

Cultural Day Celebrations at Bahria University Medical & Dental College Report

Sara Abbassi¹, Tahira Zamir², Hasan Ali³

Cultural day was organized in Bahria University Medical & Dental College (BUMDC) on 8th February, 2016. Students guided by the faculty, participated in organizing the cultural day celebration to highlight the importance of traditions related to different ethnicities of Pakistan with emphasis on unity. Cultural day events started in the afternoon around 2 pm in the grand campus auditorium. Honorable Director General BUMDC Vice Admiral (Retd) Tahseen ullah Khan HI (M) and Principal dental Section Prof. Zubair Ahmed Abbasi were the chief guests. The auditorium too was decorated according to the theme and presented an altruistic view. All the students and faculty were dressed in colorful cultural attires and were a joy to look at. Quite appropriately the event started with an instrumental note of National anthem by a group of students which was electrifying and received a standing ovation from the audience. The anthem was followed by a marvelous medley song sung by five students dressed in cultural apparel representing the national theme of four provinces of Pakistan. The cultural songs were heartwarming and audiences cheered with all their heart. The epitome of this performance was when the performers sang the patriotic song "SOHNI DHARTI ALLAH RAKHAY" together. It was definitely a fitting end to the medley as it embodied the unity of our nation proud of their individual culture but together for each other in the name of this Sohni Dharti Pakistan.

The medley was followed by the Declamation contest which was delivered both in Urdu and in English. The participants put forward their opinion on whether "BASANT"; the spring festival celebrated primarily by Kite flying; should be condemned considering the death

toll during kite flying annually or celebrated as a national tradition as it has been going on since ages. Arguments from both sides were flawlessly delivered, each supporting their school of thought with out of the box reasoning. Although everyone did a splendid job but only 2 students could be awarded, one being Wardah Zainab (English) and the other was Zeenat Junaid (Urdu). In contrast to the heavy thoughts of declamation contest a singing performance was followed which included amazing vocals of Sana Safdar, Aqib Javed, Abdul Malik and Nimra. All the singers delivered spell bounding performances on folk songs from different culture including Jugni, Qarara Rasha, Danay pay Dana, Sufi poetry by Shah Latif. Thought provoking poetry, soul touching melodies and powerful vocals were enhanced by great string work on guitar by Abdul Hadi. All the performances received applause and cheers from the audiences.

As soon as the singers left the stage students dressed in rural get up start rolling in with "charpai" and all other kind of props. So the stage was all set for a short paly which were produced and performed by students of Drama and Art society. The whole play revolved around the stereotypical behavior of parents from different cultural backgrounds considering education, marriage by self-choice or mingling with the people of other cultures as taboo. The crescendo for the play was when a person belonging to Kashmiri background, asked all the other culture people that why are you fighting for dominance? This is not what we are struggling for in Kashmir. Kashmiris are fighting for the Pakistan which was the vision of Quaid- e -Azam, a united and proud Pakistan in which every ethnicity and religion maintained its identity freely but was united and harmonious with each other.

The somber message from the play was shaken by the greatest aspiring vocals of Guest Music Band lead singer Waqar and spell bounding performance of his colleague on sitar. Sitar being the symbol of south Asian culture was never played this beautifully at least in BUMDC premises. Sitar segment was indeed the most melodious moment of the event.

The highlight of the afternoon came from the most surprising dimension. It was a Gilgit Baltistan folk dance performance by the duo Fahmeed and Hassan and it was mind blowing. As the song of Gilgit Baltistan, which was played prior to the performance said, "Mohtaj kahan-pehchan k hain, ham Gilgit Baltistan k hain". This folk dance performance and the performance just swept all of the audience from their feet.

Lastly a singing competition which was candidly named as Bahria Idol was held which had 6 competitors. And

✉ **Sara Abbassi**
4th year MBBS student
Bahria University Medical and Dental College
Karachi
E-mail: sara_abbassi2000@yahoo.com

✉ **Dr. Tahira Zamir**
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacology
Bahria University Medical and Dental College
Karachi

✉ **Dr. Hasan Ali**
Professor and Head
Department of Biochemistry
Bahria University Medical and Dental College
Karachi

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what a treat for ears it was. But as all competitions were dealt, winner was only one so Amina Javed bagged the title of Bahria Idol this time. Shields were awarded to the winners by the Honorable Director General BUMDC Vice Admiral (Retd) Tahseen ullah Khan HI (M). With indoor event coming to the end focus was moved to the outdoor events.

The parking ground of BUMDC was temporarily made into a rural “Mela” like environm-ent. There were stalls for food representing different cultures and games and handicraft from all the provinces. Stall from Sindh was decorated with “Ralli ”and “Ajrak” and a variety of embroided clothes. Live “makkai di roti” and “sarson da saag” was getting served at Punjab stall. KPK boasted the appetites from traditional “Chai and Paratha ” and “Chapli kebab”. Balochistan stall was colorfully decora-

ted with handicrafts and artifacts from the region. And how can the national gastronomical sensation “Biryani”, “Gol Gappa”, “Kulfi” be forgotten. More urban taste buds were satisfied by a steady supply of pizza and shawarma.

The event concluded, although with a heavy heart, at around 11 pm. The whole day was filled with festivities, patriotism, and unity and how can we forget pure fun and joy. Without a doubt the event was a smashing success and it would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the faculty and the students who took time out of the most hectic schedule of medical and dental education and played there part in making this event a success hence paving the way for many others to come.



Sindh Stall



Balochistan Stall



KPK Stall



Punjab Stall



Skit Presentation



Folk Dance Gilgit Baltistan



Debate Competition



Singing Competition



Melody Performance



Games Stall

