

PU NEWS



JULY 2021

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

QS World University Rankings

PU ranking improves by
16% in 3 years

54

times jump in
QS Asia Rankings

NO.1

in natural sciences
research in Pakistan

380

Million Rs.
first ever allocation
for research

289

PhDs
produced in one year

150+

Professors serving at a
time, 1st ever in PU history

150

PU's Academic
restructuring

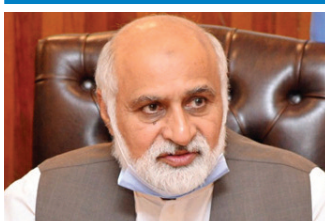
BSL 3 LAB

establishment



Joint efforts a must to combat
coronavirus, natural calamities

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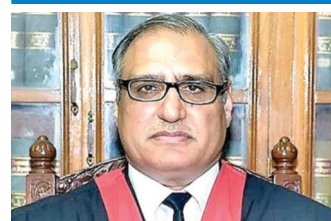
Varsities need to join hands for
research promotion

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Call to help Thalassemia children by ministers,
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LHC Chief Justice Ameer Bhatti
attends PU Syndicate meeting

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Joint efforts a must to combat coronavirus, natural calamities

FEDERAL Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has stressed the need for making joint efforts to cope with the challenges of pandemics like COVID-19 and natural calamities. He was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national conference on 'Challenges of Governance in Pakistan Amid Covid-19 Pandemic' organised by Punjab University's Department of Political Science.

In his video link address, Asad Umar said that during COVID-19, the government also faced multiple challenges of saving the economy along with the health of people, due to which, the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) were set up to deal with the challenges and portray a true picture of the situation to people.

He said the government and the military leadership together in the NCOC made best decisions in the national interest. He



said the NCOC decided to enforce lockdown, hotspot lockdown and smart lockdown based on daily data so that people's health and economic condition could not be affected. The Minister added that he made all the decisions keeping in view the situation of his country after learning from other countries. He said the process of vaccination had started and a uniform policy was applied to the rich and the poor and even the President and the Prime Minister had received their vaccines by their turn.

Asad Umar said use of technology through various applications had made it easier to calculate number of patients in hospitals to ensure timely availability of oxygen and other equipment, besides assessment of the condition of beds for critical cases. He said that through artificial intelligence, the government was formulating a comprehensive plan for future so that an effective and integrated strategy could be formulated to tackle challenges like corona. ■

Varsities need to join hands to promote research

VICE Chancellor University of the Punjab Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad has appreciated the role of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in promotion of education in the country. During visit to the AIOU, Dr Niaz held a meeting with Prof Dr Zia-ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor AIOU, and discussed matters relating to higher education, especially joint



ventures between different universities for promotion of education and research in Pakistan. Dr Niaz said that both the universities should serve as role models for the country as Allah has blessed us with the golden opportunity to serve the nation with an utmost sense of devotion, dedication and commitment. ■

Editor

Dr. Shabbir Sarwar

Associate Editor

Khuram Shahzad

News Editor

Rabia Yousaf
Javairia Shafiq

Reporters

Mahrukh Asif
Maryam Imran
Mahwish Liaqat
Samrah Arooj

Photography

Sarfraz Ali
Sajid Baloch
Zubair Ahmed

Publisher

Department of Public Relations,
Quaid-i-Azam Campus, University
of the Punjab Lahore

Designer

Muneeb Ijaz

Printing

Director, Department of Press &
Publications, University of the
Punjab, Lahore-Pakistan

Contact

Email: punews@pu.edu.pk

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Editorial Note

DESPITE summer vacations, the month of July remained full of academic activities at Punjab University. Various important meetings as well as academic and research activities continued during the seasonal break. The Syndicate approved FY2021-22 budget while the Board of Advance Studies and Research discussed, improved and approved PhD and MPhil synopsis of the research scholars of different disciplines.

National and international seminars, webinars, and conferences attracted foreign and local scholars. Key events comprised International Conference on Business Administration (ICBA-2021), Seminar on Women Inheritance Rights in Islam, Thalassemia awareness and blood donation camps. Academic linkages with national and international organizations were also signed including collaboration with an Uzbek varsity, Community World Service Asia, National Defence University, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and the University of Lahore.

PU established a Covid vaccination center at the Student-Teacher Centre (STC) to ensure 100 percent vaccination of faculty, staff and students. Appointment of teachers' representatives in the Syndicate through the transparent election was another feature of the month. The cover story of this edition is based on the QS World University Ranking which reported 16 percent improvement in PU world ranking placing the varsity among top 62 percent universities of the world besides Improvement in its Asia Ranking by 39 times. Another encouraging news flashed in the national media was that The Nature Publishing Group rated PU at the top slot in Pakistan in the category of Natural Sciences Research Publications. ■

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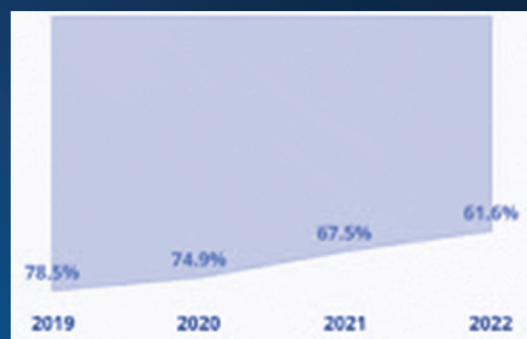
PU RANKING IMPROVES BY **16%** IN 3 YEARS



WORLD UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS

OVERALL RANK
801 - 1000

PERCENTILE EVOLUTION QS
WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



THE QS World University Rankings, which is officially recognized by the Government of the Punjab and Punjab Higher Education Commission, has ranked Punjab University among top 62 percent universities of the world placing PU among top 801-1000 universities in its fresh ranking for 2022.

PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed said that QS has ranked Punjab University among the best 78.5 percent universities of the world in 2018. He further said that in just three years, PU's international ranking had improved by 16 percent and for the year 2022, it has been counted among top 61.6 percent universities of the world, which was a landmark achievement because it was very difficult to improve university ranking at international level because of tough competition among the varsities throughout the world.

"PU's Asia ranking had improved 54 times in just two years and The Nature Publishing Group has ranked Punjab University No 1 in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani universities" Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed

Prof Niaz Ahmed said that in 2018, PU's five subjects were ranked international for the first time and PU was improving its subject-wise ranking manifold every year. He said that PU has also improved its Asian ranking and it stands on 178th position, making a considerable jump of 54 points in just two years. He said that PU was ranked 232nd in 2018's ranking of Asian universities and it has improved its ranking manifold in a period of just two years. He said that the initiatives the administration had taken for improvement in international ranking had started bringing fruit.

"For the first time, PU's 13 subjects had been ranked internationally by QS and PU's subject of Petroleum Engineering was ranked among top 100-150 institutions of the world" Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed.

He said that due to promotion of research culture, the



PU Asia ranking improved 54 times in just two years and The Nature Publishing Group has ranked Punjab University No 1 in research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani universities



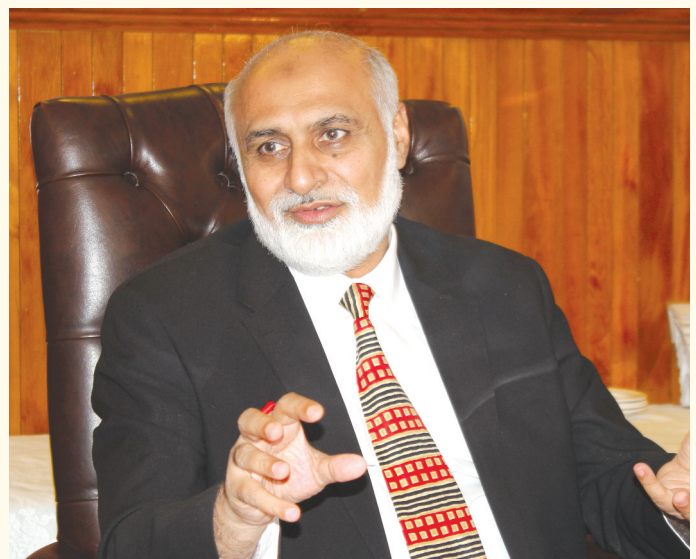
PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD



For the first time, PU 13 subjects ranked internationally by QS and Petroleum Engineering rated among top 100-150 institutions of the world



PROF. DR. NIAZ AHMAD



research publications of the university had increased and the university for the first time in PU's history allocated a hefty amount of Rs380 million for research last year as it was top priority of the administration. He said that teacher-student ratio had been maintained, appointments of PhD degree holders as faculty members had been made and collaboration with international organizations had been enhanced, which had mainly contributed to university's rapid improvement in QS ranking.

He said that the university was making rapid progress in all the disciplines. He said that PU was 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 university had regulated all statutory bodies of the university and all its organs were fully functional. He said that streamlining the university's system would help 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. ■

PU researchers invent novel method to

convert agri-waste into edible sugar

A research team under the aegis of Punjab University Centre for Research in Ionic Liquids (CRIL) Director Dr Maliha Uroos developed a protocol to convert agricultural waste into food. The food grade glucose produced can be used for human consumption; in pharmaceuticals, general food industry and also for the production of artificial proteins.

The CRIL had been recently established by PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmed Akhtar during restructuring of the university with an aim to resolve socio-economic problems of Pakistan and this research was the first landmark step to achieve the goals of its establishment. The work was published in a highly reputed international journal of American Chemical Society named "ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering" with an impact factor of 7.63.

This research contribution was made possible by her PhD student Azmat Mehmood Asim, in collaboration with Prof. Jason Hallett, Imperial College London and Dr. Nawshad Muhammad, Khyber Medical University. The method used the highly desirable and environment friendly solvents; the biocompatible Ionic Liquids. Pakistan as an agricultural country is highly rich in agricultural waste. PU researchers successfully produced food grade sugars from the waste of wheat and rice straw that had no



Dr. Maliha Uroos
Director, Centre for Research in Ionic Liquids, School of Chemistry, University of the Punjab



Prof Jason Hallett
Imperial College London

“

PU researchers successfully produced food grade sugars from the waste of wheat and rice straw with no significant use except burning at the end, causing smog and increase in pollution

”

significant use except burning at the end, causing smog and increase in pollution.

This was the first time that these materials had been considered for human food. In view of the reports from world-wide organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food sources were

becoming insufficient with every passing day.

According to these intimations, carbohydrates and proteins, the primary human food nutrients, will become less available for a huge population in the future. Alternate technologies, thus, should be developed to combat these imminent

Production of Food-Grade Glucose from Rice and Wheat Residues Using a Biocompatible Ionic Liquid

Azmat Mehmood Asim, Maliha Uroos,* Nawshad Muhammad,* and Jason P. Hallett*



Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acssuschemeng.1c00022>



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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The anticipated high future demand for food proteins has led to the advent of mycoprotein, which involves carbohydrate sugars as the primary carbon source. In this work, nonfood rice and wheat residues have been utilized to produce food-grade glucose using an ionic liquid. A biocompatible ionic liquid (IL) based on food-grade cholinium hydroxide and lysine has been evaluated for its potential to remove undesirable components such as, lignin and hemicellulose from rice and wheat straws. The cellulose pulp, thus obtained, was subsequently hydrolyzed into glucose by using food-grade enzymes. The optimum delignification efficiency of the IL is 87% at 120 °C after 8 h pretreatment. The optimum yield of food-grade sugar was 77% from cellulose pulp after processing at 100 °C for 8 h. The analysis of the pulp and lignin was made using compositional analysis, FT-IR, TGA, and SEM techniques, whereas glucose was quantified using HPLC. The food-grade glucose may be used in the food industry or pharmaceuticals, but this study aims at synthesizing mycoprotein in the future.

KEYWORDS: Food-grade glucose, Ionic liquid, Biomass, Cholinium lysinate, Wheat straw, Rice straw



Dr Nawshad Muhammad

Associate Professor, Khyber
Medical University, KPK



Azmat Mehmood Asim

PhD student

problems. This was what Dr Maliha Uroos and her research group worked

on and succeeded in the invention. The research team at the CRIL was

working hard with industrial collaboration to find sustainable solutions to national challenges of food security, energy crisis, import substitutions and availability of clean drinking water by synthesis and utilization of these unique tunable solvents called "Ionic Liquids". This work was supported by two mega research grants i.e. TDF and NRPU awarded by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

Dr Maliha Uroos congratulated the research team and said that this success was made possible due to the encouragement and constant support by PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, who had tasked the university researchers to focus on the research which could resolve issues being faced by the society. ■

CALL TO HELP THALASSEMIA CHILDREN

PU, Sundas Foundation
organize mega event
to raise awareness
on Thalassemia

MINISTERS, MPAS, SENIOR JOURNALISTS,
CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMICS
ADDRESS THE EVENT



Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul Mall Syed Yawar Abbas, Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Mr Ejaz Alam Augustine, Senior journalists Sohail Warraich and Hasan Nisar, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed and Pro VC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar along with other faculty members inaugurate the event

PUNJAB Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul Mall Syed Yawar Abbas called upon the society to help children suffering from Thalassemia while saying that it was the responsibility of every human being to safeguard their future generation and reduce the problems being faced by them.

He addressed a ceremony and blood donation camp for the children suffering from thalassemia at Punjab University. Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Mr Ejaz Alam Augustine, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, senior journalist Sohail Warraich, Hasan Nisar,



Children suffering from Thalassemia hardly reach the age of 15 and they need blood on a regular basis. PU and Sundas Foundation did a great work



SOHAIL WARRAICH

eminent artist Khalid Abbas Dar, motivational speaker Qasim Ali Shah, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Department of Social Work Chairperson Prof Dr Syeda Mehnaz Hasan, Members of Punjab Assembly including Dr Shaheena, Uzma Kardar, Dr Sambia, Sabeen Kamran, Shahida, Sania Kamran, Seemab, Tanzila Imran, President Sundus Foundation Mr Yasin, faculty members and a large number of students participated in the event.

Addressing the event, Syed Yawar Abbas said that the act of blood donation was indeed a great act of kindness and it brought us closer to Allah. Mr Ejaz Alam said that the government made efforts to help poor children and improve

their standard of life. He said that the government was also taking action against those forcing the children for beggary.

PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed said that it was our prime responsibility to organize such events to help ailing humanity. He appreciated the role of Dr Mehnaz and her team for providing food to the poor people during COVID 19. He said that knowledge and skills were important but the behaviors were more important and teachers must play an active role to bring positive change in behavior of society members.

Senior journalists Sohail Warraich said that children suffering from thalassemia hardly reached the age of 15 and they needed blood on a regular basis. He praised the role of PU and Sundus Foundation which helped reduce the miseries being faced by the children.

Qasim Ali Shah said that life was just like a story and everyone should do such good deeds so that one could be remembered in good words.

PU Social Work Department Chairperson Dr Syeda Mehnaz Hasan thanked PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed for providing full support in order to launch social welfare projects and organize social welfare activities. She thanked the volunteers who donated blood for the children suffering from thalassemia. She said that the world had controlled the disease of thalassemia to a great extent but the situation in Pakistan was not so good. She called upon the parliamentarians to ensure thalassemia test of couples before marriage through institutions. On this occasion, the teams of Punjab University and Sundus Foundation presented national anthems and a sketch to highlight issues being faced by the children. ■



BLOOD

DONATION CAMPS FOR
**THALASSEMIA
CHILDREN**





PU PVC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar cuts the ribbon to inaugurate a blood donation camp.

PUNJAB University Department of Social Work organized two blood donation camps in collaboration with Sundus Foundation for the children battling Thalassemia and Hemophilia. PU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar inaugurated a blood donation camp at the department. DSW Chairperson Prof Dr Syeda Mehnaz Hassan, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, faculty members and a large number of students participated in the event.

The students donated blood enthusiastically on the call of the event organizers to help the children suffering from the diseases. Talking to the media, Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that it was the responsibility of every human being to help others facing difficulties in their life. He said that it was a great act of kindness to help any human being suffering from any disease.



Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Prof Dr Syeda Mehnaz Hassan visit a blood donation camp at Department of Social Work.

Prof Dr Syeda Mehnaz Hassan said that the blood donation camps had been set up with the collaboration of Sundus Foundation. She said that more than 300 volunteers had registered to donate blood and the department was making efforts in various sectors for social welfare of the masses. She said that several initiatives had also been taken to provide a platform to the students to help ailing humanity. ■

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PU VC Dr. Niaz Ahmad, PVC Dr. Saleem Mazhar along with Lahore Chinese Team and Punjab University team cut a cake during friendly badminton matches.



Chinese players wait for shuttlecock at a friendly badminton match played between Chinese and PU teams. -Photo Credit: Sarfraz Ali



A PU team player reacts after smashing the shuttle during a badminton match with Ch



A group photo of PUCAD faculty members and students on the event of Public Art Display by PhD scholars through the platform of *Studio Waaley*.



PU faculty members pose for a photo after attending t in the Arts and Humanities".



PU VC Chairs Syndicate meeting to discuss key policy decisions of the university while LHC Chief Justice Ameer Bhatti presiding over the meeting.



PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad al



Chinese team at Sports Gymnasium. -Photo Credit: Sarfraz Ali



Students show their certificates and awards on the occasion of 20th Chinese Bridge Competition arranged by Punjab University Confucius Institute.



Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio and PU PVC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar visit a stall during Public Art Display by PhD scholars. PU College of Art and Design faculty member also present.



Participants of the Virtual International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Education"



PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad leads a protest rally of PU teachers to highlight human rights violation by Israelis in Palestine. -Photo Credit: Sarfraz Ali



Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad along with faculty members pray after the inauguration of PUCIT new building.



PU PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar addresses to participants in "Inheritance Rights to Women" seminar.



PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed presents souvenir to Uzbek delegation.

PU, Uzbek varsity to strengthen academic ties

Punjab University and Uzbek Nukus State Pedagogical Institute has vowed to strengthen academic relations and promote cultural activities to bring both the nations closer. This resolve was made when a delegation from an Uzbek university visited Punjab University and called on PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Director Regional Integration Centre Dr Fouzia Hadi Ali, Senior Member Advisory Board CGSS Brigadier (r) Mansoor Saeed, PU Deans of various faculties, Vice Rector Nuqus State Pedagogical Institute Mr Kalkhanov

Jumabaevich with others were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on this occasion, Uzbek university Vice Rector Mr Kalkhanov

shared common values. He stressed the need to enhance people-to-people contact and said that he would never forget the love and hospitality of Pakistanis.

Dr Niaz Ahmed said that PU would extend full support the Uzbek universities to raise their academic standards and, “we would learn from each other”. He said that the universities of both the countries would jointly work on various research projects and organize seminars, conference etc. PU would also offer scholarships to Uzbek students.

Earlier, the Uzbek delegation visited various departments and met heads of department to discuss collaboration in various fields of mutual interest. ■

“
PU would offer scholarships to Uzbek students
”
PROF DR NIAZ AHMED

Jumabaevich said that he wanted to promote bilateral relations with Punjab University and said that both the nations

Community World Service Asia to work with PU for social welfare

THE Community World Service Asia (CWSA) and Punjab University and have signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate collaborative initiatives for provision of skill and well-informed individuals to the social sector to eliminate inequalities and lead peaceful, dignified and resilient lives.

The agreement was signed at PU Vice Chancellor’s office in which PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed, Head of External Affairs CWSA Brig (r) Tariq Aslam, Chairperson Department of Social Work Prof Dr Syeda Mahnaz Hassan, Director External Linkages Dr Sobia Khuram and others participated in the event.

Both the institutions would work for planning, learning, development and expansion which includes capacity enhancement, training, curriculum revision/development, institutional development, academic information sharing and knowledge exchange. Both the institutions would collaborate on constant interaction of development practitioners and



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmed and CWSA Head of External Affairs Brig (r) Tariq Aslam sign an MoU. Department of Social Work Chairperson Prof Dr Syeda Mahnaz Hassan and Director External Linkages Dr. Sobia Khuram also present.

humanitarian professionals with academics as guest speakers or visiting faculty. The MoU is also aimed at enabling academia to integrate skill-based knowledge and to reflect the current dynamics of the sector into the existing programme. ■

NDU joins hands with PU for exchange programmes

PUNJAB University and National Defence University signed a memorandum of understanding to make joint efforts for promotion of academic activities aimed at serving the nation as well as country.

In this regard, an agreement was signed at the PU Vice Chancellor's office. PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad, Rear Admiral Syed Zain Zulfiqar HI (M), PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, deans of various faculties, NDU Registrar Lt Col Muhammad Hafeez (r), Dean Faculty of Contemporary Sciences Dr Lubna Abid Ali, head of International Relations Department Dr Khurram Iqbal and others participated in the event.

Addressing the ceremony, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed said universities were public institutions being run by taxpayer's money and they must play their role for the development of the country and resolving socio-economic problems being faced by the nation. He said that both the universities would launch joint research projects, organize seminars and conferences and would promote faculty and student exchange programs. Rear Admiral Syed Zain Zulfiqar said that both the universities would benefit from each other's sources and NDU would



PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmad and Rear Admiral Syed Zain Zulfiqar HI (M) sign an MoU while PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Dean Faculty of Contemporary Sciences Dr. Lubna Abid Ali, Head of International Relations Department Dr. Khurram Iqbal also present.

like to benefit from the competent and experienced faculty of PU. He said that both the institutions would share ideas and work on joint research initiatives in various fields of mutual interest. He said that it was his great wish to see the green and splendid campus of Punjab University. Later, PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmed and Rear Admiral Syed Zain Zulfiqar signed MoU and exchanged souvenirs. ■

Collaboration on environment, climate change

PUNJAB University Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab (RSGCRL) University of Lahore, Department of Physics have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop institutional linkages that will serve as a continuous and consistent support in the execution of all other activities.

The focal persons of MoU were Dr. Salman Tariq from RSGCRL and Dr. Sadia Sagar Iqbal from DoP. The two institutes will collaborate in developing joint research proposals and data sharing, organization of 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 atmospheric physics and chemistry, air pollution, meteorology and climate change by employing satellite remote sensing and GIS technologies. RSGCRL Director/Principal Investigator Dr. Zia ul Haq and UoL Physics chairperson Dr. Sadia Sagar Iqbal, signed the MoU endorsed by PU VC Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar and Professor Dr Muhammad Zuber, Rector University of Lahore. ■

Collaboration for joint research in the field of Remote Sensing and Geospatial Applications

AN MoU was signed between Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab (RSGCRL), National Center of GIS and Space Applications, University of the Punjab and Department of Wildlife and Ecology (DoWE), University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

(UVAS).

The focal persons of the MoU were Dr. Asim Daud Rana from RSGCRL and Mr. Syed Ghulam Mohayud Din Hashmi from DoWE. The two institutes will collaborate in developing joint research proposals and data sharing, organization of 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 Remote Sensing & Geospatial Applications for Ecological Studies, and Climate Change.

The signature target of the MoU was to develop institutional linkages that will serve as a continuous and consistent support in the execution of all other activities. RSGCRL Director/Principal Investigator Dr. Zia ul Haq and DoWE Chairman Dr. Arshad Javid signed the MoU and endorsed by PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) and UVAS VC Prof. Dr. Nasim Ahmad (S.I.). ■

PU pays tribute to Dr. Mughees on his first death anniversary

PUNJAB University School of Communication Studies organized a condolence reference to pay homage to legendary teacher of journalism late Prof. Dr. Mughees uddin Sheikh at Hameed Nizami Hall.

Eminent personalities including Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, Salman Ghani, Sajjad Mir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizam uddin, Director SCS Prof Dr Noshina Saleem, Ali Mughees, senior faculty members and large number of students participated in the reference.

Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami said that Dr. Mughees was a teacher by birth who continued to teach despite facing severe illness. He said that Dr. Mughees produced leaders of national level and a number of eminent journalists working in the media industry were his students. He urged the teachers to play their role for the prosperity of the country.

Senior journalist Salman Ghani said that Dr. Mughees not only equipped us with technical skills but also, he trained us ideologically.

Senior journalist Sajjad Mir said that the services of Dr. Mughees uddin could

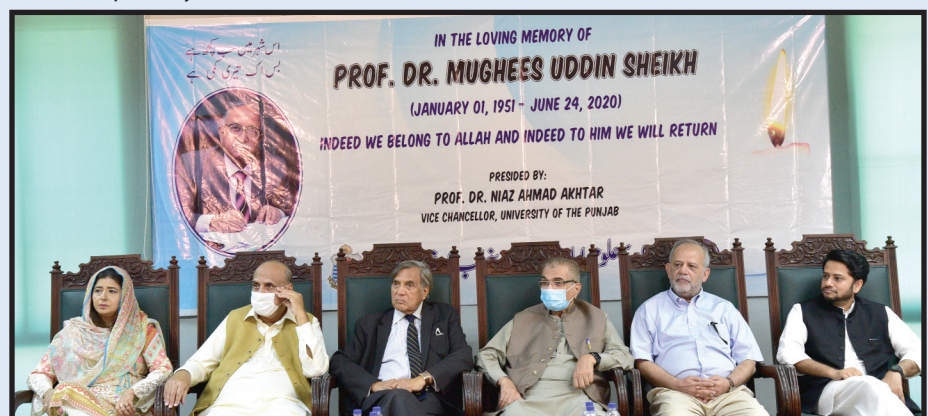
Three students awarded Dr. Mughees Uddin Scholarship

not be forgotten and he would always be remembered and he was the first senior professor who spoke on the topic of social media. He said that Dr. Mughees was expert at several dimensions of media, especially modern media studies

and research methodology.

Dr. Nizamuddin said that Dr. Mughees would be remembered in the eminent teachers of journalism forever and he was a person who set various trends and uplifted the department.

Dr. Noshina Saleem said that Dr. Mughees played an important role in providing the best human resource to the media industry and his instructions and guidelines would be followed to nurture the School of Communication Studies. Mr. Ali Mughees thanked the participants. ■



Senior Journalists Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, Salman Ghani, Sajjad Mir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizam uddin, Director SCS Prof. Dr. Noshina Saleem, Ali Mughees sit on stage in the condolence reference of Prof. Dr. Mughees uddin Sheikh.

UN awards partner status to Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab

PUNJAB University's Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab (RSGCRL), National Center of GIS and Space Applications got the status of partner organization of the United Nations' Decade to support its objectives under its "Institutional Capacity Building and Professional Development Programme, ICBPDP". The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO has designed the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in the recognition that much more needs to be done to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and create improved

conditions for the sustainable development of the ocean, seas and coasts.

RSGCRL aims at contributing in "Ocean Science & Technology" and "Ocean Policy & Sustainable Development" to improve the understanding of ecosystems of Arabian Sea and Pakistani coastal areas and their functioning as the basis for their management and adaptation in the context of climate change and water & air pollution by using Satellite Remote Sensing and Geo-spatial techniques. This activity is in support to the vision of PU VC Prof. Niaz Ahmed to develop linkages with industry and academia. ■

Dr Mahnaz's research published in Germany

COLLABORATIVE Research Centre, University of Bremen, Germany had published research work of Department of Social Work's Chairperson Prof Dr Syeda Mahnaz Hassan on "Pakistan's Social Policy Response to Covid-19". This report had also been uploaded in Social Science Open Access Repository (SSOAR) by Collaborative Research Centre, University of Bremen amongst the eminent researchers of the world.



The CRC acknowledged the extensive research work of the Professor Mahnaz in expanding the realm of human knowledge through her groundbreaking research about social protection, social welfare services and poverty reduction in Pakistan and selected her as country expert from Pakistan on social protection issues in 2017.

The Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 1342 "Global Dynamics of Social Policy" is an association of eight research institutions at the University of Bremen, funded by the German Research Foundation. The Collaborative Research Centre 1342 analyses the global dynamics of social policy. The CRC abandons the traditional OECD centrism and comprehensively

incorporates the Global South into the analysis. Since a country's social policy cannot be explained solely by domestic circumstances, international relations and networks are being taken into account: trade relations, migration, war and colonialism as well as the worldwide dissemination of ideas and legal regulations have great influence on the social policy developments of the individual countries.

In addition, research at CRC 1342 was based on a broad understanding of social policy including - among other aspects - education policy. Being a researcher in the domain of social protection and poverty alleviation, she highlighted the vigilance of the Government in curtailing this menace. She critically analyzed and appreciated the efforts of the government, which had been successful in controlling this contagion better than majority of the developed and developing countries of the world, despite of scarcity of resources and a frail health management system in the country.

The significant contribution of the author at such a prestigious international forum, where 34 countries have elaborated their social policy measures to contain this pandemic, reflected her strong research

PU vaccination centre inaugurated



COMMISSIONER Lahore Capt (r) Muhammad Usman inaugurated vaccination centre set up at Punjab University Student Teacher Centre in order to provide maximum facilitation to the citizens to get vaccinated.

PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed, Pro VC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director Students Affairs Prof Dr Muhammad Shafiq, Chief Medical Officer Dr Muhammad Akram, faculty members, officials, employees and others were present on the occasion.

Capt (r) Muhammad Usman said that around 42 vaccination centres had been established in the city to help people get vaccinated in a comfortable way with maximum facilities and the government was making full efforts to keep people safe from COVID 19. He said that a number of vaccination centres were being established in other universities, colleges etc like the one established at PU.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed thanked the Punjab government for setting up vaccination centre at PU in order to provide the best facilities of vaccination to PU teachers, employees, students and their families. The VC said that there was a need to follow SOPs in order to avoid the spread of COVID 19. ■

acumen and a deep insight on the national issues which need to address on priority basis. She had also substantiated the need for a more holistic approach of the government for managing this and other challenges to come. ■

Speakers demand research for development



THE international conference was organized by Punjab University Institute of Business Administration at the lawns of Governor's House. Wife of Governor Punjab Mrs Parveen Sarwar was the chief guest on the occasion while PU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Quaid-i-Azam University VC Dr Muhammad Ali, University of Okara VC Dr Zakria Zakar, Chairman Private Universities Dr Abdur Rehman, Islamia University Bahawalpur VC Dr Athar Mahboob, Bahauddin Zakria University VC Mansoor Kundi, Mian Nawaz Sharif University of Engineering and Technology Dr Amir Ijaz, PU Dean Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Director IBA Dr Muqqadas Rehman, faculty members, students and businessmen participated on the occasion. Mrs. Parveen Sarwar said that no nation could make progress without the active role of women and parents are also advised not to spoil their children but to guide them and educate them in their best interest.

Mrs. Parveen Sarwar said that women were contributing in all the fields of life everywhere as they were full of potential and Pakistan could become a developed

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No nation can make progress without an active role of women. Parents should guide their children properly and educate them in their best interest
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MRS. PARVEEN SARWAR

country only through hard work. She said that the vice chancellors of public sector universities were making rapid progress and their achievements were being acknowledged worldwide.

Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that because of the blessings of Allah, COVID situation was under control in Pakistan and things were opening. He said that now it was the time to make efforts to boost businesses and develop all sections of life.

Dr Muhammad Ali said that any crisis had an opportunity too and we needed to determine our priorities. He said that the country could not progress with the number of publications only but the research which had the capacity to address socio-economic problems. He

said that now it was the time to evaluate what was the social impact of research.

Dr Abdul Rehman said that universities must not act as degree awarding institutions only but produce knowledge and impart technical skills to its graduates so that they could play their role in development of the country as well as society. He said that the universities must identify social problems and make efforts to resolve them.

Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry said that the landscapes of the economy of Pakistan were changing and we needed to get maximum benefits from technology and IT in every business. He said that besides creating new jobs for our youth, the culture of entrepreneurship should also be promoted so that our young talent could play its role in the development of Pakistan.

Dr Muqqadas Rehman said that the conference had been organized to explore new horizons in the field of business administration. She said that we needed research which could resolve problems in the business world and the conference had provided an opportunity to interact with the international community and share modern knowledge and experiences in the relevant fields. ■

Depriving women of their inheritance is cruelty

SPEAKERS at a seminar organized by the “Centre for Quran and Sunnat” have called upon the need to ensure all rights of inheritance in property matters as given to women in Islam and depriving them of their inherited rights was cruelty upon them.

Punjab University Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, International Islamic University’s Shariah Academy Director General Dr Abdul Hayee Abro, Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies Prof Dr Hammad Lakhvi, Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Choudhary, Chairman Ranking Committee Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director Institute of Islamic Studies Dr Saad Siddiqui, Centre for Quran and Sunnah (CQS) Prof Dr Harris Mobeen, faculty members and a large number of students participated in the event.

Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that the people who did not give inheritance rights to

the women could not protect their rights. He said that this was a serious violation of basic human rights but people at large are not bothering it. Islam for the first time gave rights to the women and awareness should be created about this concept.

Dr Abdul Hayee said that distribution of rights inheritance as per instructions of Islam removed family differences and hence it is also a source of sharing family wealth among family members. He said that distribution of family wealth among members of the family as per instructions of Islam helped resolve differences and strengthened the whole family system. He further added that Islam, through the law of inheritance, had protected the rights of women and children. He said that Islam had taught to deal with mother, sister, wife and daughter in the best way which ultimately gave protection to their rights and if a brother said that his sister had surrendered her rights of inheritance in property matters, it was unethical.

Dr Harris Mobeen thanked PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad, Dr Saleem Mazhar, Dr Hammad Lakhvi and others for their participation in the informative seminar. He said that the centre would provide a platform for employees and students for understanding several issues of everyday life in the light of the Quran and Sunnat. ■



Minister urges varsities to guide nation about Covid 19

STATE Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mian Farrukh Habib has urged the universities and academia to play their role for creating awareness among people about COVID 19 and bring positive change in their behavior to cope with the pandemic. He was addressing a webinar titled “Health Literacy and Public Policy of Pakistan in Covid-19: Challenges in Communication, Action and Advocacy in Digital Age” organized by PU Department of Development Communication in collaboration with Department of Digital Media.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary National Health Services Dr Nosheen Hamid, PU VC Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhter, Pro VC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Chairperson Department of Development Communication Dr Ayesha Ashfaq, Chairperson Department of Digital Media Dr Savera Shami, faculty members and students attended the webinar.

Mian Farrukh Habib said that it was really a difficult task to convince people to follow SoPs against the novel coronavirus as our population had not accepted it. He said that it was a great challenge for the state institutions to curb spread of COVID 19 under the prevailing situation however, the government through smart initiatives has controlled the spread of disease and its efforts has been hailed by international organizations. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has established the National Command and



PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad attends a webinar on “Health Literacy and Public Policy of Pakistan in Covid-19” organized by PU Department of Development Communication in collaboration with Department of Digital Media.

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Implementation of effective communication strategies is necessary to create awareness and a sense of responsibility among citizens
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MIAN FARRUKH HABIB
STATE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

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The awareness messages must be tailored so that the understanding needs of individuals could be addressed in the true spirit of the messages
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DR NOSHEEN HAMID
FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Operation Centre to control this pandemic which made excellent decisions on the basis of data. He said that effective communication strategies and their implementation was a need of the hour to create awareness and a sense of responsibility among citizens. Government has launched various campaigns through TV channels, print media and digital media and involved various segments of society to minimize the spread of COVID 19.

Dr Nosheen Hamid said that there was a need to change lifestyle. She said that it was a big challenge to create awareness about a disease with correct information among the people. Therefore, the role of media and digital media became much important to achieve this goal. She said that whereas social media had so many advantages to quickly spread good information, it had a major disadvantage of spreading misinformation and misleading the public at large too. She said that it was necessary to give true information to the people and inform them about various facts on any issue timely. She said that the awareness messages must be tailored so that the understanding needs of individuals could be addressed for comprehension of the spirit of the messages.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad said that the government has played an active role to answer the challenge of COVID 19 with excellent strategies. He said that the higher education sector in Pakistan proved that it has the ability to solve any problems in the pandemic. He said that the higher education sector saved the precious time of the students by evolving and implementing various strategies. He said that the universities have also played their role to create awareness among the people about the disease. He appreciated the efforts of Dr Ayesha Ashfaq and Dr Savera Shami for organizing the seminar playing their role in this mission to serve humanity.

Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that it was very hard to convince a person believing in wrong remedies or having false information about a disease. Therefore, there was a need to launch campaigns through various channels especially digital media to create awareness among people with factual information about a disease.

Dr Savera Shami said that there was a need to strengthen linkage between the government and the universities to cope with the pandemic. She said that both the sectors should benefit from resources and abilities of each other as this was a must to cope with the pandemic covering all aspects.

Dr Ayesha Ashfaq stressed the need to launch advocacy campaigns to guide and convince the people against any misinformation. She said that false information and lack of health literacy about any disease could result in loss of precious lives so comprehensive efforts were needed to cope with this challenge. ■

Permanent resolution to Palestine issue urged

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad called upon the need to resolve Palestinian issue on permanent basis as ceasefire is not a solution and the human rights crisis may erupt anytime again. The issue of Palestine should be resolved according to the spirit of Two State Solution. He was addressing an international webinar titled "Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine:

The Way Forward" organized by Punjab University Human Rights Chair. Former spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Tasneem Aslam, President Charles University Prague Prof Dr Nico Carpentier, former Vice President Afghanistan Dr Sima Samar, Palestinian Refugee; Head PR & Media in Friends of Palestine Network Ms Leen Saleh, Cairo University, Egypt Dr Fatma Elzahara and Director Centre for Policy Research USM, Malaysia Dr Azeem Fazwan, PU PVC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar

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Muslim countries
never put
considerable
pressure on Israel
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TASNEEM ASLAM
FORMER SPOKESPERSON
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

and Human Rights Chair & Moderator Prof Dr Abida Ashraf and a large number of students participated in the webinar.

PU VC Prof Niaz said that this was the basic responsibility of the United Nations to resolve such issues among the states but the UN had failed to resolve issues of Palestine and Kashmir where gross violations of human rights and war crimes were being committed by Israel and India. He said that UN's Security Council met four times in a week on the recent Palestinian issue but could not even condemn Israel despite Israel had committed war crimes and openly violated Charter of Human Rights defined by the UN. Israel was committing genocide of Palestinians. Appreciating the



efforts of Human Rights Chair Prof Dr Abida Ashraf, he said that PU for the first time established the Human Rights Chair to highlight such issues being faced by humanity. He appreciated Prof Dr Abida Ashraf for actively playing her role for bringing human rights issues to the limelight and presenting solutions to the problems. He especially thanked international guest speakers for sparing their time to participate in the conference and express solidarity with Palestinians.

Tasneem Aslam said that 57 Muslim countries could not play the role they could have played in the recent Palestinian crisis. She said that now the Muslim countries were rich in natural resources and enjoyed strong military and economic power but they did not put any considerable pressure on Israel. She said that the US was openly supporting Israel and the UN efforts to resolve the Palestine issue has been fruitless.

Dr Carpentier said that the violations of human rights in Palestine could not be seen even. He said that he was deeply saddened by the killings of innocent children. He said that colonialism had badly abused human beings and common people had suffered a lot. He said that the Palestine issue must be resolved peacefully and human rights must be ensured at all cost. He also criticized the ban on press freedom.

Leen Saleh said that innocent Palestinians has been forced to leave their places and they were living a life of migrant in nearby areas. She said that Palestinian migrants has their lands but they don't have their home there.

Dr Sima Samar saluted the struggle of Palestinians and said that they were paying a very heavy price for their rights. She said that all the religions condemn terrorism and therefore Palestine issue must be resolved peacefully.

Prof Dr Abida Ashraf said that a ceasefire would not bring change in Palestine. She said that along with innocent civilians, journalists and human rights activists had also been targeted by Israel. She said that Israel did not accept the rights of



PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad and international speakers take part in a webinar on Palestine issue organized by Human Rights Chair.

Palestinian migrants living in Lebanon. She said that a permanent solution to the issue was the only way out to ensure peace and human rights in the region. Dr Fatma Elzahara, Dr Azeem Fazwan and others also spoke on the occasion. Later, a question answer session was also held. ■



PU rally condemns Israel



PUNJAB University administration on Friday took out a massive rally to express solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine and condemn the terrorism and war crimes committed by Israel. The

rally was led by PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed and was taken out from VC office to Gate No 2. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, President Academic Staff Association Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar, Secretary ASA Dr Amjad Abbas Khan Magsi, deans of various faculties, teachers, officers, employees and Christian community of PU also participated in the rally. The rally expressed anger over war crimes

and human rights violations by Israel in the illegally occupied Palestinian land. They chanted slogans condemning Israel's terrorism and carried Palestinian flags and banners to express solidarity with Palestinians. Addressing the rally, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed said that the success of ceasefire belonged to the valor of Palestinians, not to the United Nations as the UN even could not condemn Israel over killings of innocent civilians. He said that the UN had totally failed to handle this

issue in the recent crisis.

He said that the UN Security Council met four times but failed to condemn a small country which was openly involved in terrorism. He said that the issue of Palestine should be resolved according to the spirit of two-state solution. He said that Israel must vacate illegally occupied territory. He said that the Muslims would never compromise over the sanctity of the Holy places. He urged the Islamic countries to use their influence to settle the issue once and for all. He said that the Muslims must remember that they defeated Rome and Persia when they were nothing. He said that Pakistani

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Pakistani nation salutes
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PROF DR NIAZ AHMED

nation saluted the Palestinians who faced Israeli air strikes and missiles with stones. He said that the sacrifice would result in liberation of Palestinian land from illegal occupation of Israel. He said that Pakistani government and the nation would not disappoint Palestinians. He said that we stood with any innocent nations facing barbarism like the innocent civilians facing in Palestine and Indian Occupied Kashmir. ■



PU VC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad leads a protest rally of teachers, employees and students to highlight human rights violation by Israelis in Palestine. -Photo Credit: Sarfraz Ali