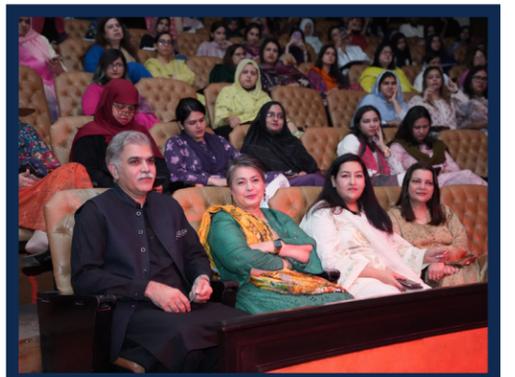




MONTHLY CONNECT

MARCH | 2026



#SurbulandUCP

Highlight of the Month



UCP–CNN Academy Strategic Partnership

University of Central Punjab has formalized a landmark partnership with CNN International, marking a historic milestone as the first CNN Academy initiative in South Asia. This collaboration is driven by a commitment to modernizing our curriculum and bridging the gap between academic theory and the fast-evolving media industry. By integrating newsroom-based learning modules and global training standards, we are ensuring our students develop the digital competencies and reporting precision required in today's global landscape.

A central pillar of this partnership is experiential learning. Through hands-on workshops and an intensive live simulation training conducted by the CNN team, students in Media, Journalism, and International Relations will tackle real-world breaking news scenarios. Upon completion, students will earn LinkedIn badges from CNN, providing them with a prestigious, verified credential that significantly enhances employability and opens doors to international professional careers.

The agreement was signed by Ms. Khadija Amer, Group Director, alongside the CNN delegation, including Walid Chamak, Yousef Alotaibi, and Sofia Saifi, in the presence of Prof. Dr Hammad Naveed (Pro Rector), Muhammad Yaqoob (Provost) University of Central Punjab.

Highlight of the Month



Highlight of the Month



International Women's Day

University of Central Punjab's Awaami Bethak on International Women's Day began with a drama performance, followed by a panel discussion on "Women, Power & Patriarchy in Pakistan." Guest speakers included Lubna Zeb Malik, General Manager Schools and Country Lead at KIPS School; Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, Vice Chancellor, GCWUF; Fatima Nasir, Pilot and CEO of Fuelbar, who shared their perspectives during the session.



Highlight of the Month



Highlight of the Month



Pre-Eid Celebration for IBTIDA Scholars

Distribution, creating a joyful and festive environment for its scholars. Provost Muhammad Yaqoob interacted with the students, sharing encouraging moments and spreading warmth. Gifts were distributed among the scholars, making the occasion memorable and filled with happiness.



University Events

Teaching Assistant (TA) Certificate Distribution Ceremony



Assistants (TAs) was held by the Faculty of Information Technology & Computer Science to recognize the efforts of student TAs. Heads of Departments joined the event and presented certificates to the students, acknowledging their contributions and work.

Ramadan, Quran aur Hum



Islamic Guidance Club's session on "Ramadan, Quran aur Hum" with Dr. Arif Rasheed, focused on the Qur'an and its role during Ramadan, guiding faculty, staff, and students to reflect on its teachings for spiritual practice and purposeful living.

Faculty of Languages and Literature's two-day International Symposium



Faculty of Languages and Literature hosted a two-day International Symposium on Digital Humanities and Corpus Research Tools. The sessions provided faculty and research students with hands-on experience in methodologies. Trainers from Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), China, guided participants through practical applications.

Department of Advanced Studies and Research

PhD Comprehensive Examination



Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted the PhD Comprehensive Examination across multiple disciplines and faculties, marking a significant academic milestone for our doctoral scholars. Faculty members and fellow researchers attended the session, which highlighted the dedication, perseverance, and scholarly commitment of the participants.

Nasir Mehmood's PhD Synopsis Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research organized Mr. Nasir Mehmood's PhD Synopsis Open Defense in Business Administration, under the supervision of Dr. Sami Ullah. He presented his research proposal before the defense committee, and faculty members along with fellow PhD scholars attended the session. The event concluded with a discussion and Q&A segment highlighting the relevance and significance of his proposed research.

Muhammad Waseem's PhD Synopsis Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Mr. Muhammad Waseem's PhD Synopsis Open Defense in Biotechnology, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed. He presented and defended his research proposal before the committee.

Shahid Mahmood's PhD Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies & Research conducted Mr. Shahid Mahmood's PhD Open Defense, who defended his dissertation titled "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Its Behavioral Outcomes: An Empirical Investigation into Compulsive Buying and Entrepreneurial Intentions," under the supervision of Dr. Raja Irfan Sabir. The defense panel included Dr. Muhammad Bilal Majid from the University of Lahore and Dr. Muhammad Sajid from Bahria University as External Examiners, while Dr. Nida Zaheer served as the Internal Examiner; the session concluded with a comprehensive and engaging Q&A.

Faculty Achievements

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh Participated in IWMI 7th WRAP Consortium Meeting on Water Governance



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh participated in the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Project Consortium Meeting, organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan in Lahore. The meeting brought together leading experts, researchers, and institutional partners committed to advancing sustainable water management and strengthening policy engagement. During the session, Prof. Dr. Farrukh highlighted UCP's innovative research initiatives, including a nanofiltration-based wastewater treatment plant and liquid nano-clay technology for desert irrigation.



Dr. Rizwan Shad's Participation in OBE Training at Baba Guru Nanak University



Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Shad was invited to Baba Guru Nanak University, Nankana Sahib, to conduct a specialized training session on Outcome-Based Education (OBE). The session brought together faculty and academic leaders to explore modern approaches to outcome-driven teaching, program assessment, and quality assurance in higher education. During the training, Dr. Shad shared practical insights on implementing OBE frameworks, aligning course learning outcomes with program objectives, and enhancing academic standards to meet national and international accreditation requirements.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Visited University of Lahore as an External Examiner



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed visited the University of Lahore as an External Examiner for the evaluation of a PhD thesis. The session brought together faculty and doctoral scholars, reflecting a strong culture of academic collaboration and a shared commitment among universities to uphold high standards in doctoral research.

Dr. Aatif Amin Visited Riphah International University as an External Examiner



Dr. Aatif Amin visited Riphah International University as an External Examiner for the evaluation of a PhD thesis.

in Medical Laboratory Sciences. The session brought together faculty and doctoral scholars, reflecting a strong culture of academic collaboration and a shared commitment among universities to uphold high standards in doctoral research.

Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal received formal acknowledgment from the Supreme Court of Pakistan



Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal from the Faculty of Science and Technology (FOST) received formal acknowledgment from the Supreme Court of Pakistan for his technical expertise in DNA analysis as a forensic expert. His contribution included providing critical scientific insights that supported the court's proceedings, reflecting his dedication to scientific excellence and the university's commitment to impactful research.

Dr. Madiha Khan secured PKR 6.667 Million HEC NRPUR Research Grant for Nanotechnology Innovation

Dr. Madiha Khan (Associate Professor, FOST) secured an NRPUR Research Grant for Nanotechnology Innovation Amounting: PKR 6.667 Million

Dr. Madiha Khan has secured a research grant of Rs. 6.677 million from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan under the National Research Program for Universities, where she will serve as Principal Investigator for the project titled "Development and Preclinical Evaluation of Phytochemical Loaded Nanocarrier Systems for Enhanced Wound Healing and Antimicrobial Resistance Mitigation"; the research focuses on developing nanocarrier systems for targeted delivery of natural phytochemicals to improve wound healing outcomes and address antimicrobial resistance.

Dr. Rabia Tehseen secured PKR 5.287 Million HEC NRPUR Research Grant for AI-Driven Water Quality Innovation

Dr. Rabia Tehseen (Associate Professor, FOIT & CS) secured an NRPUR Grant in AI-Driven Water Quality Innovation Amounting: PKR 5.287 Million

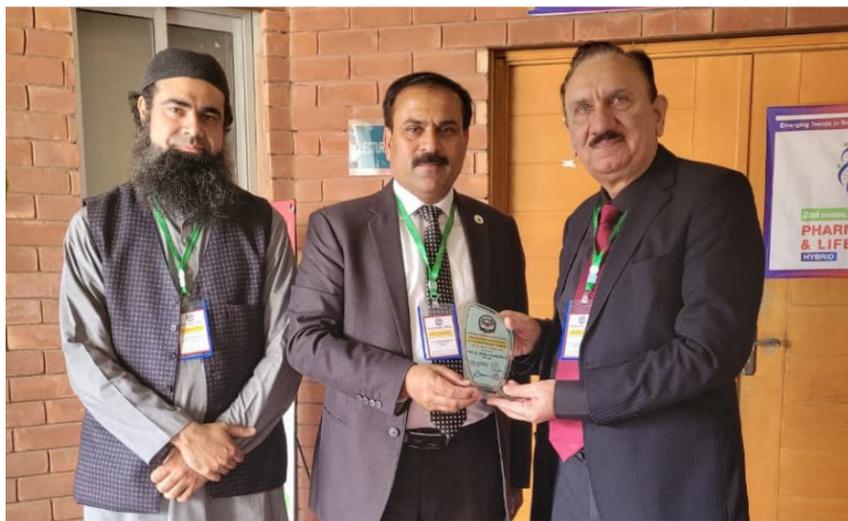
Dr. Rabia Tehseen secured PKR 5.287 Million HEC NRPUR Research Grant for AI-Driven Water Quality Innovation. Dr. Rabia Tehseen has secured a research grant of Rs. 5.287 million from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan under the National Research Program for Universities, where she will serve as Principal Investigator for the project titled "Smart Water Quality Evaluation: An AI Framework for Climate and Urbanization Challenges"; the research focuses on developing an artificial intelligence-based framework for assessing water quality to address the impacts of climate change and rapid urbanization.

Dr. Muhammad Pervaiz Represented UCP at Green Building Headquarters Briefing



Dr. Muhammad Pervaiz represented the University of Central Punjab at a high-level briefing hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab, held at the Green Building Headquarters, where representatives from UET, GCU, NESPAK, and COMSATS participated to discuss environmental control systems and green building initiatives; during the session, he presented UCP's projects, including Smog Buster Paint, Cooling Coatings, and Waste-to-Energy, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EPA Punjab and UCP was secured, while Director General EPA, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, acknowledged UCP's work and directed the formalization of the partnership.

Prof. Dr. Mahtab Ahmad Khan's Talk on Neurodegenerative Research at MAGCON 2026



Prof. Dr. Mahtab Ahmad Khan, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, delivered a talk at the Multidisciplinary Al-Aleem & Gulab Devi Conference (MAGCON 2026). During his session, he highlighted recent developments, key challenges, and innovative therapeutic approaches in the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, providing valuable insights to researchers and professionals in the pharmaceutical and medical fields.

University Meetings

UCP X NetSol Strategic Meeting



Saleem Ghauri, Founder and CEO of NetSol Technologies, met with the Muhammad Yaqoob (Provost, University of Central Punjab) along with team to discuss various initiatives and collaboration including Career Fest 2026. The session brought together academic and industry leaders to discuss innovative strategies for bridging the gap between education and employment. The discussion focused on the upcoming Career Connect platform, designed to create meaningful pathways for students into the corporate world. We are honored to receive Mr. Ghauri's endorsement and support, whose insights and encouragement reinforce our commitment to transforming education into employability.

UCP's Recognition at Creative Group's "Make in Pakistan"



Creative Group of Companies hosted a special session on "Make in Pakistan" to promote innovation and industry-academia collaboration. The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and academic representatives, where CEO Mian Sultan Mahmood recognized the contributions of the University of Central Punjab's Faculty of Engineering at the R&D facility of SkyPower Pvt. Ltd. Shields of recognition were presented to Mr. Shafi Ul Hassan, an 8th-semester Mechanical Engineering student, and Dr. Ali Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, for their contributions to product development and research collaboration. Distinguished guests included Chairman HEC Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir, Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, and Major (R) Javed Iqbal, President PIEDMC. From UCP, Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed and Dean Faculty of Engineering Dr. Rizwan Shad were also present. The collaboration between UCP and Creative Group, initiated in Summer 2025 under the Faculty Industry Partnership Program (FIPP), has enabled Dr. Ali Ahmad to lead several product developments while engaging students in five final-year projects and multiple internships. focused on the upcoming Career Connect platform, designed to create meaningful pathways for students into the corporate world. We are honored to receive Mr. Ghauri's endorsement and support, whose insights and encouragement reinforce our commitment to transforming education into employability.

Sports Achievements

University of Central Punjab won the Inter-University Hockey Championship 2026



University of Central Punjab has secured first place in the Inter-University Hockey Championship 2026, defeating Punjab University 3-1 in a thrilling final. The victory marks a significant achievement for the university's sports program and was celebrated in the presence of Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, Director Sports M. Arshad Sattar, and Assistant Director Sports M. Nouman Azeem, making it a proud moment for the entire UCP community.

Rayyan secured the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament award



Rayyan was awarded the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the Inter-University Hockey Championship 2026, reflecting his outstanding performance, skill, and contribution to the University of Central Punjab's championship-winning team.

M. Awais was named Best Player of the Tournament



M. Awais was named Best Player of the Tournament at the Inter-University Hockey Championship 2026, recognizing his remarkable performance, skill, and pivotal role in the University of Central Punjab's success.

Learning Innovation Centre

Ramadan Enrichment Session



Learning Innovation Centre's Ramadan Enrichment Session provided a reflective space for thoughtful dialogue, deeper understanding, and renewed spiritual motivation. Through the study of Qur'anic verses on fasting and engaging discussions, faculty and staff explored the purpose, wisdom, and spiritual essence of Ramadan, preparing to embrace the blessed month with clarity, mindfulness, and intention.

MoUs

FOITCS X Staunch MoU



Faculty of Information Technology & Computer Science has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with

Staunch to enhance industry-academia collaboration. The partnership will provide students with professional mentorship, internship opportunities, industry exposure, and career pathways, bridging classroom learning with real-world practice and aligning education with current market needs.

Industry Visits

University of Central Punjab's Strategic Visit to Airlink Communication Ltd.



A strategic visit led by Iftikhar Hussain, President of the UCP Alumni Association, took place at Airlink Communication Ltd., where the delegation met with Adnan Aftab, CEO of Select Technologies, to explore high-impact career pathways and growth opportunities for UCP graduates. The visit, led by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, Dean of Engineering Dr. Rizwan Shad, and Director of Innovation (Takhleeq) Yaser Awan, included productive discussions on industry-academia collaboration and a tour of the Xiaomi mobile and TV assembly lines, providing valuable insights into precision manufacturing and practical applications for students.

A Day-Out with Motorway Police



Students visited the Motorway Police facility for an experiential learning session focused on traffic management and road safety awareness. During the visit, officials briefed students on operational procedures, monitoring systems, and emergency response mechanisms. The interactive engagement provided firsthand insight into professional traffic regulation practices and institutional discipline.



Community Service

Iftar Drive for IBTIDA Scholars



IBTIDA UCP in collaboration with the UCP Welfare Society, Allah Wale Foundation, and VIS UCP, organized an Iftar drive for IBTIDA scholars, creating an evening filled with joy, togetherness, and compassion. The young participants were treated to delightful meals, sweets, and thoughtfully arranged Iftar, making the occasion truly memorable and reflecting the spirit of community and care.

Essar E Ramadan Series



UCP Welfare Society presented Esaar-e-Ramadan initiative, honoring the University's dedicated support staff. The event celebrated gratitude, unity, and the true spirit of Ramadan. Esaar-e-Ramadan Iftar Dastarkhwan brought the community together to recognize the tireless efforts of those who serve behind the scenes and highlighted the values of compassion, service, and togetherness.



Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization

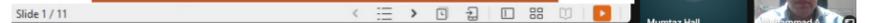
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh Presents UCP Nanomaterials Center at PHEC R&D Cluster on Minerals and Rare Earth Metals

Cluster of Minerals and Rare Earth Metals

Lead University Name: University of the Punjab

Partner Universities Names:

1. University of Central Punjab, Lahore
2. University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore



Research and Development (R&D) Cluster meeting on Minerals and Rare Earth Metals was convened by the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) to advance collaborative research and technological innovation in advanced materials. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Chairperson PHEC, and brought together leading institutions, including the University of the Punjab, University of Central Punjab (UCP), and University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore. Representing UCP, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Principal Investigator of the project, presented the progress of the "Center for Nanomaterials and Rare Metal-Based Advanced Technologies," highlighting ongoing research on advanced nanomaterials, rare metal resources, and their strategic environmental and industrial applications.

ORIC-UCP-IWMI Collaborative Meeting on Soil Moisture Sensor Development



Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization's meeting with the International Water Management Institute focuses on advancing UCP's initiative to develop an indigenous soil moisture sensor. The session is chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, Director ORIC, and includes a detailed presentation by Dr. Sarfraz Munir, Senior Regional Researcher at IWMI. He outlines traditional irrigation water monitoring methods and explains the working principles and efficiency of the Chameleon soil moisture sensor, encouraging in-house development to reduce reliance on imported devices. The meeting is attended by Dr. Fesal Toosy, Dr. Ali Ahmad, Mr. Jaleel Asghar Mirza, Dr. Rabia Tehseen, and Dr. Faiza Anum. Faculty members and researchers discuss opportunities for collaborative research focused on advancing water-efficient agricultural solutions.

Student Achievements

ACM-UCP Earned Top Community Partner Title at UMT Techverse Chapter 2



Fatima Aamir, President of ACM-UCP, was recognized as the Best Ambassador at UMT Techverse Chapter 2. The event brought together student communities and tech enthusiasts from various universities, where ACM-UCP also secured the Top Community Partner award, reflecting the chapter's outstanding engagement, impact, and dedication.

UCP Student Selected for Youth Summit 2026



Government of Punjab selected Fahad Waheed, a student of the Faculty of Law at the University of Central Punjab, as one of two delegates representing the province at the National Youth Summit 2026 in Gwadar, Balochistan. The summit brought together young leaders from across Pakistan to discuss policy, leadership, and youth development.

Rizq UCP Chapter Secured 1st Position in Volunteer Mobilization and Fundraising in National Ramadan Dastarkhwan Drive



Rizq UCP Chapter secured 1st position in Volunteer Mobilization and 1st position in Fundraising Excellence among 35+ chapters nationwide for the Ramadan Dastarkhwan Drive. This achievement reflects the collective dedication, commitment, and teamwork of our students.

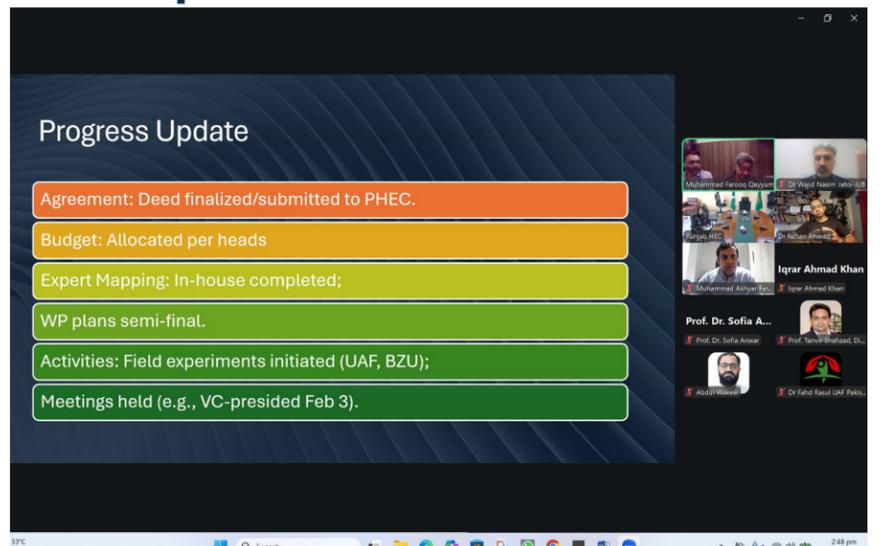
UCP Students Secured 2nd Position in Naat Category at Shahr Ul Rahma 4.0



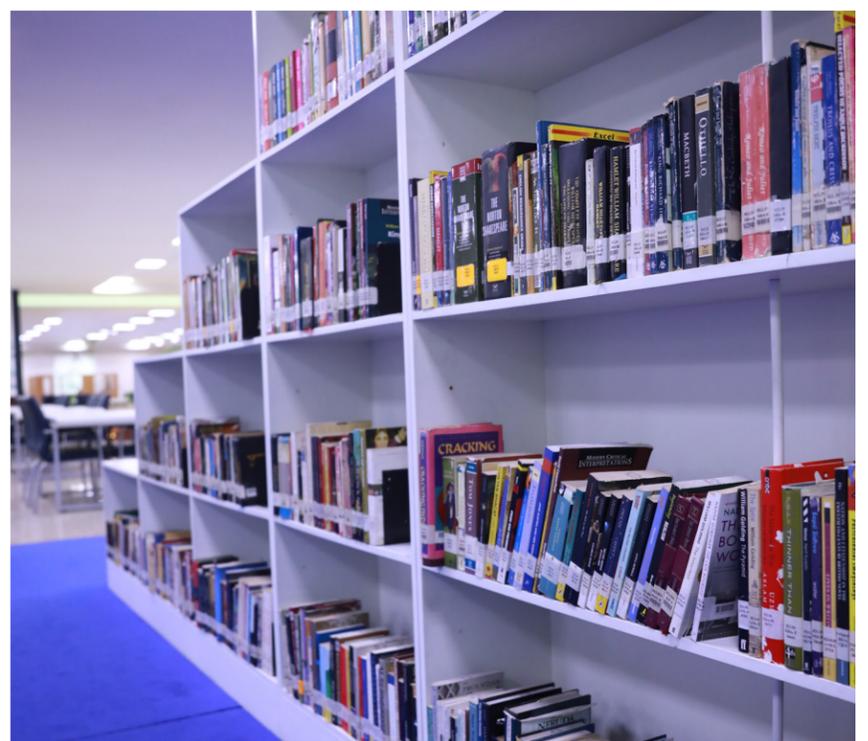
Ayesha Akbar secured 2nd position in the Naat category at Shahr Ul Rahma 4.0, organized by the IWAZ Task Force Club. Her soulful recitation reflected devotion and passion, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Faculty Meetings

PHEC R&D Cluster Meeting on Climate Change: UCP Leading Air Pollution Monitoring and Air Purifier Development



University of Central Punjab participated in the R&D Cluster on Climate Change, established by the Punjab Higher Education Commission, bringing together six universities to collaborate on environmental research initiatives across Punjab. The 4th cluster meeting was attended by representatives from all member institutions, where Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh presented progress on UCP's project, which focuses on PM2.5 air pollution monitoring in Lahore, investigating the causes and health impacts of smog, and the fabrication of air purifiers at UCP.



CPE's Conducted Trainings

Stock Exchange and Forex Trading



Master Class on Stock Exchange and Forex Trading was concluded after a 6-week learning journey, which brought together participants from different experience levels under the guidance of Mr. Zain Ul Abedien, an investment trainer and SOC Analyst at Patriot Consulting. The program covered Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) fundamentals, stock market operations, stock selection, risk management, and investment strategies during the initial weeks, followed by Forex fundamentals, trading strategies, and applications in the later phase. By the end financial growth and independence.



University Events

Identity Crisis and Purpose



Islamic Guidance Club's session on "Identity Crisis and Purpose" with Shaykh Shujauddin Sheikh (Ameer, Tanzeem-e-Islami) offered students a roadmap to find clarity in a confused world through Quranic guidance. The session encouraged participants to look beyond societal trends and reflect inwardly.





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