



## GCU Quarterly

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### General Raheel Sharif visits his Alma Mater

General Raheel Sharif, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), visited his alma mater Government College University Lahore and interacted with the students and faculty members, to revive his old memories. He visited various parts of his institution specially those parts where he had spent his days as a student. While paying rich tributes to both the faculty and administration of the University for their role towards grooming and honing our youth, COAS said that GCU has always played a pivotal role in producing a stream of scholars, scientists, artists and intellectuals of international acclaim, who have contributed immensely in their respective domains.

The COAS emphasised on the youth to always focus on 3Cs (Character, Courage and Competence) and strive for honour and dignity through hardwork and faith in Allah. COAS while expressing his optimism of a brighter future of the country, said that Pakistanis are a great nation and our real asset. He said operation Zarb-e -Azab has laid a strong foundation for peace and progress of the country and the student can play an important role towards taking Pakistan to new heights.



### British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visits GCU Lahore

“I am very excited about the CPEC idea, and I would like UK firms to participate in the construction of this fabulous venture,” Mr. Boris Johnson, British Foreign Secretary said while speaking to students and faculty of the Government College University (Lahore). He also said “But this should be part of an even more ambitious vision that would revive the ancient Silk Route and see the rebirth of trading caravans connecting East and West.”

He appreciated the development in various sectors, and mentioned that Pakistan has made a huge progress in recent past. This civilian government took over from another civilian government in a manner that was peaceful and constitutional. But, of course, we all know that Pakistani citizens continue to face a grave threat from terrorism. He said he felt that as a result, this nation’s ambition had too often been held back by rivalry and mistrust. And coming here today, and talking to people, I am increasingly confident and that this will change. “My message to you all is that Britain wants to be with you to make this journey. I believe that bilateral trade between our two countries is not enough given our closeness. Earlier, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah welcomed Mr. Johnson, took him to a tour of the campus and apprised him about the traditions and excellence of 153 years old educational institution and its role in development of Pakistan.



### HBL Donates Rs. 5m to GCU Endowment Fund

Habib Bank Limited donated five million rupees to Government College University Lahore, Endowment Fund Trust for initiating scholarships for the university’s financially-challenged students. The Bank’s President, Mr. Nauman K. Dar, handed over the donation cheque to GCU-EFT Executive Committee Secretary Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt at a graceful ceremony held in the Syndicate room.

Briefing the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Khalid said that trust would initiate five perpetual golden scholarships from the donation which would be given to financially challenged students every year on merit. This is the second time that HBL has donated five million rupees to GCU.



### GCU in Collaboration with Punjab HEC Organized a Seminar for Paying Tribute to Eqbal Ahmad

Speakers of seminar at Government College University Lahore called for materialising the dream of late Eqbal Ahmed, a prolific writer, journalist and political scientist, of establishing Khaldunia University as the state-of-the-art centre of liberal arts in Pakistan where freedom of speech, tolerance and open transmission of ideas would be encouraged.

The seminar entitled “Eqbal Ahmed: A Citizen of the World” was organised by the Quality Enhancement Cell under the auspices of Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) to pay tribute to the anti-war activist who had been a rare combination of academic excellence and intellectual Skepticism, globally admired and consulted by activists as well as policymakers and academics. The speakers said that Ahmad’s life experiences shaped his political views. He grew up amidst the turmoil of postcolonial India, worked along side the Algerian National Liberation Front in their fight against the French occupation, and later became a prominent spokesperson for



peace between Israel and Palestine.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin, Chairman PHEC said that Khaldunia remained Eqbal Ahmad's living dream and the focus of his considerable energies till the end of his life. He said that the commission would take up this project with the government.

In his key note address, Prof. Richard Anderson Falk, an eminent American Professor Emeritus of international law at Princeton University, USA said that there was a need for universities which produce global citizens having empathy, respect and love for every nation of the world irrespective of their faith, cast, colour and creed. He also discussed in detail the life struggle of Ahmed, his political and academic views and interesting incidents from their longstanding friendship.

The speakers said that Ahmed was a fierce opponent of imperialism and advocated democratic transformations in postcolonial and third-world societies. Whether writing on the rise of militant Islam, the conflict in Kashmir, U.S. involvement in Vietnam, or the cynical logic of Cold War geopolitics, Ahmad offered incisive and passionate analyses of the major political events and movements of the second half of the twentieth century.

Talking about the writings of Eqbal Ahmed, Iram Sohail, Director QEC, quoted American philosopher, Noam Chomsky, "it is a fascinating experience to view major events of the past half century through Eqbal Ahmed's discerning eye." Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali from University of Texas, Austin also addressed the seminar which was attended by a large number of faculty members, guests and postgraduate students from different universities.



### GCUDS Clinches 270 Oratory Awards

The Government College University Lahore Debating Society once again showed its excellence as it bagged 270 national oratory awards during the academic year 2015-16. The 270 laurels include 50 coveted team trophies, 9 runners-up trophies, 2 third-position trophies, 93 best speaker awards, 65 second-position awards, 48 third-position and 3 consolation prizes, which were won at various declamations, parliamentary style debates, recitation and poetry competitions at the national level.

The speakers of GCUDS have always shown their mettle time and again in English, Urdu and Punjabi languages. This year, however, the society took special initiatives to promote languages like Saraiki and Pashto by introducing internal competition as well as winning national level awards in the regional languages.

Prof. Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated and commended the young speakers for their active participation and dedication. He applauded their efforts to promote the importance of co-curricular activities in addition to conventional curriculum and promised to be highly supportive so that society can continue to play a pivotal role in shaping intellectual landscape of students.

"The GCUDS outshined every other institute in Pakistan both in declamation and parliamentary style of debate."

Mr. Awan said that Ravian orators this year stamped their seal of competence at prestigious educational institutions all over Pakistan including PAF Academy Risalpur, FCC Lahore, Scouts Cadet College Batrasi, Lahore School of Economics, University College Lahore, University of Gujrat, University of Sargodha, Sadiq Public School Bhawalpur, UET Lahore, King Edward Medical University, Allama Iqbal Medical College. The society also managed to win an overwhelming member of 52 positions in the CM Speech, Debate and Essay writing competitions.

The President GCUDS, Muhammad Afzan Munir, attributed the successful year to the unflinching support and patronage of the Vice Chancellor.





### Hungarian Envoy Addresses Seminar at GCU

The Hungarian Counsellor, Mr. Sandor Mihalko, addressed seminar on “Hungary-Pakistan-EU Relationship’ at GCU”. Mr. Mihlako said that Pakistan and Hungary have “non- problematic diplomatic relations for the last 50 years and Hungary is supporting Pakistan fight against terrorism and meet energy crisis”. He urged the need to enhance mutual trade and strengthen academic relationships between both the countries. He also said Hungary offered 240 scholarships to Pakistani students. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor, said that GCU greatly honours its founding father, the Hungarian national, Dr. Gottlieb. W. Lietner. The seminar was organized by the office of Academic Planning & External Links.

### Chinese Students Study Pakistan Affairs at GCU

A students' delegation of China University of Geosciences (CUG) Wuhan arrived at the Government College University Lahore on a two-week study tour. The delegation comprised ten postgraduate and undergraduate students was cordially received by the Vice Chancellor. The Chinese students, led by Prof. Dr. Xie attended a two week short course at the university's Department of Political Science on Pakistan Studies. The delegation visited the historical places in Lahore besides attending various cultural events. Dr. Butt, Director China Study Centre said that the delegation was part of an exchange programme under memorandum of understanding signed last year between GCU and CUG. He said that five GCU students would visit China for research this year. Prof. Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that the university would provide maximum facilities to the Chinese students. He said engagement with Chinese students could help GCU students to learn about Chinese culture and language.



### British Academics Visit GCU

The academics from 20 universities of the United Kingdom visited the Government College University Lahore to explore the prospects of academic and research collaborations. The delegates also met Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor and discussed various academic and research programmes offered by the university. The visit was arranged by the Punjab Government in collaboration with the British Council to strengthen ties between educational institutions of Pakistan and UK. Punjab Minister for School Education, British Council Director Mr Kevin McLaven, University of Health Sciences Maj. Gen. (r) Prof. Muhammad Aslam, UET Lahore Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, University of Education VC Prof Dr Rauf-i-Azam and heads of different other leading educational institutions of Punjab were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shah said British Council had played a key role in bringing the universities and academics of both universities closer. He stressed on initiating different student and faculty exchange programmes between British and Pakistan universities in the areas of natural and social sciences. He said that security situation is much better in Pakistan, and they warmly welcome the foreign students in different academic and research programmes. He also briefed the delegates about the rich history and traditions of GCU which had completed its 152 years academic excellence. Representatives of Cranfield University, University of Essex, University of Bradford, University of Warwick, University of



Glasgow, Sheffield Hallam University, The University of Law-De Broc, University of Exeter, University of Southampton, University of Lincoln, University of York, Middlesex University London, University of Dundee, Scotland, University of Strathclyde, University of Manchester and University of Kent were part of the delegation.

### On-campus Awareness Campaign against Breast Cancer at GCU

The Quality Enhancement Cell at Government College University Lahore (GCU-QEC) celebrated the Pink Ribbon Youth Awareness Day in collaboration with the Pink Ribbon International to raise awareness among the university's female students and staff members about the breast cancer.

"Pakistan has the highest rate of this cancer in the whole of Asia, but unfortunately there is not much awareness in our society about the disease," said Ms. Iram Sohail, Director QEC, while addressing the on-campus awareness campaign which was followed by a walk and poster exhibition. The campaign was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor while Director Research Prof. Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq and Registrar Mr. Saboor Khan were also participated in awareness campaign.

Talking to media, Iram Sohail said, one of the main objectives of today's on-campus awareness drive was to eliminate social stigmas attached to the Breast Cancer. She said that October was marked as Breast Cancer Awareness Month all over the world and QEC at GCU had been organising a mass awareness campaign for the last few years for its female population to make them aware about precautions, self-examination methods, and treatments of the breast cancer.

A poster exhibition on the breast cancer was also part of awareness drive. About 20 posters were put on display at the university's Minhas Art Gallery to sensitise the people to support Pink Ribbon drive for saving thousands of women dying from the Breast Cancer every year in Pakistan.

The posters, made by the student of Department of Fine Arts, were inscribed with motivational and awareness messages for the Breast Cancer patients and their families who go through immense grieve and devastation.

### GCU Establishes Anti Narcotics Society

The Government College University Lahore announced establishing "Anti-Narcotics Society" to involve its students in combating the increasing use of drugs among the educated youth, especially in elite institutions, through awareness and support of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Punjab. "Students just get involved in these negative activities in their own race of modernization and socialization, said Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, while addressing an on-campus walk against the "Drug Abuse" organized by the university's Dunning Chemical Society and ANF Punjab.

Those who participated in the walk were the ANF Punjab Force Commander Brig. Khalid Mehmood Goraya, noted comedian and social worker Iftikhar Thakur, veteran TV actor Rashid Mehmood, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Adnan, Chairperson, Department of Chemistry, Saboor Khan, Registrar and a large number of social workers, faculty members and students.

The Vice Chancellor said that their students will work as youth ambassadors and support for ANF Punjab for eradicating this menace from all the educational institutions of the province. Prof. Shah said that GCU, besides focusing on academics and research, actively involved its students in co-curricular and sports events which kept them away from negative activities.

Addressing the participants of the walk, Brig. Khalid Goraya, highlighted that the number of drug addict teenagers especially in private colleges and universities were increasing day-by-day which needs to be checked. The Force Commander also explained their efforts to control and stop drug trafficking particularly across borders. He educated the youth about different kinds of prevailing Narco-Dugs, their ill effects on health and role of students in eliminating this menace.



Iftikhar Thakur and Rashid Mehmood also held that modern lifestyle was the root cause of drug use among the youngsters. They said the culture of drug has devastating effects on the society, therefore parents and teachers have important role to play for saving the youth from this menace.

### 14th National Symposium on Frontiers in Physics at GCU Lahore

The 14th National Symposium on Frontiers in Physics began at the Government College University Lahore with the deliberations on challenges for Pakistan in the field of science and technology, especially in the world where every now and then, new specializations emerge, opening new frontiers leading to new technologies.

"We need to change our investment priorities with a greater focus on education, research and development," said the eminent nuclear physicist and COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan in his presidential address at the inaugural ceremony of the Symposium.

A large number of physicists from universities and R&D organizations participated in the three-day mega event consisted of 23 technical sessions where researchers highlighted the fascinating developments in the world of physics and their impact on human lives. The COMSTECH Coordinator highlighted the research output of Pakistan in the different fields of science and technology and compared it with other countries of the world especially OIC member states. He said that Pakistan had a very low number of research patents, just 978, while Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia have 2724 and 4258, respectively. He said due to insufficient investment and wrong educational priorities, Pakistan's labour productivity is also very low in comparison to Iran, Turkey and Indonesia. In his opening remarks, noted Plasma Physicist and Mathematician Dr. G. Murtaza, the Professor at Slam Chair, GCU said that the world of science is witnessing rapid developments and the knowledge was accumulating at very fast rate, unlocking the deep mysteries of nature.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor said that "for the knowledge-based economy, we need to invest in it." He also pointed out the shortage of skilled human resource in different fields of science and technology. He mentioned that the symposium would provide an opportunity to their young students to interact and learn from the senior physicists. Eminent theoretical physicist Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ali presented a key note address on "The Standard Model of Physics - one of the greatest achievements of the century".

The three-day symposium was organized by the GCU Salam Chair and Pakistan Physical Society in collaboration with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Centre for Advanced Studies in Physics (CASP), at GCU Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), COMSTECH, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), University of Peshawar and Khan Research Laboratories (KRL).



### GCU Wins UET Model United Nations Debates

The Debating Society of GC University Lahore won the team trophy of Model United Nations Debates hosted by the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore. The top educational institutions from all over Pakistan including LSE, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Kinnaird College participated in the three-day event spread over seven sessions. UET Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid awarded the team trophy to GCU Debating Society. According to details, the United States of America, represented by team GCU, won the Best Delegation Award at the UET-MUN 2016. Individually, Shahryar Malik won the Best Delegate Award while Saqib Yaqoob, Hannan Asghar, Mukaram Ghafoor and Huzaifa Ali won the Outstanding Diplomacy Award. Rabia Javed, Sarmad Wali Khan and Ahmad Ali Chughtai were awarded with the Honourable Mentions, The Vice Chancellor congratulated GCU team on their extraordinary performance in the UET-MUN.

## GCU Shines in HEC Sports Gala

The Government College University Lahore won the Lahore Board Inter-Collegiate Gymnastics and Badminton Championships 2016 besides securing third positions in Inter-Universities Athletics and Squash Championships 2016 organised by Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

The GCU team stood first in Inter-Collegiate Gymnastics Championship 2016 by clinching four of six gold medals. While, the Punjab College and Islamia College Civil Lines Lahore secured the second and third positions respectively in the contest which was organised by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Lahore. Syed Noor Khan from GCU was declared the Best Gymnast 2016, while Arab Jan and Abdul Wakeel also secured gold medals.

The Vice Chancellor and Director Sports congratulated the Ravian sportsmen on their excellent performance.

## Poster Exhibition by Biological Society at GCU

"Global warming is the global warning" inscribed on one of the posters at the Inter-Departmental Poster Competition organized by the Biological Society, Government College University Lahore to sensitize the students about the environmental issues.

About 34 posters were displayed by the students of different departments on six different themes including Progress at Nature's Expense, Biodiversity/Wildlife Conservation, Global Warming, Dwindling Water Resources and Renewable energy resources. The posters were titled with catchy phrases such as "Earth screams", "Act before the nature reacts", and "No pollution is the solution" to attract the students.

Naveed Mushtaq and Arif Ullah from Department of Zoology secured first position in the competition and were awarded cash prize. Farah Iqbal and Khadija Saeed from Psychology Department stood second and Rabia Zahid from Department of Zoology won the third prize.



## International Conference on Inter-Regional Connectivity

The Government College University Lahore organized a three-day international conference on "Inter-Regional Connectivity: South Asia and Central Asia" to discuss the vitality of inter-regional connectivity and explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

25 foreign experts from Russia, China, Nepal, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, UK, Singapore, Italy, Germany, Singapore and USA participated in the conference and debated on geopolitics of corridors, building economic and political linkages, energy security, sociocultural connectivity, peace and security-centric cooperation among the South and Central Asian states. About 72 research papers were presented at the six technical sessions of the conference.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor GCU said that Post-Soviet Central Asia was once again ready to revive historical legacy, wherein focus was on building politico-economic linkages and strengthening of cultural ties. He added, it was equally imperative today to launch joint ventures to quell the rise of terrorism, militancy, and religious extremism for sustainable peace and development in the 'heart of Asia'. He highlighted that geographical proximity, historical affinities and socio-cultural propinquities were significant means to bridge the gap of connectivity. However, he pointed out that new framework of inter-regional connectivity was a 'win-win situation' for both regions.

Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, said that phenomena of inter regional connectivity in Asia was need of the time and a way forward for South and Central Asian states, wherein they could gain more through cooperative interplay.

The conference was jointly organised by the Department of Political Science and Centre of Excellence, China Studies in collaboration with both federal and provincial Higher Education Commissions.





## Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan Performs for Foreign Delegates at GCU

Eminent Sitar player Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan, the inheritor of grand tradition of Ustad Sharif Khan Ponchwala, performed at the cultural evening organized by the Government College University Lahore in the honour of foreign delegates who participated in the university's three day international conference on "Inter-regional Connectivity: South Asia and East Asia". Eminent singer and Old Ravian, Shafqat Ammant Ali Khan, was the chief guest at the cultural evening where folk dance and music were performed by the students of Nazir Ahmed Music Society (GCU-NAMS).

Besides playing some of the most popular raags like darbari, jaijaiwanti and bahiraveen, Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan also performed a fusion with German rhythmist Victor Marvin, a virtuoso on electronic music instruments. The fusion and Sitar performance met with applause especially by the Chinese delegation who said Sitar resembles their traditional Chinese music played by Chinese Zither or Chinese Guzheng.

Addressing the foreign delegates, Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan said that he always tried to use the music and the instrument to capture the feelings locked in his heart and to convey them to the audience and his fans. He appraised that it is a matter of great pride for him to perform at the historical and prestigious institutions like GCU. Shafqat Ammant Ali Khan also paid glowing tribute to Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan for his valuable contributions to the classical music. He hoped that Ustad Sharif Khan, though settled in Germany, would visit Pakistan more often and patronize the classical music in the country. Inam Ullah Khan, the son of legendary singer Ustad Hamid Ali Khan also performed at the cultural evening attended by more than 40 foreign delegates and many other guests.

## GCU Delegation Visits Iqbal's Mausoleum

A delegation of students and teachers from the alma mater of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Government College University Lahore, visited the Iqbal's mausoleum to pay homage to the great Old Ravian Philosopher on his birth anniversary. The delegation, led by Dean Faculty of Languages, Islamic and Oriental Learning Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid and Dean Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Dr. Raiz Ahmed, offered fateha for the soul of the great national poet philosopher and laid a floral wreath.

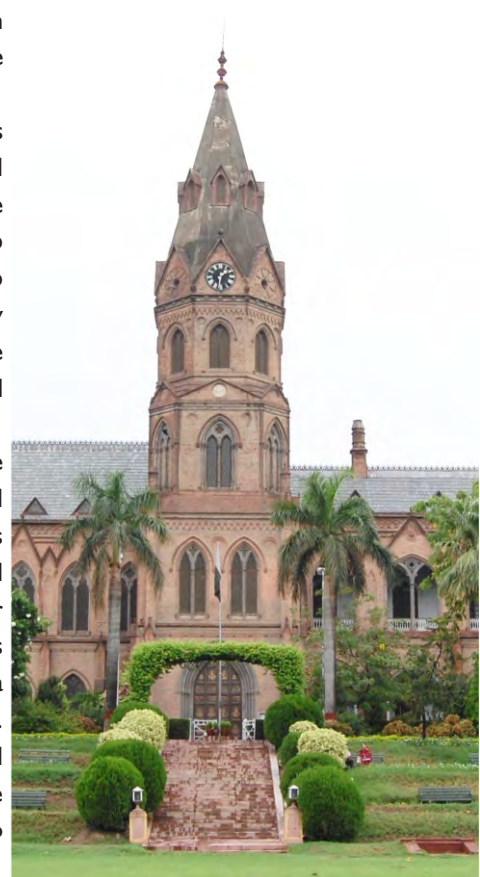


## GCU Organize 36th Allama Iqbal Declamation

"You don't have the right to remain silent", was the focus on the 36th All Pakistan Allama Muhammad Iqbal Bilingual Declamation Contest, held at the Government College University Lahore.

"It's not the Presidential Debate or any other political debate, but as far as content, confidence and clarity are concerned, the level is far above, and pertinent references to all the contemporary conflicts could not escape from the arguments, wit and humour of these best national orators, said Syed Raza Aftab Gillani, the President of the GCU Debating Society. He mentioned that top educational institutions including Punjab University, Pakistan Air Force Academy Risalpur, Kinnaird College, Lahore College for Women University, Cadet College Larkana and Government Degree College Quetta contested for the coveted team trophy at the two-day event spread over three sessions.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor and GCU patron said "We are thrilled with the performance of all debtors who have come from nook and corner of the country including Baluchistan to participate in this prestigious competition." He mentioned that the All Pakistan Allama Iqbal Bilingual Declamation contest is a regular annual feature of GC since 1980. He further added that this year a tough competition among both English and Urdu orators yielded to Best English Speaker with the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medal and a cash prize while the Best Urdu Speaker awarded with Dr. Majeed Nizami Medal. The Government College former Principal, the late Prof. M.A Khan introduced Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medal with a donation of Rs 500,000 in 2007. The University Debating Society initiated the Dr. Majeed Nizami Medal in 2013 to pay tribute to the services of the eminent Old Ravian journalist.



## GCUDC Wins Drama Competition

The Government College University Lahore Dramatics Club won three distinctions including the 'Best Play Award' at the All Pakistan Drama Competition 2016 titled 'NUKTA'. Twenty One universities from across the country participated in the competition organised by the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad. GCU student, Mariam Hassan Naqvi received the title of the best female actor while GCUDC was also awarded with the "Best Direction Award". Ali Nawaz, Jazib Akram, Mariam Hassan Naqvi, Habeeb ur Rehman, Shahrukh were the members of the award winning team. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah congratulated the winning team members on their extraordinary performance at the Contest.



## Panel Discussion on "Self-Actualisation and Authenticity"

The Department of Philosophy, Government College University Lahore and Brett Philosophical Society organised a panel discussion on a highly crucial topic of "Self-Actualisation and Authenticity" at the university's New Meeting Rooms in connection with the World Philosophy Day. Prof. Mirza Ather Baig, eminent philosopher and writer, chaired the panel discussion which was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor and Dr. Alwin Vincent Murad. Speakers at the panel discussion said that the ideals of self-actualisation and authenticity could not be achieved without hard-work and struggle.

Dr. Sobia Tahir, the head of Department of Philosophy said self-actualization and authenticity had remained the long standing ideals and goals of human life, and man had been perusing these since time immemorial using numerous means i.e. religion, spirituality, philosophy, art or literature. However, Dr. Sobia believed that these ideals were not only unachievable without hard-work and struggle but also empty and insignificant. "Self-actualization and authenticity may not be sought in utter meaninglessness or vacuum; some value must be assigned to them which one may strive with conviction, dedication and pleasure," She emphasized that self-actualization and authenticity should never be separated from praxis.

In his key note address, Prof. Baig conceptually grounded the topic in multiple perspectives and opened up various dimensions for the development of the discussion. He pointed out how the movement towards and away from the "Self" has impacted various vistas of thought in the western philosophy from René Descartes (1596-1650) to post modernism.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor agreed with the philosophers that without hard-work, dedication, determination and perseverance, the Being is never authentic no matter how intellectual and scholarly he/she is.

## GCU Signs MoU with Beijing Foreign Studies University, China



GCU signed MoU with Beijing Foreign Studies University, China. The BFSU China, a leading university in language studies offering more than 100 language courses & programs, agreed to extend its academic cooperation in indigenous and foreign languages & literatures taught at GCU. The agreement, arranged by APEL office, was signed on December 13, 2016. Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Dr. Hassan Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that CPEC will have a significant influence on both Chinese and Pakistani cultures and therefore, academia has to perform its role to cultivate intellectual grounds for these changes. BFSU Council Chairperson, Dr. Han Zhen showed special interest in developing Urdu language courses with GCU Department of Urdu.

## Floral Art at GCU

The amateur artists from different colleges and universities of the provincial capital used the floral art as a medium to highlight the environmental issues and promote sustainable use of plant waste materials at the 'Dry Flower, Shirt Painting and Posters Competition 2016' at the Government College University Lahore.

Around 140 students from different educational institutions including Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Education University, Government College Gulberg, MAO College and some private universities participated in the competitions organized by the GCU Horticulture Society at the Abdus Salam Hall. Students competed in three different categories in the Dry Flower Contest; Centre Table, Corner Table and Wall Hanging. Posters were displayed on two themes; 'Desertification' and 'Save the Earth'.

The Vice Chancellor said "The talented students have taken the classical floral art to a new level. They have used plants' waste materials, and blended the contemporary trends of floral art with the innovative ideas to raise awareness about suitability and environmental challenges," Prof. Shah appreciated the dry flowers artwork of the students. He said development was necessary but development at the cost of nature was not worth it.

Speaking at the occasion, noted landscape designer Mustafa Kamal said that Punjab Government is investing millions of rupees on horticulture in Lahore. He appreciated the efforts of the students of various colleges and universities.

## GCU Commemorates Sacrifice of APS Martyrs

The students and faculty members of Government College University Lahore commemorated the sacrifice of martyrs of the Army Public School by a solidarity walk against terrorism and extremism. Prof. Shah said "Education must be focused as it has a major role in fight against terrorism,"

The Vice Chancellor pointed out that terrorism could not be eliminated without fighting extremism, thus Pakistan needs an education system which has a reach to all children of the country and could inculcate in them tolerance and harmony. He also stressed that need to curriculum reforms at the primary and secondary levels of education, stating that GCU had held multiple policy dialogues in which there was a consensus among the academics journalists and intellectuals that the last sermon of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and 11th August speech of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah should be comprehensively made part of school level textbooks. Prof. Shah said that the APS incident united us as a nation against terrorism and extremism.



## GCU Celebrates Christmas

The Government College University Lahore faculty and staff members celebrated the Christmas with the university's Christian community at Salam Hall which was especially decorated in traditional style with Christmas lights, balloons, flowers, wreaths and a Christmas tree. The Vice Chancellor, Deans cut the Christmas cake with the university's Christian staff, students and faculty members.

Speaking on occasion, Dr. Alwin Murad said that Christmas is a time of delight, sharing the joys and sufferings of others, acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation, celebrations and promoting love and peace. He mentioned "Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most."

The Vice Chancellor said GCU had always stood out for promoting tolerance and religious harmony. He remembered that the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam, had unequivocally declared a policy of equality, security and freedom for all communities living in Pakistan, irrespective of their religion, caste, colour and creed. He added "If we want peace in Pakistan, we must eradicate extremism and develop tolerance towards the beliefs, faith, race, religion and ideas of other people,"



## Breast Cancer Awareness Drive Begins

Leading actor Maya Ali, addressed the inauguration of three-day breast cancer awareness campaign by the ShaukatKhanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) at colleges and universities, called for breaking social stigmas and myths attached to the women's diseases like breast cancer.

The three-day campaign began from Government College University Lahore with an awareness seminar which was also addressed by the oncologist Dr. Kashifa Ehsan. The seminar was organised by the Quality Enhancement Cell, GCU in collaboration with the SKMCH&RC.

"Girls, it's your life, make a promise to yourself to take care of yourself. And, the first step in this journey is that you must be aware about yourself" Maya Ali told a large gathering of young female students at the university's Bukhari Auditorium. She told the students that in their youth they could not even talk to their parents about the feminine health issues due to lack of awareness. "But girls, you are really lucky that you are being given so much awareness about your health issues and life," Maya Ali asked the students to work as volunteers in their families to raise awareness among their female family members about the breast cancer.

Addressing the seminar, Ms. Iram Sohail, Director QEC at GCU said "breast cancer is not just a disease that strikes at a woman; rather it strikes at the very heart of all those who are associated with us; our children, our family etc". She further added that from a cause, the cancer awareness has gradually evolved into a mission for GCU QEC since every year they organised many awareness campaigns and seminars about this potentially fatal disease. She said health and educational institutions were needed to be more focused and should come out with more awareness campaigns and seminars in the country where one in nine women were expected to be treated for invasive breast cancer.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kashifa Ehsan focused that there is frightening increase in the ratio of breast cancer in Pakistan, and recent statistics show that every ninth woman in the country is at the risk of suffering from this fatal disease. She told the GCU female students about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and methods of self-examination which is very helpful in early detection of this disease in young girls and women. In reply to question from a student, the clinical oncologist said that all women were at risk of developing breast cancer, while the factor that put some women at greater risk was family histories of breast cancer, non-healthy food and lazy lifestyle.



## GCU's Dr. Ikram ul Haq Wins ISESCO Award

The Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization awarded "ISESCO Prize in Science and Technology 2016" to Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq, the Professor Emeritus of the Government College University, Lahore, in recognition of his contributions to the field of Science and Technology. The award includes a certificate, gold medal and a cash prize of \$5,000.

Prof. Haq, a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz and two international awards, was invited to Bamako, Republic of Mali, to receive the award at the "8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research".

Prof. Dr. Hasan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated Prof. Haq on winning the prestigious award. Prof. Haq is considered one of the most productive biotechnologists of Pakistan.

He was declared the most productive scientist of Pakistan many times and Best University Teacher, once in last decade. He has over 300 national and international publications and five books on his credit. He is the founder Director of the Institute of Industrial Biotechnology at GCU and also served as Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology.

