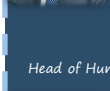


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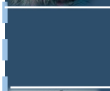
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Intro to the Team



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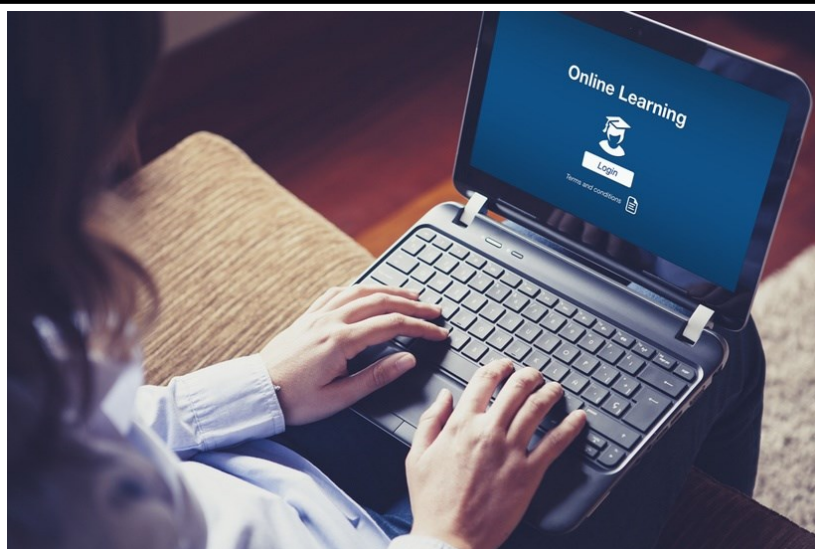
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Picture courtesy: Google Images

CUI Goes Online

By **Abdullah Zafar**

FA19-BMC

COMSATS University, along with the other universities of Pakistan was shut down on 16 March, 2020 due to the worldwide pandemic of the contagious respiratory disease- COVID-19, which entered Pakistan in February and spread rapidly.

As per Higher Education Commission's (HEC) instructions online classes were arranged in synchronous mode.

With the absence of electronic devices and lack of internet availability, a significant fraction of students faced difficulty in digital learning. According to Rukhsaar Maqsood, a student of Media Studies' Department, *slow internet connection has been the most common technical issue* which led to a bumpy of online classes.

Sharing her experience, Sana Gillani another student of Media Studies, stated....

Continued on page 4



By Zarnab Nadeem

FA19-BMC



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COMSATS University Islamabad sets an example to stand with the low salaried workers in this hour of need. To fight against this coronavirus pandemic, faculty members have donated a specific percentage of their salaries to the poverty-stricken daily wagers; to fulfil their family's daily requirements and allow them to go to bed well-fed.

This act of generosity has not only helped the impoverished but motivated the students to come forward and play their role towards the society as well.

The Hub of Media at CUI

By Mudassir Shabbir

SP20-BMC

The Department of Media and Communication at COMSATS University Islamabad, Lahore Campus, was founded by Mr. Sohail Riaz Rajah in 2018. His aim is to provide an interactive and intellectually challenging environment for the students to develop their critical and creative thinking skills. Students of the Media Studies Department at COMSATS are given the desired exposure to work as successful Electronic Media Professionals, Anchors, Journalists, Public Relations Consultant, Content Writers, Film and Theatre directors, etc. and this is what is different from students of Media Studies from other universities.

Students of Media Studies have successfully started their own society, -Media Innovation and Networking Tribe (MINT) at the campus. MINT organizes several



Mr. Sohail Riaz Rajah with Mr. Syed Noor, a famous Pakistani director, at the Department of Media and Communications.

co-curricular activities and informative seminars.

Through these seminars, students get the opportunity to meet experienced personalities, from the media who share their success stories and guide the students to achieve their goals of bright future.

Is Corona Virus Mother Nature's Way to Heal?

By Insa Atif

FA19-BMC

With more than 2.34 million cases reported worldwide, corona virus has transformed the world. In a matter of few months, thousands have died, millions have been affected, whereas for others, the way of life has changed completely.

Due to one-third of the world's population in lockdown, the streets have been deserted as the world practices social distancing and work from home. **International travel restrictions have been enforced which was earlier responsible for around 2 percent of the human-induced CO2 emissions.**

There has been a fair decrease in the usage of coal as the industrial and commercial hubs have been shut down. **The industrial sector including mining, manufacturing and construction has been contributing to more than 21 percent of the world's carbon dioxide production.** Not just carbon dioxide but nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions along with other pollutants have also been fading all around the globe since the implication of lockdown.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), 9 out of 10 people were previously breathing polluted air which was responsible for the death of 7 million individuals per annum. In Pakistan, with a complete halt in

public transportation, minimal use of private vehicles and limited industrial activity; the residents of different cities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Multan etc. are enjoying a drastic drop in air pollution levels.

"The lockdown seems to play a positive role in the change of air quality, less traffic being the main reason." says Samra Khalid from Computer Science Department.

For several years in a row, Lahore's air has caused respiratory and cardiac illnesses along with eye irritation to its residents. **The government and environmental experts have always been helpless in reducing level of air pollution but since the lockdown,** there has been a significant improvement in air quality.

Asifa Butt, a student of Software Engineering expresses: *"There has been a huge difference, the air feels much lighter and cleaner. It feels good to breath in clear air. It does not feel all smokey like before"*

However, the decline in emissions may change as the lockdown is lifted and economy starts to rebuild but **it is the time that we start to invest in clean energy and low carbon technologies.**

Although these changes might be temporary, nature is surely enjoying itself without us.

"Teachers do not teach the way they used to teach in the class. It does not provide a proper study environment. Students switch on their microphones which make it difficult to hear the teacher and then few unknown students sneak in the class creating further disturbance."

On the other hand, a noticeable number of students and faculty members have expressed their support towards this method. *"The whole world is going through a pandemic and we cannot bear such a huge academic loss during this situation"*, said Dr. Ilyas Ansari, a prominent visiting faculty member at the university. He believes that **time is precious and cannot be wasted by suspending the academic activities**. He further stated, *"Even during the World War I and World War II, the education continued regularly in the schools and universities throughout Europe. Bodies were lifted, utter damage was caused but the education was not halted"*

He understands the technical difficulties the students were facing but referred to the statistics of those students being less than half of the total population

"Even if 50 percent of the students are benefited by online learning, it is still better than nothing".

The students in favor of this idea have shown appreciation towards the flexibility of online learning and the punctuality of resource person's availability which eased this process of unfamiliar way of education. During lockdown period, they believe, it is essential to keep students engaged in academic activities to prevent them from the depression of staying locked indoors, without having anything positive to do. *"Online classes help our minds stay involved and distract us from the whole pandemic situation hence decrease our mental stress. Even though it is not quality education, at least we are able to learn something."* shared Jawad, another student of Media Studies and a

member of COMSATS Music Society.

Therefore, in this situation where the future remains en-

gulfed in uncertainties and hundreds of deaths have been confirmed, it is important for the students to continue their education as an educated youth is the base of a powerful country.

"The whole world is going through a pandemic and we cannot bear such a huge academic loss during this situation"

-Dr. Ilyas Ansari

By Saad Mansoor Malik
SP20-BMC

Missing Home?



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COMSATS university is a place that gives you a homely feeling and leaving home for this long is not easy at all. From the bus stop to the music room, students have created such a bonding among themselves that makes COMSATS a home. The mesmerizing architecture and blooming gardens are what COMSATS is certainly known for. Since we all are missing the university, therefore, we decided to revive and cherish a few memories and share with you.

Waking up each morning with a buzzy alarm and rushing to the campus to attend lectures especially the lecture in first slot at 8:30 AM is a nightmare for every student, but the juice corner whose chilled orange juice can energize you better than any

energy drink is what has always kept us zealous. Then, how can anybody forget the small coffee shop next to the cafeteria that resembles to the middle child of the family that no one cares about until you need it?

Hassan Abid from Media Department shared with us that *"The fresh and quiet pink tree in front of the sports room makes you feel lively even if you have class at 8:30 in morning."*

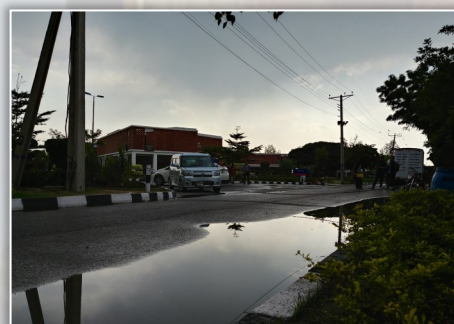


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Another student, Ayesha, from the Computer Science Department relives her memories while telling us: *"The aura of cafeteria and the joy of having cardamom tea with friends at café makes me feel that I am at the right place."*

Being surrounded by a variety of books at the library of COMSATS, ranging from chemistry to history to literature, is a dream of every book lover. Sitting in the private personal spaces and preparing for the quizzes and gossiping while studying in group studies' corner is another moment, we lived in. *"I miss being between the books"*, expresses Aimen Elahi from the Computer Science department as *"I used to spend my free time there reading my favorite books."*

The cooperative senior-junior relationship, the chapli kababs from the BBQ shop, the sports ground, the gossip sessions, the bunks are all little yet blissful memories can make you miss COMSATS at any time during the day.



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LITTLE ACTS OF KINDNESS CAN SAVE US

By Waleed bin Tariq

SP20-BMC

In order to see a progressive and fair world, the first step is looking out for others and doing the best in our capacity to help those in need. The main purpose of our life must be to make other people's life better with pure intentions and sincerity without any expectations of reward; only then our efforts will be fruitful.

During this pandemic, lockdown has become essential to protect us

from this novel virus but at the same time the lives of daily wagers and their families are being affected. Besides the efforts of government, being a part of the society, it is our duty to help those whom we know. From grocery to sanitization products to other daily necessities, it is our moral and social obligation to be supportive during this situation, both financially and emotionally.

Omaima Answer, from Media Studies Department, said: *"The percentage of poverty in our society gets higher day by day. Besides helping the needy people, we should also encourage our fellows to do the same."*

Being generous and benevolent will not only benefit the society but also the ones contributing towards it as it boosts self-respect and makes you feel the satisfaction that comes from giving. It also helps you find a purpose of living which can lead to massive success and positivity in life.

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."
-John Holmes

The best we can do is that donate some of our allowances to the poor and needy instead

of wasting money in a temporary cause. It may help someone live a better and healthy life.

Saulat Jahan from Computer Science Department talked to us about how we can donate a portion of our pocket money.

"We can form a group or a society in our class in which students would contribute a specific amount of charity according to their affordability."

Giving does not only connects us to others but also helps in creating stronger and happier societies.

The Best I can

I've been dreaming of ways, ways to get out
Put myself in a box that I'd never be
Someone I'm proud of you see
Here I am on this bridge facing defeat
I'm just doing the best I can
I'm just living in the life I have
I'm confused but I'm fine with that
The beauty will outweigh the pain
From the chill of the autumn wind
The beauty will outweigh the pain
We'll all find a purpose one day
There's so many reasons to stay
No I don't wanna die, just don't wanna live
Why can't I reach out for help
I'm so used to alone, don't know what it's
like
To let someone into my mind
But I'd do anything just to survive

Written By:

Saad Siddique

FA19-BMC

