an effective manner. She was speaking at a one-day seminar on "Breast Cancer Awareness; Women Empowerment; Persons with Different Abilities" jointly organised by Directorate of Students Affairs and Department of Social Work, Punjab University. Begum Punjab Governor Perveen Sarwar, PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar also spoke on the occasion. MPAs Sadia Sohail Rana and Sania Kamran, faculty members and a large number of students attended the event, while Oncologist Dr. Umme Kalsoom gave a presentation on causes and prevention of breast cancer.

Begum Samina Arif Alvi said that breast cancer was becoming an alarming issue of the world including Pakistan. Therefore, it is need of the hour to create massive awareness among the people about this cancer so that it should not be taken as a stigma or social taboo of reluctance to discuss/disclose this disease with anyone. We can overcome substantially this disease through massive awareness that will also help breast cancer's early diagnosis having 98 percent chance of full recovery, she added.

The First Lady said that in the past, women above 50 years of age were vulnerable to breast

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In Pakistan, every eighth woman has breast cancer, one woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every 13 minutes
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MRS. SAMINA ARIF ALVI

cancer. But, it is astonishing to note that today young girls and even the males are suffering from this disease. In Pakistan, every eighth woman has breast cancer and according to a senior doctor, one woman was diagnosed with breast cancer after every 13 minutes. She suggested the women to take self-examination randomly for breast cancer before going to mammography, which is very costly and not affordable for every woman.

She said for self-examination for breast cancer, they can get breast cancer informative videos available on the internet. Healthy woman guarantees healthy society. The breast cancer awareness campaign has gained momentum all over Pakistan during last three years and now

people have started realising that breast cancer is not a social stigma but a fatal disease.

"I myself and Begum Perveen Sarwar are actively leading this campaign," she said and asserted that all relevant public sector departments, various organisations such as World Health Organisation (WHO), Green Star, Shifa International Hospital, Shaukat Khanam Memorial Cancer Hospital, atomic energy hospitals, Pakistan Army's hospitals, educational institutions and NGOs working for women etc. are playing their due role in this regard.

Begum Samina Arif Alvi said that Pakistani society also needed to pay more attention towards people with different abilities by taking most care of the stratum to empower them and to make them useful citizen. She said that around 12 to 15 percent of country's population consisted of differently abled persons, and we all will have to work for their betterment.

About women empowerment, she mentioned that First Women Bank, The Bank of Punjab and other institutions were providing soft loans to women and to persons with different abilities for various purposes including starting home-based businesses. She, however, said that there was also a dire need to create awareness among the women about the facility being provided by the current government. ■

PU ORGANIZES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

PUNJAB University Health Centre in collaboration with Pink Ribbon Organization has organized Breast Cancer Awareness Program at Girl's Hostel No 4. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Muhammad Akram, Director Institute of Social and Cultural Studies Prof. Dr. Rubeena Zakar, General Breast Surgeon

Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Dr. Rifqa Awan, Dr. Umda Anwaar and female students were present. The speakers said that breast cancer is a major cause of death worldwide and it is important to raise awareness about it to curb the rising rate in Pakistan.

Institute of Applied Psychology PU Dr. Fatima Kamran also organized the Breast

Cancer Awareness Campaign at the campus. MS Health students, Health Psychology Team, Prof. Dr. Rafia Rafique and faculty members Dr. Afifa Anjum and Ms. Iqra Nazar played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the causes, signs, symptoms, stages and treatment of breast cancer among students of IAP. ■



A group photo of IAP Director Prof. Dr. Rafia Rafique along with Dr. Fatima Kamran, Health Psychology team, faculty members and students at the breast cancer awareness campaign.



A group photo of Begum Parveen Sarwar with Member Provincial Assembly Uzma Kardar, PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Operations Commander Punjab Safe City Authority Asim Jasra, Prof. Dr. Ra'ana Malik, faculty members and students after the inaugural function of 'Women Safety Wall' organized by the Department of Gender Studies, Punjab University.



PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar inaugurates the five-day book exhibition on "Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH)" at the Irani Section of PU Main Library along with Chief Librarian Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani and others.



A participant receives certificate after 2-day training for faculty members of universities in Sindh and Punjab under the project "Social and Religious Tolerance" organized by Inter University Consortium for promotion of Social Sciences (IUCPSS), Media Training and Research Centre (MTRC) and Institute of Applied Psychology PU at Faletti's Hotel, Lahore.



A group photo of PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad with Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan and officials of Sports Department. Punjab University took another proud victory home by positioning Punjab University Women team at 1st and Punjab University Men Team at 2nd position in the "HEC Sports General Trophy 2020-2021".



A group photo of Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov, Chairman Department of History & Pakistan Studies Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain with other participants after a roundtable discussion on "Central-South Asia Regional Connectivity: Grand Initiative by His Excellency President Shavkat Mirziyoyev".



Students set up a stall to provide awareness on kitchen gardening at Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Punjab University.



A student receives his degree at the convocation of Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology from PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad while Dean and Director ICET Prof. Dr. Abdullah Khan Durrani and others are also present.



Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Dean faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Umbreen Javed, Chairperson Department of Social Work Dr. Syeda Mehnaz Hassan cut a cake along with religious scholars and faculty members after a conference on 'Interfaith Harmony, Peace Building & Human Rights'.



Begum Samina Arif Alvi and Begum Perveen Sarwar pose for a photo along with Dr. Syeda Mehnaz Hassan, faculty members and students after a seminar on breast cancer awareness.



Centre for Clinical Psychology (CCP) PU organises an awareness walk on the occasion of World Mental Health Day from CCP to VC office, which was attended by Prof. Niaz Ahmad, Director CCP Dr Saima Dawood, faculty members, students and special children.



Institute of Applied Psychology PU celebrates Shan-e-Rehmatul-Lil-Alameen week. On the occasion, PU IAP Director Dr. Rafia Rafique and Prof. Naureed Fatima sit on stage along with other faculty members.



IAP Director Prof. Dr. Rafia Rafique and faculty members visit the reception desk set up by Health Psychology trainees to create awareness about the breast cancer.



PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad, and others pray after the inauguration of BSL-3 lab at Centre for Applied Molecular Biology, PU.



Punjab University has signed an MoU with University of Sahiwal to strengthen academic cooperation.



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's great grandson Syed Mahmood Asadullah, former PU Dean Prof. Dr. Iqbal Chawla, Chairman Department of History and Pakistan Studies Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain and others inaugurate the 'Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Corner' at the library of department.



Syed Mahmood Asadullah cuts a cake on the 204th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan along with former PU Dean Prof. Dr. Iqbal Chawla, Chairman Department of History and Pakistan Studies Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain and other faculty members.



Dr. Niaz for enhancing Pak-Uzbek relations

VC pledges to boost bilateral ties in education sector

PUNJAB University Department of History and Pakistan Studies and Centre for Global and Strategic Studies have organized a roundtable discussion on “Central-South Asia Regional Connectivity: Grand Initiative by His Excellency President Shavkat Mirziyoyev”. The discussion was organized in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad & Regional Integration Centre. The Uzbek Ambassador Aybek Arif Usmanov also called on PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmad at his office.

The PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad stressed the need to enhance collaboration among the academic institutions of two countries and strengthen people-to-people contact. The roundtable discussion aimed at highlighting the importance of regional connectivity between Central and South Asia vis-à-vis socio-economic and cultural cooperation.

PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, in his opening remarks, said that Punjab University is the oldest university and the Department of History has created many scholars and professors. He said that Punjab

University has offered admissions to the students of Uzbekistan that would prove to be a milestone in Pak-Uzbek bilateral ties.

Brigadier Mansoor Saeed Sheikh SI (M) (Retd), Vice President (Punjab Region), Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad in his welcome address stated that Pakistan is situated at the convergence of three geo-economically significant regions and it offers shortest route to the sea for all landlocked countries of Central Asia alongside western China and Afghanistan. He said Pakistan stood out significantly in this regional connectivity. He also stated that at present, the initiative of Central-South Asian connectivity by President of Uzbekistan has emerged as a significant factor in rejuvenating centuries old traditional and cultural linkages between both countries.

Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, presented keynote speech on “Pakistan and Uzbekistan economic cooperation and perspective”. He stated that not only Punjab, but KPK is also well-connected with Uzbekistan. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Imran

Khan are the first drivers and promoters of connectivity. He said that the projects of connectivity between our countries are already showing positive impacts as I see young researchers, students and scholars gathered here for this event. He said that for more than three years, Pak-Uzbek leaders are working for the peace and development in Afghanistan. He stated that all countries are interested to use Pakistan as a transit hub in Central Asia and we are now working on high technology cooperation with Pakistan. He said experts from Uzbekistan helped in formulating solutions to enhance cotton production in Pakistan.

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad gave a detailed presentation on “Analyzing the concept of Central-South Asian Connectivity: Ten-point agenda by H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev”. He stated that Central and South Asia, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, have promoted active dialogue between peoples and civilizations for many centuries. He said that the peoples of our regions have



repeatedly found themselves within the framework of common state formations, as well as a common political, economic and humanitarian space. He said that the close ties between our people have contributed to rapid intellectual and spiritual progress. He also discussed the 10-point proposal by H.E Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Jasur Saidahmedov, Second Secretary, Trade and Economy, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad highlighted Pakistan and Uzbekistan cooperation with relevance to significant cultural and tourism ties. He discussed in detail the prospects of agricultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan that will enhance the bilateral relations between both brotherly countries. He stated that Uzbekistan is eating Pakistani potatoes. He said that in every village, every city there are Pakistani potatoes. Furthermore, he stated that the athletes from Pakistan are participating in various competitions of Uzbekistan and recently a wrestler from Pakistan has won a gold medal in that competition. Similarly, various other initiatives are being undertaken to enhance cooperation and people to people contacts. He stated that tourism has become important between our countries. We have a Pak-Uzbek culture and trade center and tourist information centers as well.

Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, presented speech on "Historical & Cultural

linkages between Central-South Asia: An overview of great civilizational patterns". He stated that common cultural heritage needs to be explored and academic exchange and collaboration is the need of the hour. He said that the most recent initiative was taken by the President of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev by organizing an International Conference on Central-South Asia Connectivity. He said connectivity is not just about economics, it also drives regional cooperation and encourages friendly relations among neighbors. He said that our university was ready to establish links and active participation with all the regional countries.

Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid, Chairperson Department of Political Science & International Relations, PU presented speech on "reinvigorating the phenomena of academic cooperation into regionalism: A case study of Central & South Asia". She presented a model that included activities like student exchange programs, seminars, conferences and expert exchange programs. She stated that for the growth of ideas, we need to incorporate academicians from social sciences. Moreover, a committee should be made for curriculum building specifically for this region and in the longer term, a university must also be established dedicated to the Central-South Asian studies.

Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar, Department of History, PU presented speech on "Economic Potential Between Central and South Asia". She

stated that since the freedom of South Asian states, Pakistan has also been trying to promote her relations with these newly born and rich resources states. She said that Pakistan has been a gateway to Central Asia since centuries. She said that Central Asia holds significance for the land and people of Pakistan. Pakistan can be one of the finest partners for Central Asia in terms of economic cooperation.

Dr. Fozia Ali Hadi, Director Regional Integration Centre (RIC), PU presented speech on "Role of SCO in Central & South Asia Connectivity". She stated that SCO Member states stand for promoting cooperation in the development of international relations built upon mutual respect, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation as well as developing a common vision of a community of common destiny for mankind. She said that the role of SCO is critical in adopting programs to promote socioeconomic development as this may be the key to merge as an effective tool for gaining stability and prosperity in the region.

Mr. Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah, Assistant Professor Department of History & Pakistan Studies, PU presented speech on "Enhancing industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Central Asia: Options and parameters". He discussed the current challenges in the way of development including the changing dynamics of Afghanistan, border tensions in the region and other pertinent issues. He also discussed that our leaders and academia are actively engaged and they should also analyze the challenges and work towards their resolve. ■

Inclusive, sustainable growth to strengthen economy: Tarin



A group photo of Federal Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin, PU VC Dr. Niaz Ahmad, IBA Director Prof Dr. Muqqadas Rehman, IBA Alumni President Athar Ehsan along with other faculty members and students on the occasion of annual dinner of Institute of Business Administration's Alumni Association.

FEDERAL Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin has said that sustainable economic development projects involving relevant stakeholders will strengthen the economy of Pakistan and therefore, the government has devised short, mid and long-term plans for national development while addressing the annual dinner of Punjab University Institute of Business Administration's Alumni Association at the lawns of IBA.

PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Saleem Mazhar, IBA Director Prof Dr. Muqqadas Rehman, IBA Alumni President Athar Ehsan, former Director IBA Prof Dr. Ehsan Malik and eminent personalities from various organizations participated in the event.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Tarin said that the country was in dire need of inclusive and sustainable growth for which we needed to enhance revenues and promote productive sectors, including agriculture. He said that the only way to avoid the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Programs was sustainable growth. Recalling the past glory, Tarin said that Pakistan was the fourth largest economy in Asia in 1968.

However, he lamented, several decisions triggered the collapse of our national economy.

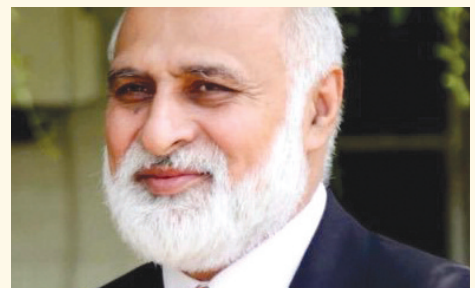


We must increase our export volume and provide a congenial environment for various businesses so that our economy could prosper and we could attract investment



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR FINANCE SHAUKAT TARIN

He said that when there was the time of industrialization, our institutions were nationalized and we destroyed the Planning Commission in 1973, which had a key role to prepare plans for economic development of Pakistan as per future needs. He said that participation in the Afghan war in 1979 and war



Alumni associations of Punjab University aim to strengthen the connection among alumni, departments and new students to promote industry-academia linkages



PU VC PROF DR. NIAZ AHMAD

on terror after 9/11 were the decisions which destabilized our economy. He said that the country was still facing the repercussions of those decisions.

He said that in the 1960s, Pakistan's economy was far better than South Korea's economy. But, the situation today is that per capita income in



South Korea is 25,000 dollars while in Pakistan it is 1,500 dollars, he added. Highlighting the importance of foreign direct investment, he said that we must increase our export volume and provide a congenial environment for various businesses so that our economy could prosper and we could attract investment. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is an honest man and he is worried about the poor people of the country. He said that he has instructed his economic team to work for the betterment of the poor.

He said that at least 4 million middle class and poor families would benefit from Kamyab Pakistan Program. He said that he opposed Rental Power Projects in 2008 and faced NAB for 9 years but nothing could prove wrong against him. He said that PU IBA was playing its role for development of the national economy.

He urged IBA Director Prof Dr. Muqqadas Rehman to launch research projects with the help of the industry. He said that he would ask Mr. Shafqat Mahmood to provide funding and full support to the IBA for such projects. Recalling his past memories at PU, he said that he graduated from IBA in 1973. He paid tribute to the services of late Prof Khawaja Amjad Saeed and said that he and Prof Butt sb worked hard for providing quality education to the students. He expressed sorrow that many of his class fellows and teachers had died whom he missed a lot.



Alumni play an important role in provision of jobs to new students and improve curriculum as per modern demands of the market

PROF. DR. MUQQADAS REHMAN

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Niaz Ahmad said that PU has improved its international ranking by 16 percent in just 3 years. He said that for the first time, PU's 13 subjects has been ranked by the QS. He said that he activated alumni associations of Punjab University to strengthen the connection among alumni, departments and new students to promote industry-academia linkages. He expressed the

hope that IBA would enhance its role for economic development of the country. He said that those institutions that defined their core values, focused on their customers and adopted a continuous process of improvement prospered. He said that introducing the best management system, latest technology and a comprehensive social system could guarantee the success of institutions.

Presenting a report of recent developments at IBA, Dr. Muqqadas Rehman said that the Business Incubation Centre has been set up to encourage new business ideas. She said that the first international conference has also been organized at IBA and its PhD program has been re-launched. She said that IBA is playing its role in solving various problems of society. She said that alumni played an important role regarding provision of jobs to new students and improve curriculum as per modern demands of the market.

IBA Alumni Association President Athar Ehsan said that the association has chapters in 6 countries and continuously organizing activities since many years. He said that IBA produced thousands of skilled graduates who are performing in all sectors. Later, gifts and souvenirs were distributed among participants and shields were also presented to position holder students. ■



Provincial Minister for Agriculture Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, Dean Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider and others sit on stage during an awareness seminar on kitchen gardening.

Kitchen gardening need of the hour for healthy life: Minister

PROVINCIAL Minister for Agriculture Hussain Jahanian Gardezi has said that kitchen gardening is an important need of the hour for good health and clean environment.

He was addressing an awareness seminar on "Kitchen Gardening" at Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Punjab University. Dean Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider, Dr. Mateen Sarwar, Dr. Tariq, CEO Green Circle Pakistan Sajid Iqbal, faculty members and a large number of students

attended the event.

Hussain Jahanian Gardezi, in his address, said that students should play their role in providing awareness about kitchen gardening to get healthy vegetables in low budget. He said that agriculture sector had been ignored in the past and due to which the farmers faced difficulties. The measures taken by the present government have improved the economic condition of the farmers, he added. He said that the price of DAP is determined according to the international market and the

crushing season will start on time. He said that used tea leaves can also be used as fertilizer in kitchen gardening.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider said that kitchen gardening is a simple and easy way to get fresh vegetables. He said that it was becoming difficult to get fresh vegetables due to dirty water in most places in urban areas. He said that the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences would continue to play its role in improving the international ranking of Punjab University. ■



Students set up a stall to provide awareness on kitchen gardening at Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Punjab University.

‘Need to work together for peace, development in Pakistan’



Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine, PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad, Former Parliamentarian Samia Raheel Qazi, CEO Human Friends Organizations Sajid Christopher, Chairperson Department of Social Work Dr. Syeda Mehnaz Hassan sit on stage during a conference on 'Interfaith Harmony, Peace Building & Human Rights'.

PUNJAB Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine has said that we should work together for the development and prosperity of the country beyond color, race and religion. He was addressing a conference on 'Interfaith Harmony, Peace Building & Human Rights' organized by the Punjab University Department of Social Work in collaboration with the Punjab Government and Human Friends Organization.

On this occasion, Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Dean Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Umbreen Javed, Chairperson Department of Social Work Dr. Syeda Mehnaz Hassan, Former Parliamentarian Samia Raheel Qazi, Sajid

Christopher, religious scholars, representatives of various NGOs, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Ejaz Alam Augustine, in his address, said that peace is the need of every religion, class and sect. He said that burning of any place of worship including temples, mosques, churches bring Pakistan into disrepute in the world. "We must end hatred and malice and respect each other," he added. He said that the incumbent government was taking historic steps to ensure the provision of basic human rights. He said that the approval of quota for minorities in higher education institutions would bring a big change in society.

Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar has said that PU has full faith in basic human rights. He said that in the last three years, Punjab University has



In the last three years, Punjab University has ensured merit, good governance and has given jobs on merit to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Muslims



PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

ensured merit, good governance and has given jobs on merit to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Muslims. He said that even those who have done injustice to anyone should not expect justice. He said that a human rights rift has been set up in PU to ensure respect for all religions.

Congratulating the organizers of the conference, Dr. Umbreen Javed has said that we are first and foremost human beings and as Pakistanis we all have equal rights. Dr. Syeda Mehnaz Hassan said that all human beings are different from each other but everyone wants peace. She said that everyone in Pakistan has the freedom to live according to their religion. Samia Raheel Qazi, Sajid Christopher, Hafiz Kazim Raza Naqvi and Syed Waliullah Shah Bukhari also addressed the conference and stressed eliminating extremism and promotion of peaceful environment. ■



PU HCBF organizes Seerat conference

Speakers seek social reforms in the light of Holy Prophet's (PBUH) teachings



HCBF Principal Prof. Dr. Mubbsher Munawar Khan, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Prof. Dr. Saad Siddiqui along with others sit on stage during the Seerat conference organized by PU Hailey College of Banking & Finance.

PUNJAB University Hailey College of Banking & Finance (HCBF) has organized the Seerat conference with the theme of "Social Reforms in the Light of the Teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)". On this occasion, HCBF Principal Prof. Dr. Mubbsher Munawar Khan, renowned motivational speaker Syed Qasim Ali Shah, religious scholar Prof. Dr. Saad Siddiqui, faculty members, employees and students were present.

Prof. Dr. Mubbsher Munawar Khan, in his address, paid rich tribute to the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). He highlighted the salient features of his teachings and emphasized on the need to motivate the younger generation to adopt and practice the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). He elaborated commitment to reform society and conveys the instructions of Almighty Allah. He said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) faced a lot

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Within a period of two decades the entire complex of the Arabian culture changed and mankind witnessed brotherhood and fraternity based on equality and justice
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PROF. DR. MUBBSHER MUNAWAR KHAN

of sufferings and within a period of two decades the entire complex of the Arabian culture was changed and mankind witnessed brotherhood and fraternity based on equality and justice.

Syed Qasim Ali Shah advised the students to pay tribute to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in an

intellectual manner. He said that our claim for being followers of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is not true unless each one of us has learnt by heart at least 40 Hadith and practice them in our life so that we can justify our claim of being Ummati. He also emphasized upon the need to read at least one book on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Prof. Dr. Saad Siddiqui advised the students to adhere to teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). He said that the profession to be adopted should be served with same honesty as practiced by our Holy Prophet (PBUH). He said that the society can become cultured and nourished if it is developed on the foundations of mutual respect, love and brotherhood. He said that Muslims are followers of the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) who eliminated hate and harshness in the society.

Later, souvenirs were also presented to the guests. ■

‘Muhammad’s (PBUH) teachings key to success’



Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies Dr. Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Dr. Mohsin Naqvi, Dr. Muhammad Saad Siddiqui and Director Student Affairs Dr. Muhammad Shafiq sit on stage during “Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH)” conference.

PUNJAB University Directorate of Students’ Affairs has organized a Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference in the Auditorum of PU Sheikh Zayed Islamic Center. Addressing the national conference, speakers said that success in this world and the hereafter can be achieved only by adopting the teaching of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

On the occasion, Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies Dr. Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi, Researcher and Scholar Dr. Mohsin Naqvi, Religious Scholar Dr. Raghib Hussain Naeemi, Dr. Muhammad Saad Siddiqui, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Dean Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences Prof Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Choudhary, Director SZIC Dr. Ishtiaq Gondal, Director Student Affairs Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Dr. Hammad Lakhvi, in his address, said that it is necessary to raise the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as an ummah and follow it because the success of this world and the hereafter lies in it.

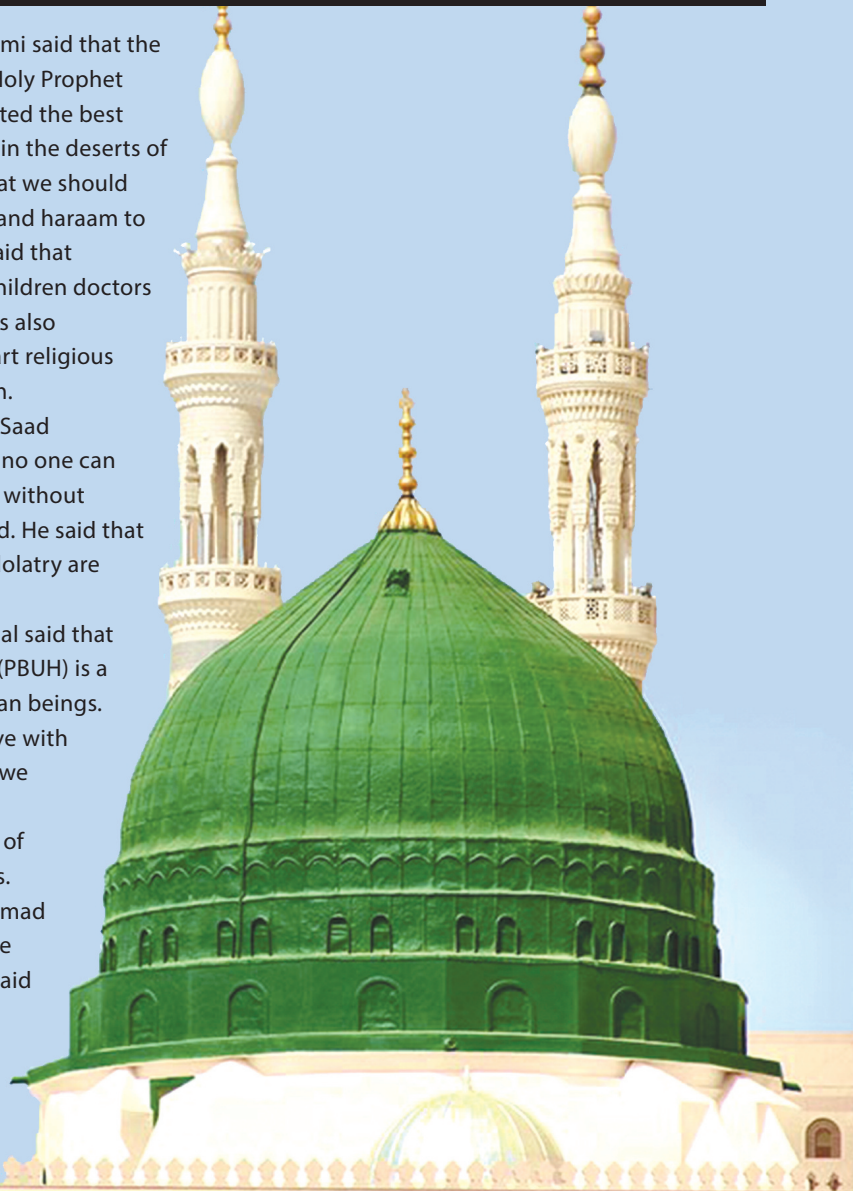
Dr. Mohsin Naqvi said that the study of the biography of the Holy Prophet is very important for the correctness of beliefs. He said that Allah Almighty revealed knowledge for the training and status of human beings.

Dr. Raghib Naeemi said that the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) implemented the best economic system in the deserts of Arabia. He said that we should take care of halal and haraam to earn money. He said that besides making children doctors and engineers, it is also necessary to impart religious education to them.

Dr. Muhammad Saad Siddiqui said that no one can become a Muslim without Aqeedah-e-Tawhid. He said that polytheism and idolatry are ignorance.

Dr. Ishtiaq Gondal said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a mercy for all human beings. He taught us to live with love. He said that we should follow his teachings instead of Western traditions.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shafiq thanked the participants and said that his teachings are a beacon for all human beings. ■



Call for voters education

Building a culture of accountability through election observation urged

PUNJAB University Pakistan Study Centre (PSC) has organized webinar on "Voters Education in Pakistan". Director of Confucius Institute and Professor of Political Science Dr. Rana Ijaz Ahmad delivered a talk as a key note speaker along with Maham Syed from USA, a political analyst Salman Abid, and a renowned journalist Tanveer Shahzad. All of the speakers explained their point of view on the topic under discussion.

Prof. Dr. Amra Raza, Director PSC & Dean Faculty of Arts & Humanities expressed her gratitude to the participants and organizers, and most importantly appreciated the efforts of Dr. Karim Haider Syed for organizing this webinar. In her welcome speech, she highlighted the need of voter's education in Pakistan and said it is our responsibility to educate the people to participate in the electoral process.

Ms. Maham Syed, a Human Resource graduate from Oakland University, Michigan USA, showed deep concern about the electoral process of Pakistan having spent 18 years in Pakistan. She believed that voting is one of the crucial aspects that decide the fate of a country. She highlighted the fact that most Pakistani citizens are not aware of the voting process and end up voting the choice of their parents/elders. She quoted the example of education system of USA and proposed it for Pakistan to educate every citizen up to primary level, so every citizen gets awareness about their rights as citizens and overall ethical sensibility. She emphasized on the use of information technology along with print media in a vigilant way to increase voters' education.

Salman Abid highlighted that the electoral process is not issue based in Pakistan, it is based upon regional politics, ethnicity, hero-worship and nepotism. He also talked about the voters' turnout which is an average of (50-55) %, in Pakistan elections. Salman suggested that casting vote must be compulsory in Pakistan. He also emphasized the voter education particularly for youth population.

Prof. Dr. Rana Eijaz Ahmad in his keynote



speech emphasized the voter's education in Pakistan in a pragmatical way and highlighted it from a different angle. He believes human behavior is unpredictable so it is necessary to understand the composition of the individuals in a society. He pointed out that usually, there are three kinds of individuals in any society, Subjects, Parochial and Participants. The first one is the individuals that have slave mindset and have no interest in the electoral process. Secondly the parochial, take interest in politics with their specific interests, e.g., nationalist parties, they are always part of the electoral process when their interests are deprived otherwise, they do not show any interest in politics. And thirdly participants are in small number in any society but they serve as the base of a society. A good size of participants in any society is the guarantee of a stable society and it also determines the right direction of the state.

He further elaborates, in Pakistan it has been difficult to motivate a voter to come out for casting a vote without any internal or external influence. Although, political parties do work for the grooming of voters and try to influence them. They use posters, banners with manifestos and make promises for different agendas that they will fulfil. He underlines the grooming of voters to cast a vote according to their own choice which is the major objective of the webinar.

At the end of his keynote speech, he suggested some practical recommendations like Pakistan needs to appoint a commission which must consist of the Professors of Political Science and

Psychology. Before voter's education, more provinces on administrative grounds are need of the day. He also called for election reforms and administrative reforms. Furthermore, Department of Political Science needs to polish candidates and voters to have a prosperous society. Debates on different topics like economics, foreign policy, education, health, etc. must be conducted among candidates to measure the capability of the candidates so that voters can make an informed decision when casting their votes.

Dr. Rehana Hashmi, Associate Professor of Political Science said that sensible and mature voting behavior can be adopted through voter's education. In voters' education, the most important thing is to develop critical thinking skills and applying the skills as active citizens. She further said that for an effective voter's education, a Grand National strategy is required in which election commission, civil society, NGO's, educational institutions and media should play their complete role. Under this strategy, voters must be trained and given information about the functions of electoral process, structural and functional aspects of political parties and the implementation of strategy about their manifestos.

Dr. Safder Ali Sherazi, Chairman of Geography Department, said that we must allow students to take part in politics for good turnout. He also highlighted that most of the population lived in villages and it is necessary to educate them for electoral process. ■

VCs delegation led by Dr. Niaz calls on CM Punjab

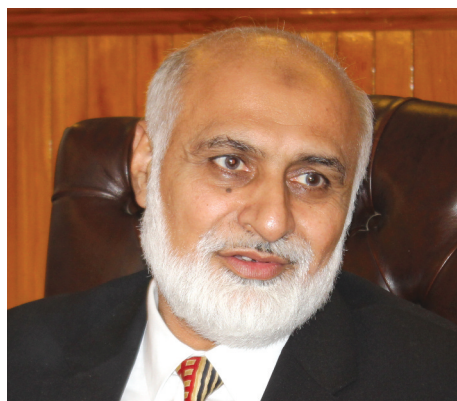
Buzdar approves disparity allowance for university teachers, employees



A delegation of the vice chancellors of the universities of Punjab Province called on PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhter called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar.

The delegation briefed the CM about difficulties faced by the universities' teachers and employees due to non-provision of disparity allowance. The CM approved 25pc disparity allowance for the teachers and employees of all public sector universities of the province. However, universities will take formal approval from respective syndicates for the award of disparity allowance.

PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad thanked Chief Minister for resolving the serious issue of the university's



teachers and employees. Later the VC called for a meeting of the deans of faculties and apprised them about the instructions issued by the CM. All



teachers and employees of the university have thanked Vice Chancellor for help resolving for their long-standing issue of disparity allowance. ■

PU PSC-Moscow State University webinar on Pak-Russia relations

PAKISTAN Study Centre Punjab University in collaboration with Department of South Asian History, Lomonosov Moscow State University Russia organized an international webinar on 'Prospects for Pakistan Russia Relations'. Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Director Pakistan Study Centre Prof Dr Amra Raza, Head of the

Department of South Asian History, Institute of Asian and African Studies Safronova Professor Alexandra, Associate Professor Dr Amjad Abbas Magsi, Dr Anna

Bochkovskaya, faculty members, PhD and Mphil Scholars and others attended the webinar.

Dr. Amra Raza, in her address, said that this academic activity would play a role in bringing the two institutions closer, the faculty and the students. She underscored the need to work collectively in the fields of Arts, literature music and sports. She said that PU offers educational facilities in the fields of languages and arts. She desired to renew the MoU for innovative economies. She hoped for extended cooperation between the two countries as well as the two Universities.

Prof. Alexandra elaborated on the comprehensive nature of Pak-Russia relations. She noted that current geopolitical changes have opened up new

prospects for cooperation and research. To this end, a possible foundation of the Pakistan-Russia network of higher education institutions, precisely between University

of the Punjab and Lomonosov Moscow State University, could yield result through the signing and implementing new memorandums of understanding. This would contribute to the consolidation of research and educational institutions' efforts in training highly skilled specialists for the innovation economies and to the promotion of academic exchange program between Pakistan and Russia.

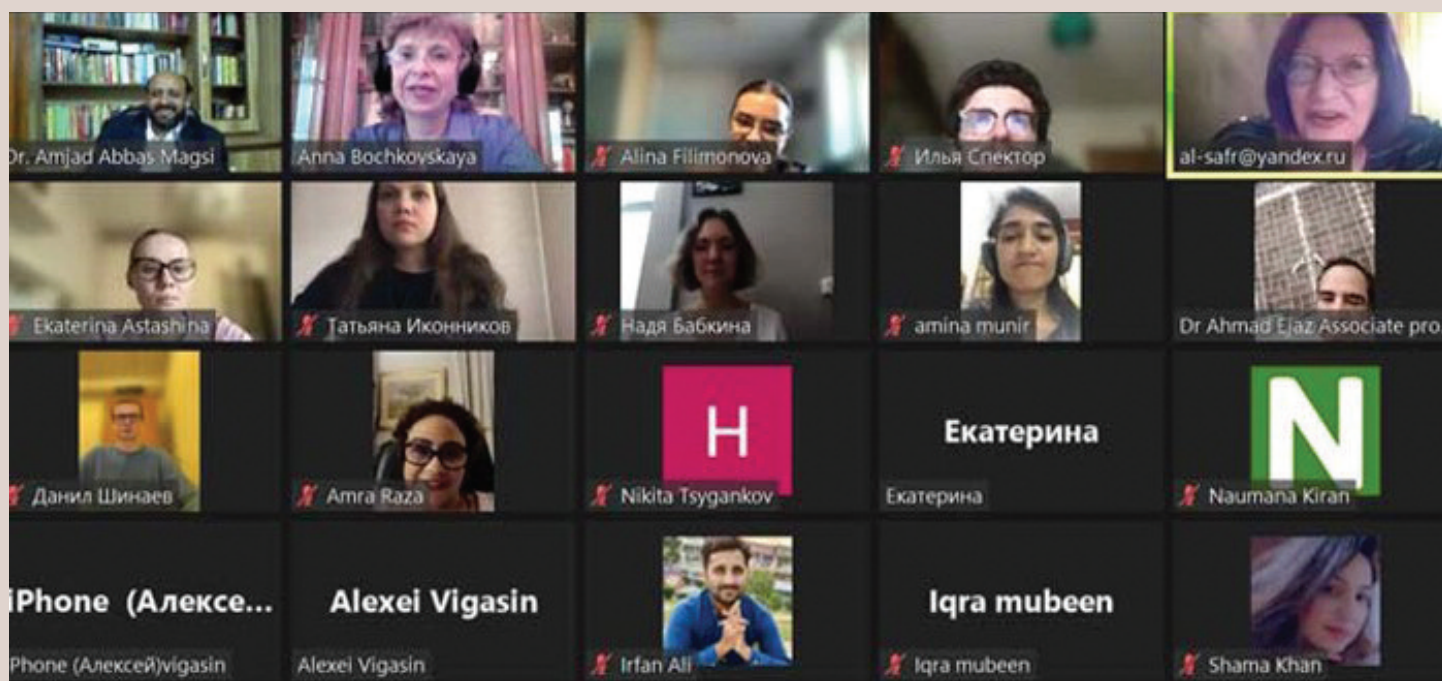
Dr. Amjad Abbas Magsi, in his key note speech, traced the historical background of the relationship between the two

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Current geopolitical changes have opened up new prospects for cooperation and research between Pakistan and Russia
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PROF. ALEXANDRA

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There is a need for a joint collaborative strategy to cope with the situation in Afghanistan especially in the wake of rising humanitarian crisis there
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DR. AMJAD ABBAS MAGSI



Speakers address international webinar organized by the Pakistan Study Centre, Punjab University.

countries. He pointed towards transformation in the wake of geo political situation of South Asia. He threw light on the steps taken by both countries to enhance the mutual relationships. He underscored the need to diversify the basis of interactions. They will have to leave the past behind to make substantial head way in the relationship. They need to focus on their mutual benefits rather through lense of outside factors. He said that there was a lot of scope to consolidate and widen the foundations for the lasting friendship. Both the countries can further cooperation in the fields of energy, art and cultural exchange to increase people to people contacts, he added.



There is a dire need to work collectively in the fields of Arts, literature music and sports



DR. AMJAD ABBAS MAGSI

Signing a new MoU between the Lomonosov Moscow State University and University of the Punjab seems a very promising perspective for Pak-Russia cooperation in the humanities

ANNA BOCHKOVSKAYA

Dr. Magsi stressed that there was a need for a joint collaborative strategy to cope up with the situation in Afghanistan especially in the wake of rising humanitarian crisis there. The efforts of Russia about Afghanistan were especially lauded. The role of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is very significant to bring peace and prosperity in the region. Through inclusion of Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Iran, this regional forum can bring positive consequences for the region. Dr Magsi

pointed out in the fields of Pharmacy and Biological Sciences and Information Technology, Punjab University and Lomonosov Moscow State University could explore joint studies and research projects.

Anna Bochkovskaya highlighted some fields and vectors for joint activities of the two countries, namely, trade, cooperation in energy engineering, military and technical cooperation, in exchanging experience in countering terrorism, which remains among major challenges of the 21st century. Focusing on the necessity of promoting humanitarian, cultural and scientific ties Dr Bochkovskaya pointed out that currently there is no intergovernmental program that would cover the cultural and scientific exchange between Russia and Pakistan.

Signing a new MoU between the Lomonosov Moscow State University and University of the Punjab seems a very promising perspective for Pak-Russia cooperation in the humanities. The webinar option could and should be used to launch some preliminary discussion in this direction. ■

Hands joined to improve mental health of detainees



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad and IG Prisons Punjab Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig sign an MoU while Minister for Prisons Punjab Fayyaz ul Hassan Chauhan, PU Registrar Dr. Khalid Khan, Director IAP Prof. Rafia Rafique, DIG Prisons Malik Mubasher A. Khan, PU Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram and relevant stakeholders are also present.

INSTITUTE of Applied Psychology, University of the Punjab has signed an MoU with Inspectorate of Prisons Punjab for providing mutual cooperation in research, psychological assessment and training of the prison based mental health professional and correctional staff.

PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar and IG Prisons Punjab Mr. Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig affixed signatures on an MoU in the presence of Minister for Prisons Punjab Mr. Fayyaz ul Hassan Chauhan, PU Registrar Dr. Khalid Khan, Director IAP Prof. Dr. Rafia Rafique, DIG Prisons Mr. Malik Mubasher A. Khan, PU Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram and relevant stakeholders. ■

PU SoE and RS & GISCR Lab sign MoU

An MoU is signed between Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab (RSGCRL), National Center of GIS and Space Applications, PU and School of Economics (SoE), PU.

The focal persons of the MoU are Dr. Salman Tariq from RSGCRL and Dr. Bilal Mehmood from SoE. The two institutes will collaborate in developing joint research proposals and data sharing, organizing conferences, seminars and workshops, providing mentorship and learning opportunities to the students and young professionals and their involvement through

internships and research theses in the fields of Socioeconomics of Climate Change, Remote Sensing & Geospatial Applications for Economic and Sustainable Development of Pakistan, Modelling of Economic and Climate Variables, Economic Growth and Air Quality and other fields of mutual interest. The signature target of the MoU is to develop linkages that will serve as a continuous and consistent support in the execution of all other activities. Head SoE Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry and Director/Principal Investigator RSGCRL Dr. Zia ul Haq signed the MoU. ■

PU and MILKAR.com to promote volunteerism

Punjab University and MILKAR.com signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). On this occasion, PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Head of MILKAR.com Dr. Umar Saif, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Deans of various faculties, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram and others were present.

Punjab University and MILKAR.com will enable students to undertake volunteer work for the betterment of society at large. Milkar.com is a community service platform that serves as a gateway for connecting organizations and volunteers to build an interactive network. ■



Head SoE Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry and Director/Principal Investigator RSGCRL Dr. Zia ul Haq signing an MoU in the presence of PU Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram and relevant stakeholders.



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhter, Head of MILKAR.com Dr. Umar Saif exchange documents after signing an MoU while Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram and others are also present.

PU, Prisons Department to work for prisoners' education and welfare activities

Punjab University and Punjab Prisons Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the welfare of prisoners. The signing ceremony was held in the committee room of the PU Vice Chancellor's Office.

On this occasion, Provincial Minister for Prisons Fayyaz ul Hassan Chouhan, PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, IG Prisons Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram and others were present.

According to the agreement, students from different departments of Punjab University will provide their services for the education

and training of prisoners. The Department of Prisons will assist various departments of Punjab University in education and research.

Talking to media, Provincial Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chouhan said that a historic agreement has been signed with Punjab University to help improve the infrastructure and administrative affairs of the prisons. He said that the present government has taken steps for the welfare of the prisoners. He praised the efforts of PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar and his team for cooperation in education and training of prisoners. ■

Ghazi University to collaborate with PU for research

University of the Punjab has signed an MoU with Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan to formalise and strengthen academic cooperation. PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad and GU VC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail affixed

signatures on the MoU in the presence of PU Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram, Director ORIC Ghazi University Dr. Muhammad Ali Tarar and Deputy Director IT Ghazi University Mr. Muhammad Yasir Bhutta. ■

PU, Rozee.pk launch job portal for employment of students

Punjab University launched an employment portal in order to provide employment opportunities to the students of PU and the best human resource to the industry. In this regard, an agreement was signed with rozee.pk at PU Vice Chancellor's office in which PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director Regional Integration Centre PU Dr. Fozia Hadi Ali, Country Head Shahbaz Khan, Director Training Tehmina and deans of various faculties participated.

Addressing the ceremony, PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad said that the administration has focused on producing high standard graduates by imparting quality education and promotion of research culture. He said that through the establishment of the employment portal, PU students would be able to know about job opportunities in the relevant fields. He said that the university is strengthening industry-academia linkages and making efforts to resolve socio-economic issues being faced by the country. ■



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad and IG Prisons Punjab Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig sign an MoU while Minister for Prisons Punjab Fayyaz ul Hassan Chouhan, PU Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram, Prof. Dr. Syeda Mahnaz Hassan and relevant stakeholders are also present.



Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan and Director Training Tehmina sign an MoU in the presence of other faculty members and stakeholders.

Bringing **positive change** in society



Punjab Minister for Social Welfare Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari and PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad sign an MoU while PVC Prof. Saleem Mazhar, Dean Faculty of Information and Media Studies Prof. Khalid Mahmood, Secretary SW&BM Hassan Iqbal, DDC Chairperson Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram, Department of Digital Media Chairperson Dr. Savera Shami and others are also present.

PUNJAB University Department of Development Communication (DDC) and Department of Social Welfare & Bait ul Mal (SW&BM) Punjab have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop effective communication strategies for the betterment of the common man and bring positive change in society. In this regard, an agreement was signed at Punjab University.

Punjab Minister for Social Welfare Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari, PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad, PU PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Dean Faculty of Information and Media Studies Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Secretary SW&BM Hassan Iqbal, DDC Chairperson Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram, Department of Digital Media Chairperson Dr. Savera Shami, SB&WM Director Programs Mrs. Zaib Waseem, Head of Public Affairs and Govt Relations FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Saira Iftikhar, Head of Regular Affairs Anglo Pakistan Dr. Muhammad Nasir, Assistant Professor Mr. Fahad Mahmood, Dr. Shazia Ismail Toor and others participated in the ceremony.

Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari, in his address, said that the government will benefit from the expertise of PU faculty members for the welfare of society. He said that the government was

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The government will benefit from the expertise of PU faculty members for the welfare of society
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SYED YAWAR ABBAS BUKHARI

making efforts for skill and educational development of transgender. He said that the ministry has received funds, a site has been allocated and development work would start soon for this purpose. He said that the government has ensured a transparent mechanism for usage of public funds for their welfare. The minister said that SW&BM would provide merit and need based scholarships to the students of DCC. A gold medal would also be awarded to the topper student of DDC every year. He said that SW&BM will sponsor workshops and training programs and will help provide job opportunities to the DDC students.

PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad said that the administration is funding and encouraging those research projects which aimed at resolving social issues being faced by the country. He

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The administration is funding and encouraging those research projects which aimed at resolving social issues being faced by the country
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PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

appreciated the efforts of Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq for playing her role in solving social issues.

Hassan Iqbal said that the department would develop a system to get appropriate feedback after completion of joint projects to improve further.

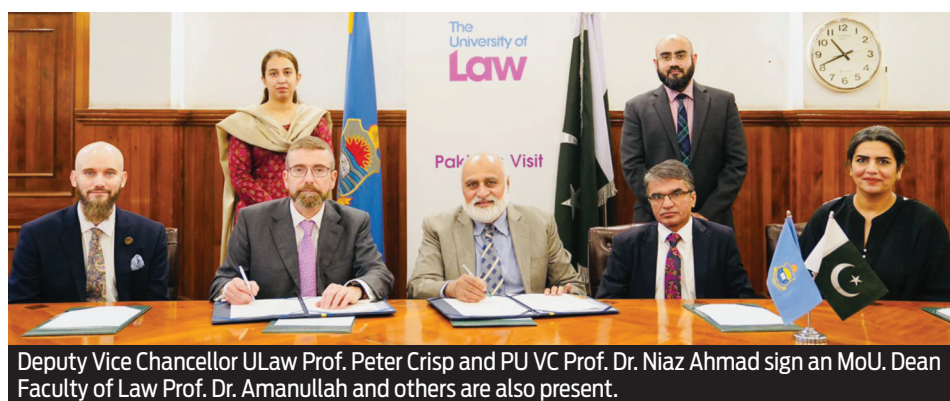
Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq said that the DDC would provide research support to SW&BM and help design communication strategies. She said that DDC teachers would help the Social Welfare Training Institute for capacity building in terms of effective communication, language and literacy, usage of ICTs and developing effective media campaigns. She said that the DDC would provide at least 20 volunteers to actively participate in community activities. She thanked PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad for his encouragement and support.

Later, PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad presented souvenirs to the distinguished guests. ■

PU, ULaw to strengthen legal education, profession

UNIVERSITY of the Punjab (PU) and The University of Law (ULaw) signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance collaboration between both organizations in a bid to strengthen legal profession of Pakistan. In this regard, a ceremony was held at the committee room of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar's office. Deputy Vice Chancellor Law Professor Peter Crisp, Managing Director - Pakistan, Global University Systems Faisal Azeem, Director of International, Global University Systems Kelvin Jones and Chief Operating Officer – Pakistan Global University Systems Sabahat Khan. Dean College of Law University of the Punjab Prof. Dr. Amanullah and Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram were also present from PU on the accession.

As a result of the MoU, both organizations will work very closely in modernizing the law curriculum being taught at University of the Punjab, adopting best practices of teaching legal



Deputy Vice Chancellor ULaw Prof. Peter Crisp and PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad sign an MoU. Dean Faculty of Law Prof. Dr. Amanullah and others are also present.

studies, and creating pathways for exchange of students and faculty.

While addressing the ceremony, Professor Crisp said that The University of Law would be working with PU to further enhance the legal curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of a globalized and challenging marketplace. "This collaboration would build exciting careers for young people and will make a significant contribution to the ongoing economic success

of Pakistan," he added.

PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad also briefed the delegation about PU, saying that there was need to promote bilateral relations among higher education institutions of both the countries. He further said that there should be exchange of teachers and students among the universities of both the countries. Later, the delegation from ULaw visited PU Department of Law and delivered a lecture on "The Emerging Trends in Legal Profession". ■

PU, Bank Al Habib ink MoU

PUNJAB University has signed an MoU with Bank Al-Habib Ltd for its faculty members and employees to offer heavily discounted Auto Finance, House Finance and Personal Loan facilities.

The MoU was signed by Pro Vice Chancellor PU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar and GM/ Zonal Head Lahore Mr. Anser A. Zaidi in the presence of PU Treasurer Mr. Rao Muhammad Tahir Rafique and Director External Linkages PU Dr. Sobia Khurram along with relevant stakeholders from the bank. The Directorate of External Linkages could be contacted for further information to avail these facilities. ■



PU PVC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar and GM/ Zonal Head Lahore Mr. Anser A. Zaidi sign an MoU in the presence of PU Treasurer Mr. Rao Muhammad Tahir Rafique, Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khurram and other stakeholders.

Pride of the Nation

Dr. AQ Khan's death a shock to Muslim world: PU VC

Special prayers held for father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmad has expressed his deepest sense of sorrow over the shocking news of death of Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. His absentia funeral prayer was offered at Punjab University. PUVC Prof. Niaz Ahmad led the prayers while Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, thousands of teachers, students and employees participated in the funeral prayer.

Talking to media, Prof. Niaz Ahmad said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah built Pakistan while Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan strengthened the country's defence and made it invincible. In his condolence message, Prof. Niaz said that it's a tragic incidence for the whole Muslim world, particularly Pakistan. He said that Dr. AQ Khan strengthened the Muslim countries and by developing nuclear bomb in Pakistan, he made country's defence invincible.

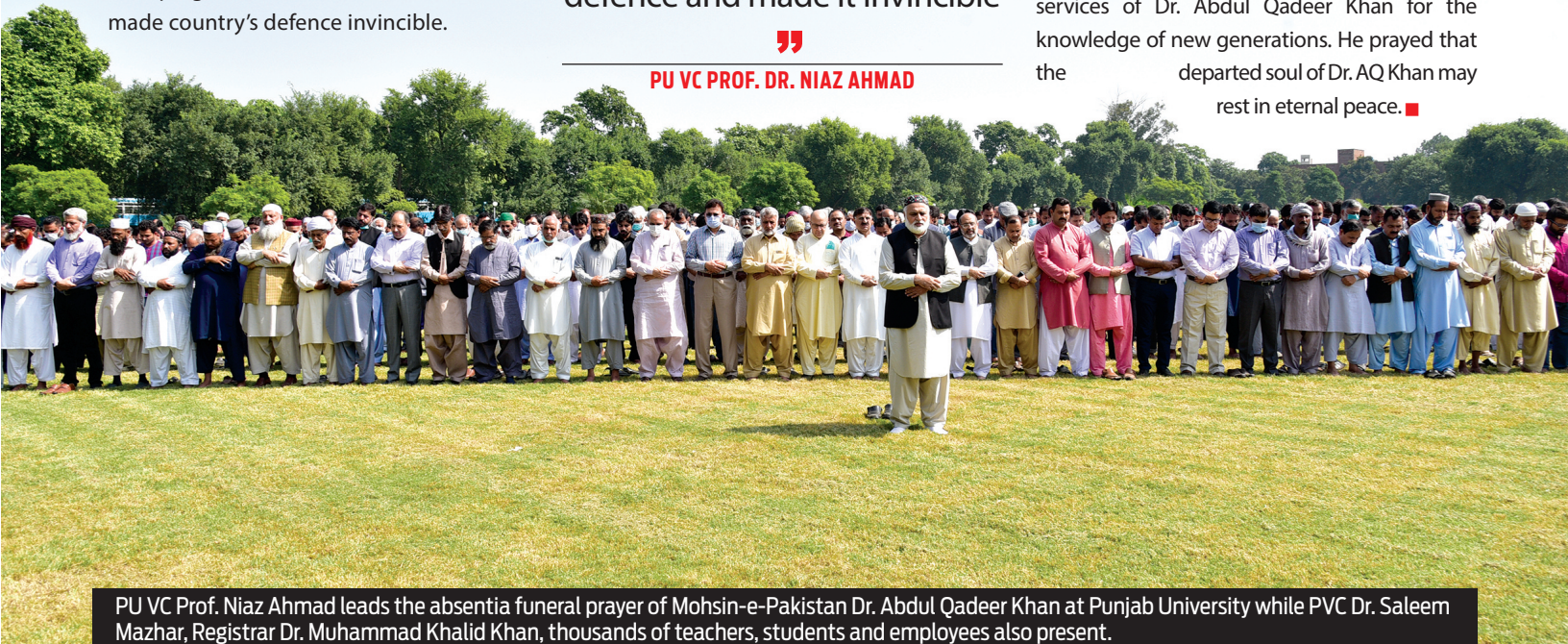
He said that due to his services and sacrifices, Pakistanis are living in an independent atmosphere. The Muslim scientists like Dr. AQ Khan are born in centuries. He said that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan also rendered invaluable services in the field of social welfare and he laid the foundation stone of many hospitals, schools and other welfare institutions. He said that Dr. AQ Khan left a luxurious life to safeguard his homeland, for which the Pakistani nation would be under his debt forever.

He said that all the Pakistanis who were

“
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah built Pakistan while Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan strengthened the country's defence and made it invincible
”

PU VC PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD

breathing in an independent atmosphere were thankful to him and we will never forget him. He said that the services of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan would be remembered forever. He said that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Week would be marked and seminars would be organized to highlight the services of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for the knowledge of new generations. He prayed that the departed soul of Dr. AQ Khan may rest in eternal peace. ■



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad leads the absentia funeral prayer of Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Punjab University while PVC Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khan, thousands of teachers, students and employees also present.