

## GCU Quarterly

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#### *Inside this Issue*

- ✓ GCU Turns 154
- ✓ One Day Workshop on Fluid Dynamics
- ✓ Old Ravians Beat VC XI by 24 Runs
- ✓ GCU Students Design Advertisement Campaigns
- ✓ 15th National Symposium on Frontiers of Physics Held At GCU
- ✓ GCU Holds Blood Donation Camp
- ✓ GCU holds seminar on "looking back – how Pakistan became an Asian tiger by 2050"
- ✓ 'Indo-Pak partition history distorted for nationalist purposes'
- ✓ GCU achieves another milestone
- ✓ Seminar on Punjabi Literature
- ✓ Cancer awareness seminar held at GCU
- ✓ The Mustafa Mohyuddin Syed Memorial Fund Donated Rupees 2.5 Million GCU-EFT
- ✓ PHEC, GCU organize condolence reference for Munno Bhai
- ✓ Performing Arts Festival at GCU
- ✓ GCU celebrates Chinese New Year
- ✓ International Conference on the Role of Botanical Garden held at GCU
- ✓ Tehran University signs MoU with GCU
- ✓ Memories of Pre Partition Punjab remembered at GCU
- ✓ Ghazal & Folk Night at GCU
- ✓ GCU Organize 118th Annual Sports Gala
- ✓ Awareness Seminar on Drug Abuse held at GCU
- ✓ GCU organize staff cricket tournament 2018
- ✓ GCU orators shine at CM debates contest
- ✓ Awareness walks on "World Fisheries Day" at GCU
- ✓ Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed paid glowing tributes
- ✓ LUMS, UCL win GCU parliamentary debates



## GCU Turns 154

The Government College University, one of the oldest seats of higher learning in Pakistan, completed 154 years of its academic journey. Founded on January 1, 1864 in the Haveli of Raja Dhyani Singh in the Walled City Lahore as liberal arts and Science College, the College (now University) served as a nourishing stream to hundreds of generations of talented students. The history of Government College written by former principal Prof. H.L.O. Garrett describes that GC was the first seat of liberal education in North-Western India. One of the major institutional objectives of GC Lahore was to acknowledge the local intelligence and to instil a widespread academic and scholarly spirit. Among the initial nine enrolments, Mr. Sanjhi Mall walked out of the College as the first graduate in 1868.

The College was initially affiliated with the Calcutta University as there was no university in this part of the sub-continent at that time. It was raised to the status of University in 2002 and was renamed as "Government College University" Lahore. From first principal Dr. G.W. Lietner to fourth Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, as many as 30 heads have served this great institution.

Talking to media at the Founders' Day, Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah expressed gratitude to the long list of illustrious Principals, Professors and students whose hard work and efforts brought this great institution to its present position of eminence. He mentioned that GCU had been a citadel of higher learning where ideals of tolerance and coexistence flourished with commitment.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that the biggest challenge, which GCU had been facing for last many decades, was of space for initiating new academic programs. "I hope, in 2018, this issue would be resolved to some extent, as the first phase of university's new campus at Kala Shah Kaku is near completion," he added.

## One Day Workshop on Fluid Dynamics

A workshop was held at Government College University on "Fluid Dynamics" under the auspices of its Mathematics Department. About 70 participants from different universities including University of Engineering and Technology Lahore and GC University Faisalabad participated in the one-day event chaired by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor.

In his inaugural address, Chairperson Department of Mathematics Prof. Dr. Mujahid Abbas said that the goal of this workshop was to bring mathematicians and students together to discuss the emerging research problems, ideas and methods to explore new areas of research, so as to enhance progress in understanding and sharpen their skills. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the Mathematics Department for holding such workshops.

## Old Ravians Beat VC XI by 24 Runs

The Old Ravians Union's XI beat the Vice Chancellor's XI by 24 runs at the festival cricket match at Government College University Oval Ground. The Old Ravians, under the captaincy of former Test cricketer Salim Malik, decided to bat first after winning the toss. Mr. Najam Sethi, the Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board was the chief guest at the cricket match, which was also attended by former test cricketers Abdul Qadir and Haroonur Rasheed, Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor, Kazi Afaq Hossain President ORU and Prof. Ikram Ul Haq Chairman Sports Board.

Mr. Najam Sethi said that he had played a lot of cricket at the Government College in his youth. He also remembered many sportsmen who played cricket with him at GC and some of them later made it to the test team of Pakistan. He mentioned that there was not much money in cricket at that time, but there was extreme level of dedication and hard work in the cricketers. He also pledged to provide GCU, his alma mater, full support for





the training of cricketers and provision of other facilities including cricket ground.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Old Ravians Union for organizing a colourful match, saying that they would bring in a tougher team next year.

Mr. Salim Malik said that GCU was one of the finest sports nurseries for producing top sportsmen for the national teams, and had been maintaining its tradition of excellence in sports since 1947. He said playing for Old Ravians as former alumni of GC was proud moment for him. The Director Sports GCU Mr. Khadim Ali Khan said that GCU is providing ample sports facilities to the students and had been wining various sports.



### GCU Students Design Advertisement Campaigns

The outgoing batch of Fine Arts Department at GCU put on display the advertisement campaigns on social issues and brands as their final projects. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the exhibition at the University's Minhas Art Gallery. As many as 17 final year students of Bachelor in Fine Arts (Hons.) displayed their projects which comprised of complete advertisement material including press and electronic media advertisements, calendars, pamphlets and social media pages for the promotion of their brands and raising awareness about social issues.

The Chairman Department of Fine Arts said that the art work was either manual artwork or digital, creativity, imagination, technical knowledge and aesthetic sense are imperative for an artist. He mentioned that the models were also the GC University students. He highlighted that this was the third outgoing batch of Bachelor in Fine Arts programme, and there was not a single student in the previous batches who didn't get job before the final examinations.

The Vice Chancellor praised the students efforts and said that advertisement campaign was a key behind the success of any product. He mentioned that all the students had adopted a comprehensive approach for the promotion of their products and separately designed targeted campaigns for social media and general campaigns for electronic and print media.

### 15th National Symposium on Frontiers of Physics held at GCU

The 15th National Symposium on Frontiers of Physics held at Government College University with deliberations on new technologies and challenges for Pakistan in the field of science. "For the knowledge-based economy, we need to invest in it," said Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor in his inaugural address at the Symposium. A large number of physicists from Pakistan's leading universities and R&D organizations participated in the three days event. The symposium covered over 27 technical sessions on different topics including condensed matter physics, high energy particle physics, nanotechnology, cosmology, atomic & molecular physics, lasers, plasma physics & controlled fusion. About 82 physicists presented their papers highlighting the recent important developments in physics and the impact of these developments on various aspects of lives.

Prof. Dr. G. Murtaza, the Salam Chair and noted plasma physicist and mathematician at GCU, mentioned in his opening remarks that the world of science was witnessing rapid developments and the knowledge was accumulating at very fast pace and physicists are making great progress in uncovering the deep mysteries of the nature.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Shah highlighted the achievements of Government College University and mentioned that two Nobel laureates Prof. Abdus Salam and Prof. Har Gobind Khorana were alumni of this university. He appreciated the efforts of Prof. G. Murtaza for organizing the symposium every year. Prof. Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, eminent physicist presented the key note address on neutron stars. He explained the process of neutron stars formation and how at the end of its life. A session of the symposium was also dedicated to the scientific contributions of Prof. Abdus Salam.

The symposium was organized by the Salam Chair at GCU in collaboration with the Pakistan Physical Society, Punjab Higher Education Commission and Pakistan Academy of Sciences.



## GCU Holds Blood Donation Camp

The Government College University students and faculty members donated 120 pints of blood for children suffering from thalassemia at a camp organized by the university's Blood Donor Society (GCU BDS) and Fatimid Foundation at the university's sports Hall. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor visited the camp and appreciated the efforts of GCU BDS. The Vice Chancellor advised the organizers to ensure that the blood was transfused to the thalassemia patients after proper screening as per the best medical standards. He also urged the Fatimid Foundation to provide the donors reports of their blood tests.

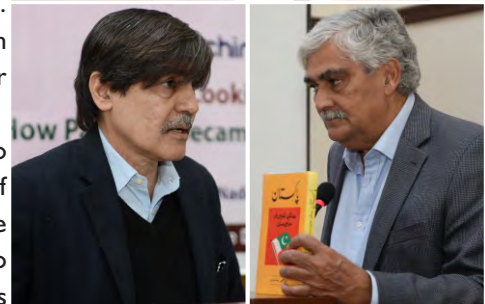


## GCU holds seminar on "looking back – how Pakistan became an Asian tiger by 2050"

Speakers at the seminar on book titled "Looking Back – How Pakistan became an Asian Tiger by 2050" said that political competitive forces and political governments to worry about the delivery of services for the public and not just grandiose projects. The seminar was organized by the Department of Economics for the deliberations on the fiction written by eminent economist Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque. The book imagines Pakistan as a developed country by the year 2050. The United Nations, which sets up a commission in 2051 to understand Pakistan's development model, narrates the story in the book. Besides Dr. Haque, Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran, a renowned historian, and Dr. Anjum Nasim, Professor, Mehboob-ul-Haq Chair GCU also addressed the seminar which was chaired by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor.

Talking to students about his book, Dr. Haque said that he had tried to materialize a reform structure for economic, social and political development of Pakistan. "My focus was on quality of governance, vibrant markets, quality of life and energetic youth with a strong community system," he explained. He also talked about the complexity theory mentioned in his book, saying that "now is the time to integrate various actors following the bottom up strategy." He emphasized upon the institutional capital and innovative ideology as a key to development of new Pakistan. He pointed out that colonial structure had been in place in the past and were still responsible for extracting gains by both civilian and military governments. The author stressed upon 'building of institutions' was mainly required for initiating reform in the society.

Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran also suggested that experts must deliberate upon the pitfalls in the system by analysing the previous policies rather than remedying the fiscal deficit.



## 'Indo-Pak partition history distorted for nationalist purposes'

Speakers at the panel discussion on book titled "The Punjab Bloodied, Partitioned and Cleansed" said that the history of partition of India in 1947 had been distorted in both the countries for nationalist purposes which amplified the religious intolerance in the societies.

Eminent historians and academics participated in the panel discussion organized by the Quaid-e-Azam Political Science Society of Government College University. The book, written by Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Swedish Professor Emeritus Stockholm University, shed light on the events of partition through the secret British reports and oral history. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor chaired the panel discussion which was also addressed by the eminent scholars while Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmed responded to the queries of speakers and participants about book.

This is the second edition of the book which marked the 70th anniversary of the partition of Punjab. It includes more poignant accounts by eyewitnesses, survivors, and even participators, each uniquely reflecting the tragedy of partition. Dr. Yaqoob Bangash, an Assistant Professor of South Asian History at IT University Lahore, said that bloodied movement or process of cleansing the society from minorities begun at the time of partition, but later it could never be stopped, and with a passage of



time, it took the shape of a sectarian movement. He also highlighted the conflicts between the oral history and archival history of partition.

Dr. Ali Usman Qasmi from LUMS stated that the partition of India in 1947 resulted in the biggest forced migration of about 14 million people in the history of which 10 million were from Punjab were forced to migrate. He also talked about the violence on women in 1946-47 and how that affected the women later on. "Though historians failed to narrate this violence, but at least some masterpieces of Urdu literature has highlighted these experiences," he concluded.

Dr. Saima Iram Urdu fiction writer and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Khawar Punjabi literature critic also addressed the panel discussion and talked about the amount of diversity in the book. Two witnesses of the partition Rana Muhammad Azhar Khan and Sheikh Hameed Ali Tanveer also addressed the event and shared their stories. A question answer session was held at the end of panel discussion.



### GCU achieves another milestone

The Government College University has made it to the Times Higher Education Asian University Ranking 2018; stood among the only 10 universities of Pakistan who made it to this coveted list. According to the official announcement by the Times Higher Education, the GCU Lahore's strongest pillar was International Outlook, while its weakest pillar was Industry income, and it ranked 351+ among all Asian universities.

The universities are judged across all of their core missions – teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons. The GCU Lahore in last July was also ranked 1001+ in worldwide rankings by Times Higher Education. However, in the worldwide list, GCU had stood 683<sup>rd</sup> on the basis of its International Outlook among all the world universities.

"We have been sending data to Times Higher Education and QS for the last many years, but it was the first time in July 2017 and second time in February 2018 that GCU Lahore is listed among international universities due to increase in its PhD faculty, number of professors and associate professors, research output and admissions to international students," said Ms. Iram Sohail Director, Quality Enhancement Cell while sharing the news with media.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that besides giving international recognition, these rankings helped universities understand their weak and strong areas. He said unfortunately industry in Pakistan had not yet developed an aptitude to invest in research and innovation, which was the major reason for the gap between industry and academia. However, he stated that Department of Chemistry had hosted an international conference last month on industry-academia linkages to bridge this gap. Prof. Shah hoped that GCU's ranking would further improve in 2019. He called upon the government to provide funding to GCU, saying that their challenge is to improve quality and ranking while remaining affordable to the students.

### Seminar on Punjabi Literature

The Government College University held two literary events including a seminar on Punjabi literature which was addressed by the eminent London-based Punjabi poet Mazhar Tirmazi, the writer of famous poem "Umran Langian Paba Bhaar". Another renowned Punjabi poet and essayist Amarjit Chandan presented his poetry at the seminar chaired by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah at the Physics Seminar Hall.

Earlier talk organized by Safdar Mir English Literary Circle (ELC) on "The Pakistani Canon: Context, Criticism and the Making of the Pakistani Anglophone Literature" by Muneeza Shamsie, a renowned critic, scholar and short-story writer. Ms. Shamsie spoke on the evolution of Pakistani literature through decades. She highlighted the works of various eminent Pakistani authors and poets in English literature. On the occasion, Chairperson Department of English Mr. Siddique Awan said that besides western literature, the department also taught the Pakistani literature, written in English language, to its students.



### Cancer awareness seminar held at GCU

Speakers at the seminar highlighted a need to sensitize youth about their health, saying that inactive lifestyle, unhealthy diet, smoking, alcohol and lack of exercise multiplied the risk of fatal diseases especially the cancer. The seminar was organized by the Department of Zoology in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) in connection with the World Cancer Day. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah chaired the seminar which was also addressed by the eminent oncologists Dr. Usman Rashid, Capitan Dr. Kashifa Ehsan and Dr. Aftab Ahmed.

The Vice Chancellor told the students that a healthy mind and body was the most precious gift which can only be protected by adopting an active and healthy lifestyle. He mentioned that GCU regularly organize seminars and lectures on health related issues to create awareness and sensitize the students about their health. Dr. Kashifa Ehsan stated that there were 200 different types of cancers which killed more than one million people every year around the globe. However, she explained that 30-50% of cancers could be prevented by adopting a healthy and active lifestyle. She pointed out that smoking and unbalanced diets were the major cause of cancer. She asked the students to daily exercise for minimum 20 minutes along with the balanced diet, heavy in fruits and plant-origin foods. She emphasized that there was lack of awareness in Pakistan about cancer, and mostly cases were reported at a later stage. Dr. Usman Rashid and Dr. Aftab Ahmed also briefed the students about different forms of cancer; their symptoms and treatments. They asked the students to act as volunteers in their families and educate their relatives about this dreadful disease.

The seminar was followed by free mammography screening of GCU senior female staff and faculty members by SKMCH through the hospital's mobile unit.

### The Mustafa Mohyuddin Syed Memorial Fund donated Rupees 2.5 million GCU-EFT

The Mustafa Mohyuddin Syed Memorial Fund donated rupees 2.5 million to Government College University Endowment Fund Trust (GCU-EFT) for the scholarships of financially-challenged students. Ms. Rukhshanda Wasif and Ms. Rafia Hussain, the trustees of the memorial fund, handed over the donation cheque to the Vice Chancellor at a graceful ceremony at the university, where GCU-EFT trustees Mian Misbaur Rehman & Mr. Zia Haider Rizvi, and Executive Committee Secretary Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt were also present.

Ms. Rukhshanda Wasif said that they had great trust in working of GCU and its Endowment Fund. She also pledged to support the university in future for the scholarships of deserving students. Ms. Rafia Hussain also appreciated the transparency and working of GCU-EFT.



### PHEC, GCU organize condolence reference for Munno Bhai

A condolence reference was held at Government College University to pay tribute to the services of eminent drama writer, columnist and poet Munir Ahmed Qureshi, popularly known as "Munno Bhai". Noted poet Amjad Islam Amjad, art professor Ms. Salima Hashmi, noted playwright Asghar Nadeem Syed, veteran human rights activist Mr. I.A. Rehman, columnist Tahir Sarwar Mir, Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin Chairperson PHEC, and close relatives of Munno Bhai addressed the condolence reference which was held under the auspices of Punjab Higher Education





Commission (PHEC) at the university's Bukhari Auditorium.

Highlighting different aspects of Munnu Bahi's life, I.A. Rehman said that he had a special ability to observe political and social issues from different angles beyond the common perception which helped him writing amazing columns on daily basis for more than 63 years. He said it would take decades to research, understand the literary and political writings of Munno Bhai. While cherishing his long friendship with Munno Bhai, Amjad Islam Amjad said that he was so artistic in his depiction of ideas that he presented very harsh and sensitive topics in humorous yet insightful way. "He was a master of soft-criticism," he added.

The Vice Chancellor said that Munno Bhai was a very versatile person; he wrote poetry, plays and very popular Punjabi poems. He was a humanist and always used his pen to support the down trodden and dedicated last years of his life serving thalassemia patients. "He should be served as a role model for the younger generation," he concluded. Chairperson PHEC paid a rich

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Asghar Nadeem Syed said that Munno Bhai was the most loved person in his contemporary literary circle. His dramas like Sona Chandi provided a window to understand the sufferings of a middle class family. His collection of columns "Jangle Udas Hai" depicted his empathy for the trivialized and marginalized people of the society. Saleema Hashmi detailed about Munnu Bhai's friendship with her husband Shaoib Hashmi and father Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

Noted writer Dr. Saadat Saeed said that real literature was one which transforms society; Munno bhai was among the prominent progressive writers who worked for change; his writings were for the empowerment of common people. A short documentary was also screened about the life and services of Munno Bhai on this occasion.

### Performing Arts festival at GCU

As a part of its Mental Health Week celebrations, Dr. Ajmal Psychology Society of GCU organized the Inter University Performing Arts Festival on the theme of "Psychology of Religion and Culture". Students from different universities staged plays and mimes and highlighted the role of spirituality in the mental health recovery and wellness of humans.

The festival opened with mime performance titled "Gorakh Dhandha" by the students of Department of Psychology GCU which depicted the concept of Sufism and the experience of ecstasy. It showed individual quest for the divine and its manifestation in various Muslim cultures. The students also staged an adaptation of eminent writer Ashfaq Ahmed's play "Sayeen Aur Psychiatrist". The students from COMSATS Lahore staged an English play "Kindness is my religion".

The students from Department of Applied Psychology Punjab University presented a play titled "Religion and Cultural crisis" which highlighted the conflicts among the different cultural and religious groups in their university. The University of Central Punjab performed a play "Baanjh" which exposed the conflicting attitudes of the society towards male and female infertility. A seminar on Radicalization was also part of five-day Mental Health Week celebrations at GCU.

## GCU celebrates Chinese New Year

A festive ceremony was held at Government College University to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor was the chief guest at the ceremony organized by the Centre of Excellence, China Studies (CECS). The day-long festivity was marked by the Chinese music and pictorial cultural exhibition whereas large number of Chinese teachers and businessmen residing in the provincial metropolis also addressed the ceremony and briefed the participants about the Chinese culture, customs, lifestyle and traditions.

The Vice Chancellor said that celebrating and observing other cultures helped them understanding their own. He said that strong people to people contact would surely open new vistas of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. He also greeted Chinese teachers and businessmen attending the ceremony on their New Year.

Ms. Li Herong, a Chinese language teacher at GCU, said that Pakistanis are very loving, and Chinese were also very happy and secure while working here. The Chinese New Year celebration was followed by cake cutting and heartfelt blessings were delivered to the Chinese people by students of GCU.



## International Conference on the Role of Botanical Garden held at GCU

The timeline of climate change was too fast to consider current human efforts for conservation and their response: nor even we have much time to adapt to these changes by changing the way we looked at things, stated by Mr. Kamil Khan Mumtaz, a renowned architect of Lahore and heritage conservation expert while addressing the inaugural ceremony. The fourth international conference on "Role of Botanic Gardens in Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation" was held at the GC University Lahore. Mr. Kamil Khan Mumtaz and renowned environmentalists addressed the conference which was called for multiplying and intensifying the human efforts for conserving plants biodiversity. Besides participants from all provinces of Pakistan, environmentalists from Egypt and USA also participated in the conference. As many as thirty (30) research papers were presented at conference on themes of drought and plant water relations, seed bank, species selection for urban greening, forest conservation and environment friendly technologies.

Eminent American botanist Prof. Dr. Mary E. Barkworth also addressed the opening session and highlighted the importance of technology for protecting biodiversity. She briefed the participants about her project of digitalization of plants data through her open software.

Dr. Amin U Khan, a distinguished professor at GCU and bio-conservation expert, said that plants conservation was becoming increasingly important as the threats to plant diversity had intensified. Botanic Gardens don't have enough resources for achieving the objectives of Global Strategy of Plant Conservation (GSPC), so they need a wide range of support from governments, NGOs, scientific, technical and educational institutions, businesses and industries, communities and individuals. He also shared his personal experiences from different conservation projects in Pakistan, saying that it was essential to incorporate alternative models based on adaptive management and trans-disciplinary science in order to actually solving on-the-ground problems. On this occasion Dr. Amin U Khan also presented his new booklet, Jahangeer the conservationist, about Hiran Minar.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that environment protection was their collective responsibility, so every individual and organization should play its role for it. He proudly shared that this was the seventh international conference in GCU in the last few years. The three-day conference was organized by the Pakistan Botanic Gardens Network Secretariat (PBGNS) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission, World Wildlife Fund and Botanic Gardens Conservation International.





## Tehran University signs MoU with GCU

The Government College University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Tehran, Iran for academic and research cooperation in the discipline of Urdu Literature. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor and Chairperson Department of Urdu Literature University of Tehran Dr. Muhammad Kiou Marsi signed the six-point accord at a ceremony organized by the Directorate of Academic Planning and External Links (AP&EL) GCU at the University's Syndicate Room. The Dean Faculty of Languages Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, Registrar Mr. Saboor Ahmed Khan and Chairperson Department of Urdu Dr. Khalid Sanjrani were also present.

The Vice Chancellor said that higher education and research had become highly advanced and multidisciplinary, and it was no more possible for a single university to have all the expertise, equipment, facilities and research material. He emphasized that GCU was actively strengthening research and academic ties with foreign and national universities for research collaboration, training of faculty members and exchange of students at postgraduate level.

According to the MoU, both the universities agreed to launch research support programs whereby they would exchange and host PhD and MPhil students from each other's university and provide them necessary training support. The universities have also agreed to exchange faculty members for short periods. Earlier, Director AP&EL Ms. Fouzia Shaheen briefed about the scope of the accord and other active research collaborations of GCU. She said that GCU and University of Tehran would also hold joint conferences, training workshops and seminars in future.



## Memories of Pre Partition Punjab remembered at GCU

A seminar was held at Government College University on "a Memoir of Pre-Partition Punjab, 1863-1948" penned down by the Punjabi freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni, and edited by Dr. Neera Burra. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah chaired the seminar which was also addressed by the renowned scholar and director THAAP Prof. Pervaiz Vandal, eminent historian Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran and Dr. Neera Burra, the great granddaughter of Prof. Sahni. Prof. Vandal said that there were in fact two stories in the book; one was the autobiography of Prof. Sahni, and the other, as interesting as any treasure hunt, depicted the dedication and singleness of purpose in pursuit of the autobiography. With its twists of fate and with lady luck smiling on the brave Burra as she chased missing clues and succeeds in compiling a coherent account; an achievement as compelling as her progenitor's autobiography. Prof. Vandal believed that the autobiography also portrayed in detail the cultural, social and the economic conditions of the period of consolidation of the colonial administration, education and political control.

Dr. Neera Burra, a senior social development advisor at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India Office, said that Ruchi Ram Sahni spent his own money on science experiments which he conducted not only in laboratories but also on the street corners in Lahore and the surrounding rural areas. She added that the memoir was a richly annotated autobiography of Ruchi Ram that recounts his confrontation with orthodox Hinduism. The book also describes the discrimination practised by Europeans against Punjabis.

Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences stated that Lala Ruchi Ram was a renowned alumnus of the Chemistry Department of Government College Lahore where his elegant portrait embellished one of the walls of the office of Department's Chairperson. Later, he was one of the most inspiring teachers of that institution as well from 1887 to 1914. He said that this was not only a memoir of a person but was a comprehensive history of an era which was most crucial for both Punjab and its capital, Lahore. More importantly, in Pakistan not much has been written on that period. Thus, the book will fill in a big knowledge gap that exists regarding the social history of the region.

Later, the Vice Chancellor presented souvenirs to the guest speakers. The ceremony was attended by a large number of university students and faculty members.



## Ghazal & Folk night at GCU

A Ghazal and Folk night was held at Quaid-i-Azam Hostel of Government College University. The singers and musicians from Nazir Ahmed Music Society (NAMS) enthralled the youth at the musical night with their melodious voice and famous Urdu ghazals and folk music.

Dr. Nouman Sawar Qureshi, Superintendent Hostel said that NAMS was one of the biggest teaching centres of music and art in Pakistan as it produced galaxy of stars for Pakistan like Shafqat Amanat Ali, Ali Zafar, Waris Baig and Jawad Ahmad. He said that the objective of musical evening was to provide an in-house entertainment opportunity to boarders before their examinations. The musical evening culminated in a Dhamal at a special Qawaali "Dama Dam Mast Qalander". The NAMS Incharge, Mr. Tariq Farahni, was also present on the occasion.

## GCU Organize 118th Annual Sports Gala

The three-day 118th Annual Sports of the Government College University began with a grand inaugural ceremony at the university's Oval Ground. About 6,000 students from 30 departments of the University participated in the annual sports including the march past, athletics meet and gymkhana events. The GCU athletes, led by Jamshed Essa took oath that they would take part in annual games abiding by the rules and in the true spirit of sportsmanship for the glory of sports and the honour of their teams. A good number of foreign students and faculty members also participated in the grand march past. About 34 contingents including university's hostels participated in the grand march past, while the musicians hailing from GCU Nazir Ahmed Music Society (NAMS) presented a special anthem for 118th Athletics Meet.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah said that sports and co-curricular activities were as important as academics for the overall grooming and personality development of students. He shared that GCU students were also performing well in international games, saying that last week their students Uzair and Haris won the under-17 and under-19 squash championships in Doha. The Vice Chancellor also appreciated the participation of physically-challenged students in the annual sports.

The Director Sports Mr. Khadim Ali Khan said that their sportsmen remained busy in camps throughout the year, but the basic objective of annual sports gala was to involve those students who were not sportsmen in healthy sports activities. He was of the view that it must be declared mandatory for schools, colleges and universities to have ample sports facilities especially grounds for their students.

The Annual Sports Gala was concluded with a colorful ceremony at the university's Oval Ground marked by the Gymkhana events including Girls Chatti Race, Cricket Ball Throw, Pillow Fighting, Staff Children Race, Wheel Barrow Race, Musical Chair and Old Ravians Handicap Race. About 6,000 students, teachers, staff members and Old Ravians participated this year in more than 70 different competitions of annual sports. Ms. Tehmina Ahmed of Physical Education Department won the title of Best Female Athlete of GCU for her extraordinary performance in different sports competitions while Jamshed Essa, another student of Physical Education Department was declared the best male athlete. The most enthralling event of tug-of-war was won by the team VC XI beating the Old Ravians in 35:17 seconds. Earlier, in the competitions, Asia Parveen and Khalida won Chatti Race and Cricket Ball Throw, while Fatima Ashfaq was triumphant in the Musical Chair. Aleem Sindhu won the Obstacle Race, the most difficult competition of the day. Muhammad Zeeshan crossed the finish line first in Sack Race.

Mr. Majid Jahangir Khan, former cricketer and Old Ravian was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. He appreciated the fascinating sports gala and stated "Sports are a binding force for any nation or a country but unfortunately Pakistan lacked infrastructure and a system for promoting sports and consistently producing international level sportsmen". He mentioned that the decline in sports owed its origin to the fact that lack of planning, negligence and over-population have taken away sports fields from our society. He called upon the schools, colleges and universities to act as nurseries for sportsmen.

The Vice Chancellor said that GCU sports events stood out as the most colourful and exciting events in the life of Lahore. He congratulated the winning teams, saying that the promotion of sports is ultimately curbed the inclination of youth towards negative activities and deterred them from getting swept off their feet by retrogressive forces. The Chairman Sports Board GCU Prof. Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq said that GCU students participate in the games in just and fair manner and won the games.





## Awareness Seminar on Drug abuse held at GCU

An on-campus awareness walk and seminar were held at Government College University in collaboration with the Punjab Higher Education Commission and YOCFAN to raise awareness among youth against the drug addiction. The Vice Chancellor led the awareness walk from the university's Clock Tower to Main Gate, while Syed Zulfiqar Hussain, an anti-narcotics consultant, and the CEO Health Authority Lahore Dr. Yadullah Ali were also present.

The Vice Chancellor called upon students to work as youth ambassadors for eradicating this evil from all the education institutions of the province. Prof. Shah said that GCU, besides focusing on academics and research, actively involved its students in healthy co-curricular and sports activities which kept them away from all kind of negative and evil activities. Addressing the seminar, Syed Zulfiqar Hussain said that parents and teachers had a major role for saving the youth from drugs. He held modern lifestyle responsible for rise in drug use among the youngsters. Dr. Yadullah Ali said that the Punjab government was actively holding awareness activities in universities and colleges against drug addiction in collaboration with non-government organizations.



## GCU organize staff cricket tournament 2018

The 5th Inter-Departmental Staff Cricket Tournament of GCU was held at the university's Oval Ground. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the tournament by playing a couple of straight drives, while the Registrar Mr. Saboor Ahmed Khan and Director Sports Mr. Khadam Ali Khan also participated in the match. As many as 24 teams including librarians, engineering cell, security guards, drivers and gardeners participated in the week-long cricket tournament.

The Vice Chancellor said that sports must be promoted among the people of all age groups because it keeps them physically and mentally fit and active, besides enhancing their personal abilities including self-confidence, tolerance and decision power. He mentioned that the most unique aspect of GCU cricket tournament was that it ended discrimination among officers and lower staff, and improves coordination and interaction among the staff members of different departments.

## GCU orators shine at CM debates contest

The Debating Society of GC University has clinched 60 awards at the Chief Minister Debates/Speech/Essay writing Competitions 2018 where GCU won 29 and 24 awards at the District and Division round respectively. At the Provincial round, GCU won 7 prizes. Mr. Raza Gillani was declared the Best Urdu Debater in the Post Graduate Category. Kafeel Rana and Mirza Shahrukh Baig were declared the Best Speakers in the Urdu and English Speech Contest respectively while Hassan Mehdi was declared the Best Essayist in the Postgraduate Category.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the Debating Society for the outstanding performance. The students who won at the various levels included Mohiba Ahmed, Haris Ali Virk, Shah Jahan Tahir, Hafiz Zeeshan, Sarmad Wali, Junaid Farooq, Hamza Mudassar, Romasha Mubashir, Lubaba Shabbir, Abdul Hannan Mir, Abdullah Mohsin Sheher Bano, Muneeb Ur Rehman, Zain Ul Hassan, Rabia Javed, Hassan Ijaz, Ghulam Mustafa, Warda Shehzadi, Ahmed Sultan, Abrar Ali, Batool Rao, Salyha Mohsin, Fatima Nasir, Umair Ali and Hamza Javaid.

## Awareness walk on "World Fisheries Day" at GCU

An awareness walk was organized at Government College University to highlight the importance of maintaining the world's fisheries. The Vice Chancellor led the walk organized by the university's Zoology Department in collaboration with Knowledge Economy Program. The officials from Pakistan Fisheries Society, Punjab Fisheries Department and a large number of private fish farmers participated in the on campus walk.

Dr. Muhammad Tahir, Chairperson Department of Zoology said that GCU intended to initiate fisheries based applied degrees and high-tech research. He mentioned that fish forms an important part of the diets particularly in areas near to rivers, coasts and other water bodies. Mr. Umar Aslam Awan, the CEO of Oryza Organics said that fisheries sector could grow better if universities would contribute to this sector.





## Dr Ishfaq Ahmed paid glowing tributes

A condolence reference was held at Government College University under the auspices of Salam Chair and Institute of Physics to pay glowing tributes and homage to eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed who passed away this year at the age of 87 in Lahore. Dr. Ishfaq was the chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and led the team of scientists who made the nuclear bomb for Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah chaired the condolence reference which was also addressed by a large number of eminent scientists and academicians including Dr. Samar Mubarakmand who highlighted the personality, life achievements and contributions of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed for the nuclear program of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. N. M. Butt, a nuclear physicist and well known for his edge-leading research in neutron diffraction, said that Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed was a versatile theoretical physicist and besides establishing a dedicated team, he played an influential role as scientist for the development of nuclear weapons including theoretical work on the implosion method used in the weapons. With the death of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed, the country has lost a great visionary scientist and committed person who was ruthlessly honest and merit conscious.

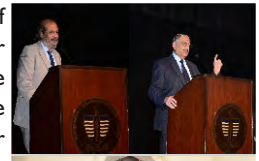
Dr. M. Zafarullah reputed chemical technologist, who worked in different classified projects with Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed, said that Dr. Ahmed was a humble person and throughout his life he tried to support and promote his younger colleagues. He also highlighted his role in establishment of first nuclear power reactor in Pakistan.

The Vice Chancellor said that persons like Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed were our real national heroes and students must study their biographies to understand their abilities, hard work and efforts to lead a successful life. He also shared his personal interactions with Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed. As a person he was wonderful, easily accessible; ready to listen and ready to help. I am sure he will be missed for a long time by his friends, colleagues and fellow scientists.

Dr. Samar Mubarakmand also shared the story of nuclear tests which they conducted under the leadership of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed. He said that Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed had built a team of very dedicated scientists at PAEC who were not concerned about the facilities or monetary benefits. He mentioned that scientists used to live in mud houses in Chaghi during preparations and execution of nuclear tests. He stated that he was head of a diagnostic team and had conducted many successful cold tests before the May 1998 tests.

Dr. G. Murtaza, Professor Salam Chair, said that Government College Lahore has the rare distinction of having produced a number of illustrious students who later on became leaders in their professions, and Dr. Ishfaq, who studied and taught at Government College was a shining example who had played a pivotal role in the development of Science and Technology of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Noted agriculture scientist, the founder Director General of NIBGE, spoke of Dr. Ahmed's vision of PAEC being umbrella for development of science and technology in the country. He pointed out that after his retirement Dr. Ahmed got interested in Climate Change and setup Global Change Impact Studies Center. He also setup an Earthquakes Centre where research was conducted using gravitational waves Recorder housed at NCP.



## LUMS, UCL win GCU parliamentary debates

A team of orators from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) lifted the prestigious Prof. Dr. Khalid Aftab Trophy for the Best English Team at the 23rd Parliamentary Style Debates organized by the Debating Society of GC University Lahore. The topic of the final round of the debates was that "this house would declare domestic work as wage labor." About 53 teams from different educational institutions across the country participated in the bilingual debates.

The University College Lahore (UCL) won the Urdu Parliamentary Style Debates. In individual category, Hadiqa Rehman from FCC Lahore was declared the Best Urdu Speaker of the contest, while Syed Muhammad Ali Abbass Shield for the Best English Speaker went to Taha Masood of LUMS. However, GCU as host did not contest for coveted team trophies.

In under-19 category, teams of Lahore Grammar School lifted the team trophies. Ammar Junnaid and Haider Iqbal were adjudicated the best Urdu and English speakers respectively.

The Vice Chancellor said that debates played vital role in character building and intellectual grooming of students and all students should participate in such healthy activities. He announced that GCU would continue to host such prestigious events for the debaters from all over Pakistan.

Distinguished Old Ravian orator Mr. Hamza Ijaz was chief guest at the final round of the bilingual debate competition adjudicated by eminent orators Muhammad Umer Khan, Ali Akbar Abbas Rizvi, Awais Malik, Hassan Haider Raza, Zahid Malik, Muhammad Sharif and Raza Gillani. Mr. Hamza Ijaz praised the oratorical skills of the competing finalists and gave away trophies to the winners.

