



## GCU Quarterly Vol.6: Issue IV, 2018 October 01 - December 31, 2018

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## Position Holders Honoured

The world is changing and now there are many other promising fields, careers for young students beyond medical and engineering, said the Vice Chancellor GCU Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah while addressing a ceremony, organized by the university's Directorate of Intermediate Studies, in honour of their Intermediate positions holders at the Bokhari Auditorium.

The Vice Chancellor said intermediate program was the pride of GCU, and it's the only government institute in the province which had consistently shown tremendous results in the Lahore Board Intermediate Examinations over the last three decades. He congratulated the Ravians for showing tremendous results in Inter exams 2017-18, saying that "students' success and achievements were the source of glory to their institutions."

The Controller of Examinations GCU said that besides seven positions, a record number of 577 students of GCU secured A+ grade while pass percentage was 94.78 percent against 63.61 percent of Lahore Board. She mentioned that it was due to the students' unflinching commitment to their studies as well as the invaluable pedagogical input of the experienced and qualified teachers that Ravians had been consistently securing positions in the Intermediate results for the last three decades. Later, the Vice Chancellor awarded cash prizes to the position holders of GCU.



## Donation to GCU-EFT

Eminent businessman Dr. Musaddiq Asif donated rupees one million to Government College University Lahore Endowment Fund Trust (GCU-EFT) for the scholarships of financially-challenged students. The scholarships would be given to deserving students every year on merit. , Dr. Musaddiq Asif handed over the cheque to Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor at graceful ceremony at GCU, while EFT Executive Committee Secretary Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt and Professor Emeritus Dr. Ikram ul Haq were also present. Dr. Musaddiq Asif said that he was proud to be an Old Ravian. He also pledged to provide more funding to the trust.

## World Cup 2019 Trophy Warmly Welcomed at GCU

The ICC World Cup 2019 trophy was warmly welcomed and unveiled amid fanfare and festivity at the Oval Ground of Government College University. The trophy was displayed on the visit of Pakistan as part of its global journey. As soon as Former Test cricketer Mushtaq Ahmad and GCU Registrar Mr. Saboor Ahmad Khan entered the Oval Ground along with the trophy, the faculty members, staff and students gave a thunderous applause to mark its arrival in their alma mater. Mushtaq Ahmad expressed the optimism that Pakistan team would bring back home World Cup 2019 trophy. It is a memorable moment of my life to once again hold the World Cup trophy after a long time and it reminds me of our great success under the dynamic leadership of Imran Khan. The students of Government College University were very excited during the trophy tour to their esteemed institution. They described the arrival of trophy in their institution as 'an honour which will be long remembered in Pakistan's cricket history'.





## GCU Celebrated Kuldeep Nayar's Vision for Peace

A seminar was held at GCU to celebrate the late veteran Indian journalist Kuldeep Nayar's vision for peace. Ms. Mandira Nayar, Kuldeep's granddaughter and also a journalist, chaired the seminar and later planted a "peace tree" in his grandfather's name at the Shahab Gardens.

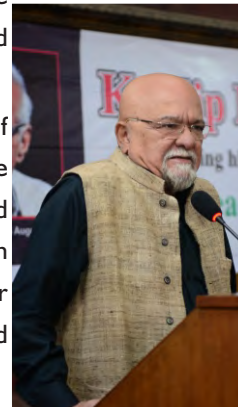
Mr. I.A. Rehman, President, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said that the vision for peace as perceived by Kuldeep and many other eminent people on both sides is the only way forward for India and Pakistan. The price, which the people of South Asia have paid for confrontation between the two neighbouring countries, is enormous and one cannot even calculate it. There are differences and disputes between the India and Pakistan but they need to be resolved through peaceful dialogues.

Ms. Mandira got very emotional, saying that her grandfather spent his entire life preaching peace and friendship between India and Pakistan but his beautiful vision could not be realized in his lifetime. She said that every year, her grandfather went to Wahga border and walked up to the iron gates and lit candles, wishing that one-day this light of peace would spread over both the countries. She said that GC was the place where her grandfather was introduced to politics by the leadership of Democratic Student's Federation.

Mr. Imtiaz Alam, Secretary-General SAFMA said that it's very heart-breaking if one talks for peace in India and Pakistan, one's patriotism is doubted, and people like Kuldeep Nayar were the voice of their own conscience but they were called agents and candle mafias. Despite the violent partition, he had not seen resentment in Nayar's generation at both sides. They always had a great love for the places where they were born. They were a buffer zone between India and Pakistan by never leaving their peace agenda.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU said that this seminar was a great opportunity to learn about great people like Kuldeep Nayar. Peace, harmony and friendship; no matter how illusive they might be when it came to India and Pakistan, but in the times of turbulence and tension, there had been few individuals who didn't waiver and whose faith in restoration of peace remained a guiding light for all those who subscribed to the notion of humanity, peace and tranquillity.

Eminent writer Prof. Dr. Saadat Saeed said that this world was not primarily for the countries but for mankind. Mr. Siddique Awan, in charge Department of English also addressed the seminar.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar Organized at GCU



The seminar was organised by the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at GCU in collaboration with the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC). Speakers at the seminar urged the young girls to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle, saying that there is a frightening increase in the ratio of breast cancer in young girls in Pakistan due to inappropriate diet and unhealthy lifestyles.

Dr. Nimrah Nadeem, Clinical Oncologist said that the situation is getting more and more critical every year, and only key to survival from this fatal disease is

early detection. She mentioned that every woman was at risk of developing breast cancer irrespective of class or creed but the factor that put some women at greater risk is family history of breast cancer, inappropriate diet and inactive lifestyle. She said one in every 9 women was diagnosed with breast cancer. She advised students to exercise for 30 minutes daily, maintain a balanced diet full of antioxidants i.e. vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, green tea, and fish, avoid smoking, drugs, alcohol consumption and hormone replacement therapies. The clinical oncologist also briefed the students about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and methods of self-examination, saying they must be mindful of any changes in their breast and armpit areas. She dispelled the impression that cancer was spread by sharing clothes, direct contact with patients, caffeine, mobile phone or by the microwaves.

Ms. Iram Sohail, the Director QEC said that the month of October was marked in countries across the world as breast cancer awareness month for early detection and treatment. She said that currently there was not sufficient knowledge of breast cancer in Pakistan; therefore, more awareness campaigns were needed to be launched for this purpose at national level. She asked the students to work as volunteers in their families to raise awareness among their female family members. She believed that the breast cancer was not fatal; rather it was ignorance which made it fatal. Early detection can result in survival rate of 98 percent.

Later, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah presented shields and souvenirs to the speakers of the seminar which was also attended by Mr. Masrur Lodhi Regional Manager SKMCH&RC.



### GCU and Applied Socio-Economic Resource Centre (ASR) signed MoU

The Applied Socio-Economic Resource Centre (ASR), a reputed NGO, donated their 35-year-old library to the Government College University Lahore for promotion of research in social sciences especially women and gender studies. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, Vice Chancellor and Ms. Nighat Khan Executive Director ASR signed an accord for the transfer of library, at a ceremony organized by the Directorate of Academic Planning & External Links at the University's Meeting Rooms. The university's academic heads and the senior management of ASR were also present.

The donated library contains more than 15,000 books, journals, theses, and 800 volumes of media reports on different issues including human rights violations. These are estimated to be more than 0.3 million news clippings. The library also contained video lectures of eminent foreign social scientists on a wide range of subjects.

Ms. Nighat Khan said that they had set up this library in 1983 for pure research and academic purposes at the ASR's Institute of Women's Studies, Lahore. No activism could stand alone until one researches about it and academically study its various dimensions. She stated that different universities requested them for this library but they felt most comfortable with this historic institution which had produced eminent luminaries in almost all fields of life. She hoped that GCU would also set up the Women and Gender Studies Department soon and this donated library would be a great resource for it. She also briefed the university's faculty about the working of ASR and their research projects in Pakistan.

The Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the ASR management, saying that this was one of the finest book collection donated to GCU in the last many decades. As per MoU, the ASR and GCU have also agreed to hold joint seminars, conferences and workshops.





## Iranian Consulate General Met Vice Chancellor GCU Lahore

The Iranian Consulate General Mohammad Reza Nazeri called upon Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah at GCU to express condolences on the sad demise of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Saqib, associate professor at the Persian Department. Dr. Saqib, 58, suffered from a cardiac arrest while conducting interviews of students for admissions at the Bokhari Auditorium.

The Iranian Consulate General appreciated the services of Dr. Saqib for promotion of Persian language in Pakistan. He also pledged to provide more support to the GCU Persian Department for research. The Vice Chancellor GCU termed Dr. Saqib's death a big loss for the university, saying that Dr. Saqib would always be remembered for his services for the university. He said Dr. Saqib was a good teacher and researcher and a very kind human being.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Shahid, Dean Faculty of Languages, Ms. Iram Sohail Director Quality Enhancement Cell, Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar and Dr. Babar Naseem Assi were also present at the occasion.



## GCU Intermediate Students Shine in Sports

The Intermediate students of Government College University have shown excellent performance in different sports contests. Muhammad Rustam Younas won the Gold Medal in Discus Throw at the Third National Youth and Junior Athletics Championship 2018 held in Islamabad. Rustam set the new youth championship record in discus throw marking 45.42 metres. Noshairwan Ashiq also won the 5000-metre Race at the Youth Athletics Championship. Sameer Butt won the Gold Medal in the 56Kg category at the Lahore Board Inter-Collegiate Championship 2018. These students met the Vice Chancellor Prof. Shah and briefed him about their achievements in sports. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the active participation of the GCU students in sports contests, saying that sportsmen were the true ambassadors of a country. He directed the GCU sports board to provide maximum facilities to sportsmen.



## Condolence Reference for Dr. Iqbal Saqib

A condolence reference was held at Government College University Lahore to pay glowing tributes to the services of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Saqib, the associate professor of Persian Department, who recently passed away at the age of 58. Dr. Saqib suffered from a cardiac arrest while conducting interviews for admissions at university's Bukhari Auditorium.

This has been a very painful year for the GCU staff in a sense that it took from us many of our very hardworking and dedicated colleagues including slain professor, Dr. Tanzeem Akbar Cheema, Dr. Jaffer Hussain and security assistant Muhammad Sharif said the Vice Chancellor while addressing the condolence reference.

The Vice Chancellor said that Dr. Saqib had a selfless devotion to his duty. He dedicatedly performed every duty which was assigned to him by the university.

The eminent poet, writer Prof. Dr. Khurshid Rizvi got highly emotional while sharing his close association with the late Persian teacher. He also read a poem he had written for Dr. Saqib after his demise. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid Dean of Languages and Prof. Dr. Sultan Shah also addressed the condolence reference and shed light on Dr. Saqib's personality.



## GCU Cascades In-Service Training for Newly Inducted Faculty Members

A five-day training workshop on pedagogy and other soft skills, stress management and emotional intelligence was held at Government College in University Lahore for the university's young faculty members organized by Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC).

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor addressed the concluding ceremony and said that teachers' early career anxieties often led to students' feeling overloaded, hence these trainings were crucial to equip them with the latest pedagogical skills. The Vice Chancellor reflected on the importance of centrality of the teacher. He believed that a teacher should be a likeable person and should be just and fair in classroom. He asked the young faculty to encourage questioning by their students. Prof. Shah stated that learning was a lifelong process, so even senior teachers should not hesitate attending these training. I learn so many new things whenever I go to such trainings, seminars or attend conferences.

Ms. Iram Sohail, Director QEC highlighted the topics which were covered during five days including communication skills, critical thinking, learners' psychology, essentials of English language usage and microteaching. She expressed gratitude to the resource persons; Dr. Sobia Tahir, Malik Umair Ahmad, Ms. Amna Anwar, Dr. Shahida Batool, Dr. Syeda Salma Hassan. Ms. Sidra Farid and Ms. Afia Mehmood for wonderfully conducting the sessions. She appreciated the coordinators of the cascading workshop. Later, the Vice Chancellor awarded the certificates to the participants of the workshop.



## GCU, Bartin University Signed MoU on Research Project

The Government College University Lahore signed a collaborative research project with Bartin University, Turkey for the cost effective production of bioethanol. The Council General of Turkey Mr. Emir Ozbey chaired the launching ceremony and awareness seminar of the research project at the Bukhari Auditorium, GCU. The research project, to be funded by the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and Council of Higher Education, Turkey, also included PhD students exchange programme between both the universities.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Karadag, Dean of Science Bartin University said that Turkey and Pakistan are currently importing 95% of their energy requirement and had not yet put full efforts in the production of more sustainable energy. He mentioned that Turkey is far behind in the world ranking for bioethanol production which is one of the most important renewable energy sources. Prof Ahmet, who is also Principal Investigator of the research project from Turkey stated that the project aimed to introduce a more economic and efficient way of producing bioethanol, which was an alternative eco-friendly strategic energy source with high combustion efficiency. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a process for fourth generation bioethanol production both in Turkey and Pakistan.

Mr. Ozbey laid stress on more research collaborations between the universities of Pakistan and Turkey, saying said that both the friendly countries were facing similar problems and scientists of both countries should join hands in solving them. He congratulated the principal investigators of the project for securing three-year research grant.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU said that Pakistan was facing severe energy crisis and it needed to move forward quickly to find a quick replacement of fossil fuels. He sincerely hoped that the successful completion of this project would contribute greatly to the economies of both countries.

Dr. Nauman Aftab the Principal Investigator of the project from Pakistan said that solar and wind energy projects are not feasible for a country like Pakistan because they required huge investments for heavy installations and huge storage devises. He stated that we must pay serious attention on mass scale production of renewable energy in the form of biofuel. Dr. Aftab said that this project would be for three years and each year one PhD student of GCU would go to Bartin University, Turkey for a period of two months. Similarly, three PhD students from Bartin University will also come to GCU in three years. Dr Ikram-ul-Haq, Prof Emeritus GCU also addressed the project launching ceremony.



## Pink Ribbon Day Observed at GCU

An on-campus Awareness Walk was held at Government College University (GCU) Lahore in collaboration with the Pink Ribbon Pakistan to eliminate social stigmas attached to the breast cancer which if detected at early stages can be cured.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah Vice Chancellor GCU, Mr. Saboor Ahmad Khan Registrar, Ms. Iram Sohail Director Quality Enhancement Cell and Mr. Yousaf Bashir Director Facilities led the walk from the University's Clock Tower to the Girls Cafeteria to raise breast cancer awareness among students.

The Director QEC said that it is very unfortunate that it is still considered a taboo for girls in most parts of our society to talk about this cancer which affects every one of nine women in the society. Even, girls are reluctant to talking to their mothers and doctors about such diseases that is why there is dire need of awareness campaigns on a massive scale.

The Vice Chancellor said that GCU organised scores of such events throughout the year to enlighten students, with the knowledge about the health issues and techniques to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle. He mentioned that the university would also decorate its historical building with the pink lights for the mass awareness about the Pink Ribbon Drive. Later, awareness pamphlets and brochures were also distributed among students to educate them about the symptoms of the diseases, early detection methods, and treatment for the breast carcinoma.



## GCU Launched Smog Awareness Drive

The Government College University Lahore Environment Protection Society (EPS) launched the Smog Awareness Drive in different parts of the city. Besides holding different on-campus activities and door-to-door campaigns in their areas, the members of GCU-EPS also distributed pamphlets and face-masks among the food-sellers, motorcyclists and pedestrians at the Minar-e-Pakistan in collaboration with the Albayrak Waste Management Company.

The EPS volunteers informed people about the precautionary measures which must be adopted to minimize harmful health impacts of smog. Dr. Faiza Sharif Advisor-EPS said that the government, civil society and educational institutions must beef up their efforts for raising awareness among people about this environmental pollution. She mentioned that smog is harmful to human lungs and causes respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. It aggravates heart problems, bronchitis, asthma, and even reduce lungs function in healthy people. She requested the people to use masks, avoid unnecessary outdoor & smoke emitting activities and plant maximum trees in their surroundings.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU appreciated for participation of GCU-EPS students in the Smog Awareness Drives, saying that every citizen must play its role for Clean and Green Pakistan.





## GCU Lahore Signed Two Accords with CTGU

The Government College University Lahore signed two agreements and a memorandum of understanding with the China Three Gorges University (CTGU), Yichang. Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Chairperson Department of Political Science, and Dr. Huang Yinping, Vice President CTGU, signed the agreements during the former's visit to China to attend the President's Forum of South-Asian-Hubei Universities Alliance hosted by the Chinese government.

According to MoU, twenty Chinese students would attend the Winter School at GCU Lahore for three weeks for the next five years. The students will study the subjects like Pakistan Studies, Pak-China Relations and English. Each Chinese student would pay \$ 180 to GCU Lahore for attending this winter school. Both the Universities also agreed to exchange six students and one teacher every year for a period of five months besides holding joint conferences, training workshops and seminars. Prof. Butt stated that CTGU had also signed two important agreements with GCU for promotion of Pakistan Studies in China and China Studies in Pakistan to bridge the cultural and language barriers between the two friendly nations.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU said that social and cultural integration of two friendly nations was highly crucial for the success of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He stressed the dire need to enhance the academic and research collaborations between the universities of China and Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor requested the governments of both countries to fund these universities' collaborations. He appreciated that GCU was the first public sector University of Pakistan who had joined the South-Asian-Hubei Universities Alliance which aimed at strengthening cultural exchanges among the countries along the Belt and Road, and promoting education and scientific researches. About 27 top South Asian Universities have become member of this prestigious alliance.

## International Conference on Human Rights Organized at GCU

A three-day international conference on "Human Rights Challenges and Prospects", was held at Government College University Lahore to analyze new researched data, concepts, approaches, ideas and methods vis-à-vis human rights and formulate a more constructive framework to revert the aforesaid daunting trends.

A total of 72 research papers were presented during six technical sessions of the conference that debated upon Women Empowerment, Social Justice, Minority Rights, Transgender's search for identity and Security, Peace and Human Rights vulnerabilities in the South Asia. More than 33 social scientists from different universities of Pakistan and 11 foreign scholars including Pakistan Research Centre, Honder College of IMNU, China Director Prof. Tang Jun, Prof. Zulkhumor Mirzaeva from Uzbekistan, Dr. Tamás Lattmann from Hungary, Dr. Norehabinti Hashim from Malaysia, Dr. Bilveer Singh from Singapore and Mr. Jeff Barnes from University of Akron, Ohio, USA also participated in the policy dialogue. Speakers at the conference said that it is time for the voices of reason and responsibility in the world to caution against militarism and demand strict adherence by all states, large and small, to the UN Charter's central principle: the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force in international relations.

Mr. Shamshad Ahmad Khan, former foreign secretary and veteran Pakistani diplomat said that in the emerging scenario, no other region in the world today was as volatile and unstable as South Asia with continuing Afghan turmoil with all its ramifications and longstanding India-Pakistan conflict and hostility. He also talked about the growing challenges of human rights globally particularly of children and women. The veteran diplomat mentioned that the human rights challenges were many, but the prospects are so very bleak.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), chief guest at the opening ceremony, said that the world had agreed charters on human rights but it needed practical solutions to implement them. He laid a stress on academia to debate and formulate practical solutions and policies to counter the





abuse of human rights in global and domestic perspectives.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU said that the themes of GCU's conference were mostly related to vulnerable segments of the society, not only in Pakistan but in global perspective. The conference seeks to explore economic, political and social dimensions of Human Rights, covering a wide range of concerns of different stakeholders. The scholars shed light on the topics beyond the traditional parameters of academic discussions and contribute in formulation of methodological framework that must comprehend the concept of Human Rights within the context of local and global realities and real international politics.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, conference chairman said that the social activists from John Locke to Asma Jehangir had strived to educate the people about their Rights and to sensitise the stakeholders. He mentioned that Kashmir, Palestine and Rohangia Muslims of Myanmar were prime examples of Human Rights violations and international community was unable to address these challenging issues of contemporary age. Similarly, minorities and immigrants have been suffering in many countries. Prof. Butt pointed out that the post-modern societal norms demanded more in-depth insight and emphatic understanding of human behaviors in day-to-day social interaction.

Mr. I.A. Rehman, President Human Rights Commission of Pakistan chaired a policy dialogue at the concluding session which was also addressed by eminent political scientist Prof. Sajjad Naseer and historian Dr. Farhat Mahmud. Mr. Rehman called for provision of basic human rights to people of all social, religious and cultural strata. Later, Punjab Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz chaired the concluding session of the conference which was followed by a music concert for the foreign delegates. Eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Samar Mubarakmand and Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah also addressed the session.



### GCU Department of Philosophy Turned 150

The Department of Philosophy at GCU turned 150. A large number of students, old rarians and faculty members of the department participated in an on-campus colourful and jubilant walk, led by Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor to mark the sesquicentennial anniversary of the oldest Department of Philosophy in the entire South Asia. Eminent writer Mirza Athar Baig also participated in the walk which was embellished by pigeons, balloons, rose-petals and placards on which various slogans were written.

Dr. Sobia Tahir, Chairperson Department of Philosophy said that the department was established in the Government College Lahore in 1868 and it cherished the rare distinction of being the oldest seat of Philosophical learning in the subcontinent. It was in this prestigious department the Poet-Philosopher Allama Mohammad Iqbal was a student and later a teacher.

Dr. Sobia said since the beginning, eminent thinkers and teachers like Professor Bell, B.E. Ussher, Lala Jiya Raam, Thomas W. Arnold, George Sidney Brett, Professor Noor Ilahi, A. W. James, J.H. Harley, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, L.P. Saunders and G.C. Chatter had remained associated with the department which started its postgraduate classes immediately after its inception. She mentioned that after the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the Muslim thinkers and scholars immediately filled the gap of the





eminent British and Hindu academics without the slightest difficulty or breach. The shining stars of academic horizon who illuminated the Department with their erudition are no less than Professor Qazi Mohammad Aslam, Professor Hamid ud Din, Professor Mohammad Saeed Sheikh, Professor Shahid Hussain, Dr. Mohammad Tufail Salik, Professor Mirza Athar Baig and Professor Azam Khan.

The Vice Chancellor said that during its long history, the Department had continued to be one of the most important centres of philosophical learning in South Asia, especially noted for the promotion of the spirit of free inquiry and critical thinking. The Department has made significant contribution to the promotion of liberal values in the University and Pakistan.

Prof. Baig said that it was an acknowledgment of the advanced and superior educational standard of Punjab in general and of Lahore in particular in the late 1860s that a higher department of an elegant and refined discipline was established there. He also remembered that the Department started its research journal, Quest, in 1993 which is being published regularly.

### GCU Delegation Visits Iqbal's Mausoleum

A delegation of students and teachers from Government College University Lahore, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, visited the Allama Iqbal's mausoleum to pay homage to the great Old Ravian, philosopher and Poet of the East on his 141th birth anniversary. The office-bearers of GCU Rovers Club and Majlis-e-Iqbal were also present.

Later, The Vice Chancellor offered fateha for the soul of the great national poet and laid floral wreath. He also recorded his views in the visitors' book.



### International Conference on Mathematics held at GCU

An international conference on Mathematics and its Applications was organized at Government College University Lahore to provide a platform to scientists, industrial professionals and academicians to exchange ideas and present their latest research in the field of Mathematical Sciences. Besides 61 national scientists and research scholars, 11 foreign scientists from USA, South Africa, Turkey and Thailand also presented their papers at the conference. The three day conference was organized by the Department of Mathematics in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial Higher Education Commissions. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU chaired the inaugural session of the conference which was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Roumen Anguelov from University of Pretoria, South Africa and Prof. Ekram Savas from Van YüzüncüYil University, Turkey.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU proudly said that GCU was holding three conferences this week which provided them opportunities to establish research and academic linkages with national and international universities. He stressed that modern research has become complex and multi disciplinary so universities needed to pool in their resources and expertise. Prof. Shah also mentioned that Mathematics Department of GCU had been the most





elderly place of learning and imparting knowledge of Mathematics in Pakistan. It was the only centre of teaching Mathematics in this part of the subcontinent until 1920 when the University of the Punjab established its Department of Mathematics.

Prof. Dr. Mujahid Abbas, Chairperson Department of Mathematics and the conference chairman, hoped that the conference would provide opportunities to the participants to exchange new ideas, share knowledge and experiences to establish research relations and to find global partners for future collaborations. Prof. Abbas dedicated the conference to Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam and philosopher poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal.



### 38th Allama Iqbal Declamation Contest held at GCU

The 38th All Pakistan Allama Muhammad Iqbal Bilingual Declamation (AIBD) was organized at the Government College University Lahore. A large number of orators from different universities including UET Lahore, Pakistan Air Force Academy Sargodha, Kinnaird College, KEMU, University of the Punjab and UVAS Lahore contested for the coveted team trophy and best speaker awards at the two-day event spread over three sessions.

Mr. Haris Ali Virk, the President GCU Debating Society (GCUDS) said that AIBD was not a political debate, but as far as content is concerned, the level was far above. Here, no contemporary issue could escape from the arguments of these best national orators who came from all over Pakistan to GCU Lahore to express their thoughts.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU congratulated GCUDS for maintaining its glorious tradition of oratory by picking up themes from contemporary issues for its declamation. He mentioned that like every year the Best English Speaker would be awarded with the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medal with a donation of Rs 500,000 and the Best Urdu Speaker would receive the Dr. Majeed Nizami Medal to pay tribute to the services of the eminent Old Ravian journalist.

Prof. Khalid Masood Siddiqi, the former chairperson Department of English GCU, was the Chief Guest at the final round. Prof. Siddiqi congratulated the winners, saying that debates taught students how to disagree with others while paying respect to their faiths and ideas. He congratulated Advisor GCU Debating Society Mr. Siddique Awan and the orators on their excellent performances in debates championships all over the year. He mentioned that GCUDS had undoubtedly proved themselves to be the most outstanding torch bearers of the university pride.





## GCU, Pretoria University Signed MoU for Research Collaboration

The Government College University, Lahore and University of Pretoria, South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for student and faculty exchange and research collaboration in the field of Mathematics.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU and Prof. Dr. Roumen Anguelov, Chairperson Department of Mathematics, University of Pretoria signed the 22-point accord at a ceremony organized by the Directorate of Academic Planning and External Links (AP&EL) at the University's Syndicate Committee Room. Prof. Shah said that GCU was actively strengthening research and academic ties with foreign universities for research collaboration, training of faculty members and exchange of students at postgraduate level. However, he mentioned that this was the first collaboration of GCU with a South African university in the last many years.

Prof. Anguelov told the GCU faculty about the rich history and glorious traditions of 110-year-old University of Pretoria which is now offering 1,213 study programmes, 230 degrees, certificates and diplomas, 166 undergraduate programmes and 1,047 postgraduate programmes. According to the MoU both the universities have also agreed to launch joint research programs and exchange expertise and academic documents. Mr. Saboor Ahmed Khan Registrar GCU and Prof. Dr. Mujahid Abbas Chairperson Department of Mathematics also attended the MoU signing ceremony.



## GCU, Ankara University holds International Urdu Conference

The Government College University Lahore and Ankara University, Turkey jointly hold the International Urdu Conference on "Classical, Modern and Contemporary Literature" in the provincial metropolis. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizamudin, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) chaired the inaugural session, which was also attended by speakers from Iran, Germany and Turkey.

The speakers laid stress on promoting a culture of translations and comparative literature studies in the universities of Pakistan, saying that it would not only help in fostering economic and friendship culture with other nations but also play a vital role in the promotion of science and technology in the country. We learn from history that Baghdad had become the centre of the scientific world by translating texts from Europe, Persia, India, Arab and other parts the world.

Prof. Nizam highlighted a need for structural reforms in the country's education system, saying that their youth had lost somewhere between Punjabi, Urdu and English languages. It's time to decide that we could not progress without promoting our national language and establishing a culture of translations. He also laid stress on the establishment of translation centres in all universities of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Asuman Belen Özcan, eminent Turkish Urdu critic highlighted the importance of national language for cultural and economic progress of a country. She said that translation was a marriage of two different cultures, and considering it an inferior art was misleading.





Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU asked the conference scientific committee to publish the recommendations as well as the proceedings of the conference for the benefit of government and policy-making institutions.

Dr. Khalid Mehmood Sanjarani, the conference chairman, told the participants about the glorious history and traditions of GCU and its role in the promotion of Urdu Literature in the sub-continent. He dedicated the conference to the Pakistan and Turkey friendship.

Prof. Christina Oesterheld from University Heidelberg, Germany and Dr. Yousof Khosk from Shah Abdul Lateef University, Khairpur also spoke at the inaugural session of the conference.



### A Seminar on Seerat-Un-Nabi (PBUH) held at GCU

Seminar on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) was held at the Government College University Lahore under the auspices of its Majlis-e-Aloom-e-Islamiyah.

Mufti Abdul Khaliq Azad, the Director General of Raheemia Institute of Quranic Sciences said that the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) showed them that how collective human existence is bound by the socio-political accords. He mentioned the examples from the Holy Prophet's life that his struggle to establish the state of Madina started with the pact of Hilf al-Fudul. Mufti Azad emphasized that social, economic and political aspects of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life from the perspective of society's reconstruction ought to be studied by scholars and students.

Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, Dean Faculty of Languages, Islamic and Oriental Learning, Farooq Haider Advisor Majlis-e-Uloom e Islamia, and Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Naeem Chairperson Department of Islamic Studies also addressed the seminar which was followed by the Question and Answer session.



### Prof Hassan Shah elected PAS Fellow

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor of Government College University Lahore, has been elected as the Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences. The Fellowships of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences are restricted to the scientists and only scientists of the highest merit, who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge, are elected as the Fellows of the Academy. The maximum permissible number of fellows in PAS is one hundred. Not more than five fellows can be elected in a year; but this year, only one Professor (Dr. Hassan Amir Shah) was elected as PAS fellow.

The total number of PAS fellows in GCU has increased to three including Dr. G. Murtaza, the Professor Salam Chair, and Prof. Dr. Ikram ul Haq, the Distinguished National Professor of Biotechnology. The Vice Chancellors of other universities and senior faculty members congratulated Prof. Shah as the fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad, PhD from the Imperial College University of London and currently Dean Faculty of Engineering, Director Institute of Physics was awarded the PAS Gold Medal 2018 for his outstanding research in the field of Physics. Every year, only one of the best scientists in each subject receives the prestigious award for his contributions to the cause of science at the national and international levels.





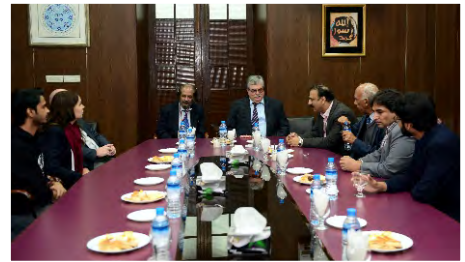
## Russian Envoy Addresses GCU Students on Geopolitics

Mr. Alexey Yurivich Dedov, Russian Ambassador to Pakistan addressed the students of Government College University Lahore on geopolitics and new trends in Pak-Russia relations.

The ambassador highlighted the ongoing technical and economic cooperation of Russia in several projects in Pakistan especially gas pipeline via Iran to Pakistan, saying that Moscow looked forward to having strong economic relationship with Pakistan. He highlighted that Russia and Pakistan were holding joint military exercises which were focused on counter terrorism training.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor attended the talk organized by the university's Quaid-e-Azam Political Science Society at the Fazl-i-Hussain Reading Room. The invited talk was followed by an hour-long interactive question-answers session. In reply to a question by a student, the Russian envoy said that they granted more visas to Pakistanis this year than previous years. He also told students that there was a handsome population of Muslims in Moscow and some other areas of Russia. The Russian ambassador also answered questions by students referring to Russian influence in regional politics especially its role in Indo-Pak relations.

Talking to the ambassador, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the issue of limited scholarships for Pakistani students in Russia. He also laid stress on enhancing academic and research collaboration between universities of both countries. Later, the ambassador visited different areas of the campus and admired the gothic architecture and green landscape of GCU building.



## Tribute Paid to Allama Iqbal

The seminar was held in connection with 150 years celebrations of the university's Department of Philosophy on "Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam". Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU chaired the seminar. Speakers at the seminar said that Poet of the East presented courageous and audacious views at a time when such topics were a taboo in a highly conservative and orthodox India.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq, eminent Philosopher, thinker and academician said that Allama Iqbal tried to reconcile the then scientific views with Islam and construe a new theology. He stressed the need of taking the ideas of Iqbal forward in the light of modern day knowledge. He emphasized that Islam was facing new challenges in this age which are in the dire need to be addressed at the philosophical level so as to reduce ideological controversies and sectarian differences in the Muslim Ummah. Only a fresh understanding of the Holy Quran in the face of existing challenges may bring us out of the quagmire of extremism and bloodshed. Iqbal's thoughts may be quite helpful in any such endeavour. Prof. Abdul Khaliq highlighted that Iqbal's thought still had unexplored avenues which may be, rather, must be elucidated by young scholars and researchers.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his views regarding the importance of philosophy. He expressed with pride GCU had the oldest Department of Philosophy in the entire sub- continent. Dr. Sobia Tahir, Chairperson Department of Philosophy presented the concise history of the department from 1868 to 2018.



## ORU elects new Executive Committee

The election of Old Ravians Union (ORU) was held at the Government College University Lahore. The university's alumni elected the new Executive Committee of the Union for session 2018-2020. Abdul Aleem Khan Punjab Senior Minister, Hamid Khan senior advocate, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram Vice Chancellor University of Health Sciences, Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University, Prof. Dr. Asad Aslam CEO Mayo Hospital, Shafqat Amanat Ali Khan famous singer, Waris Baig music director/singer and a large number of other senior bureaucrats, politicians and businessmen casted their votes at the Union's elections. The election committee, comprising former Sessions Judge Abdus Salam Khawar, Distinguished National Professor Dr. Ikram-ul-Haq and faculty member Dr. Ahmed Raza Khan announced the results after the polling held in the university premises from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

M. Ashfaq Mohlan elected as the union's new president, while Rana Shahzad Iqbal Khan, Syeda Saadia Ghaznavi, Syed Tayyab Hussain Rizvi and Farrukh Hayat Pannoun stood victorious as the Vice President, Vice President (Ladies), Secretary General and Treasurer respectively. Mohammad Naeem Tahir, Najum Latif, Naveed Ahmed, Usman Saeed and Ahsan Javed Gujjar were elected executive members of the union. There was a tie on the seat of Executive Member 1970s between Muhammad Wasif Idress Nagi and Prof M. Anwar ul Haq.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the new executive committee of the union and hoped that they would actively participate in the progress and development of their alma mater. Earlier, Kazi Afaq Hossain, ORU outgoing President chaired the Annual General Body meeting of the Union which approved the ORU accounts for the year 2016-18.



## Seminar on Lasers as Tool

A seminar on "lasers as a tool" was held at the Government College University Lahore in connection with the 22nd death anniversary of the Pakistan's only Nobel Laureate in science, Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU chaired the seminar which was addressed by eminent physicists Prof Dr. Farhan Saif from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Fida Younas Khattak from Kohat University, Kohat.

Dr. G. Murtaza, Professor Salam Chair at GCU, briefed the participants about the life of a village boy from Jang. Prof. Salam inspired all the young people with the idea that wherever they might come from in the world, they too could make careers in science or indeed in any other profession at present dominated by the rich countries. Dr. Murtaza said that Prof. Salam's achievements were not confined to the Nobel Prize. He added that Salam became a fellow of more than 30 academies/societies of the world and was awarded honorary doctorate by more than 40 universities across the globe. He also told the participants about Prof. Salam's struggle for promotion of science and technology in the developing world particularly in Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor proudly shared that GCU housed the original Nobel Prize Certificate of Dr. Abdus Salam, saying that "it was our most cherished possession to-date." He said that scientists had more opportunities in Pakistan now in comparison to the times of Prof Salam. He also talked about the importance of science.





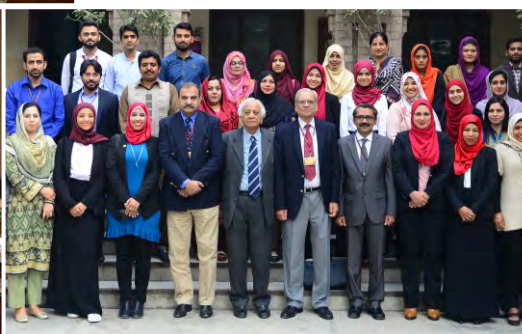
## GCU students donate blood for thalassemia patients

The students and faculty members of the Government College University Lahore have donated almost 267 pints of blood for the children suffering from Thalassemia at a two-day blood camp organized by the university's Blood Donor Society (GCU-BDS) in collaboration with the Fatmid Foundation. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor visited the camp and appreciated the efforts of Blood Donor Society that donated more than 1500 pints of blood every year for the patient's children suffering from different diseases including cancer. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, Dean Faculty of Languages and Dr. Babar Naseem Aasi Advisor GCU BDS was also present.

## Egyptian University Delegation Visits GCU



A delegation of teachers and students from the Urdu Department of Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt visited the Government College University Lahore. Mr. Saboor Ahmad Khan, Registrar GCU along with the university's deans, Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan and Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid, welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the traditions, academic programmes and history of GCU Lahore. Eminent poet Prof. Dr. Khursheed Rizvi and Dr. Khalid Sanjrani Chairperson, Department of Urdu GCU were also present. Dr. Noha Mostafa, Assistant Professor Al-Azhar University showed keen interest in academic and research cooperation with GCU, saying that Al-Azhar University was one best institutions of Urdu language teaching in Egypt. Later, the delegation visited the Iqbal Hostel, Library and other departments of the university.



## A Seminar on "World Fisheries Day" held At GCU

Speakers at the seminar at Government College University emphasized on promoting fish consumption and aquaculture for healthy Pakistan, saying that the country had a great potential for fish farming which needed immediate government support and collaboration among universities, research institutions and farming industry. The seminar was organized by the Department of Zoology in connection with the World Fisheries Day celebrations.

Dr. Ansar Chatta, Chief Executive Officer Punjab Fisheries Board said that fisheries was among the top priorities of the new government which last month signed an agreement with Chinese government for strengthening a fisheries industry in Pakistan through CPEC.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU laid stress on growing the





fisheries industry in Pakistan on scientific basis, saying that it would not only increase their exports but would also alleviate the poverty of fishermen. He directed the Zoology department to propose different research projects to the government and industry which would help improve aquaculture in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Tahir, Chairperson Department of Zoology said that the growth rate of aquaculture was quite low in Pakistan. The area under fish culture in Punjab is only 71563 acres. Similarly, the consumption is also very low, approximately 2.2kg per capita as compared to the rest of the world where it is 19kg per capita.

Dr. Zafar Ullah Bhatti Director Punjab Fisheries, Dr. Muhammad Ayub President Pakistan Fisheries Society, Mr. Sami Ullah eminent aqua-industrialist, Mr. Umar Asalm Awan fish feed expert and Prof. Dr. Khalid Pervez eminent zoologist also addressed the seminar preceded by an awareness walk and fish cooking competition.



### GCU Celebrated World Access to Higher Education Day

A seminar was held at Government College University Lahore to celebrate the World Access to Higher Education Day. A delegation of eminent British academicians also attended the seminar held at the university's Fazl-e-Hussain Reading Room in collaboration with the British Council and Higher Education Commission. Prof. Devendra Kodwani, the Executive Dean of Open University, UK laid stress on the Pakistani government to increase spending on higher education to achieve the desired economic results. He highlighted the absence of strong industry academia linkages in the country. He also shared the success stories of Korean, China, Japan and Malaysia who alleviated poverty and achieved high economic growth by investing in higher education.

Dr. Joanna Newman, Secretary General Association of Commonwealth Universities said that people around the world must celebrate this World Access to Higher Education Day within their families by liberating their daughters and sisters to seek knowledge and education. She showed keen interest in working closely with the leading universities of Pakistan, saying that this was largest delegation of British academicians that had ever come to Pakistan.

Prof. (Meritorious) David Faulkner from Magna Carta College, Oxford, Lt. Gen (r) Muhammad Asghar Executive Director HEC and Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah Vice Chancellor GCU also addressed the seminar which was attended by a large number of the university's faculty members. Earlier, the British delegation had a detailed meeting with the Vice Chancellor and Registrar GCU Mr. Saboor Ahmad Khan and academic heads and explored the opportunities for research and academic collaborations with GCU.

Jose Fiadeiro from Holloway University, Bobby Mehta from University of Portsmouth, Simon Pollard from Cranfield University, Mary Stiasny from University of London, Ebrahim Adia from University of Lancashire, Matthew Foster from Open University and Consola Evans from Association of Commonwealth Universities were also part of the British delegation.

### Old Ravian Donated PKR 2 Million

An Old Ravian businessman donated two million rupees to Government College University Lahore Endowment Fund Trust (GCU-EFT) for the scholarships of financially-challenged students. The scholarships would be given to deserving students every year on merit.

The Old Ravian handed over the donation cheque to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah at a graceful ceremony at GCU, while EFT Executive Committee Secretary Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt was also present. The Old Ravian said that he was extremely indebted to his alma mater for his education, personality development and overall grooming and now it's time to pay back. He also pledged to provide more funding to the trust. However, he requested the Vice Chancellor not to reveal his name.

### All Pakistan Inter-University Drama Festival 2018 held at GCU

A four-day All Pakistan Inter-University Drama Festival 2018 was organized at Government College University Lahore. The GCU Dramatics Club (GCUDC) opened the festival with its Urdu play "Roshni Ka Safar", which was about the divine justice for people who got involved in malpractice. The dramatic clubs of top fifteen universities of the country, including University of the Punjab, Kinnaird College, LUMS, UET Lahore, BZU Multan and Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, were scheduled to stage dramas at the festival on the topics ranging from corruption to tolerance to women empowerment. The GCUDC presented total four plays on the festival's first day which included an English play, "The Intruder", which was about the unwelcomed guest i.e. the death, which crept into houses. They also staged a Punjabi play, "Kankaan Laamiyan",



which represented the plight of women in our society. The Club also paid tribute to eminent dramatist Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj by staging his play "Goongijoru".

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU highlighted the old tradition of staging intellectually stimulating plays at GCU, saying that theatre was not only meant for entertainment, rather it had more important function i.e. to reform the society. He hoped that all universities should play vital role for reviving the culture of quality theatre in the country. Prof. Shah also shared the 130 years old history of GC Dramatics Club, saying that it has produced legendary thespians and playwrights like Rafi Peer, Imtiaz Ali Taj, Zia Mohyeddin, Shoaib Hashmi, Naeem Tahir, Qayum Jojo, Asghar Nadeem Syed, among others.

Professor Mirza Ather Baig, eminent writer said that GCU DC had been presenting plays in diverse genres and languages at the festival because theatre could not remain confined to one language or one geographical space. It is bound to show life with all its diversities. It is meant to challenge the accepted norms and realities, traditions and dogmas. If, after watching a play, the audiences cannot leave the space a bit moved and with altered perceptions, the play has not achieved its purpose.



### GCU Conferred Medal of Honour upon Prof. Dr. Syed M. Qaim

The Government College University Lahore conferred the Medal of Honor upon renowned Nuclear Physicist Prof. Dr. Syed M. Qaim to honor his 15 years outstanding honorary academic and research services to the university. Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU awarded the medal and a certificate to Prof. Qaim at a special ceremony organized by the Department of Physics. The friends, colleagues and the wife of Prof. Qaim were also present on this occasion.

The Vice Chancellor said that Prof. Qaim was a pride of Pakistan as well as for GCU. He admired his remarkable dedication towards producing PhDs in nuclear physics at GCU. He mentioned that during the last 15 years, with his support a small Nuclear Data Group was established at GCU which had got international recognition. A big push from his side, made it possible that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), included GCU in a Co-ordinated Research Project (CRP). The five years long project has been completed successfully and GCU can now be seen at the landscape of International Nuclear Science.

Prof. Dr. N.M Butt, the nuclear physicist mentioned that Prof. Qaim is a highly decorated scientist, a long list of medals and fellowships are on his credit. In the field of radioactivity, the most celebrated medals are JARI Medal, Hevesy Medal and Becquerel Medal and all the three prestigious medals have already been conferred to Prof. Qaim. He is the fellow of many international societies and science academies. He has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan for his services to the cause of Science in Pakistan in 1999.

Dr. G. Murtaza, Salam Chair Professor, shared his college days' memories with Prof. Qaim when they were both students. Prof. Dr. Raiz Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Engineering also addressed the ceremony.





### Three-Day International Conference on Plant Sciences organized at GCU

A three-day international conference on plant sciences held at Government College University Lahore under the auspices of Botany Department and Higher Education Commission. Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, eminent biologist was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony. The conference was also attended by the foreign delegates from China, Germany, Canada and USA. Dr. Mirza, the conference chairman told the participants that the aim of the conference was to provide a forum to discuss practical challenges encountered and seek research collaborations among universities and institutes to proceed towards promising new developments in the different areas of plant sciences.

Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik said that Pakistan direly needed the focused research for self-reliance in different walks of life. In this context, our scientists and students must avail this opportunity of sharing new knowledge regarding different fields of plant science to set targets for improvements in quality of research.

Prof. Dr. Islam Ullah Khan, Dean Faculty of Science & Technology GCU said that the planet's water resources are under immense pressure, the amount of fresh water available per person has decreased four times in the last 60 years and of the water that is available, 70% was already being used for agriculture. Thus, agricultural production must be intensified to feed more people with less water on the same amount of land. He mentioned that the pathogens that caused devastating crop losses continued to spread in the face of increased global commerce and climate change. Given these challenges, there is a pressing need for plant research to produce solutions to ensure food security in a sustainable and safe way.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the need for development of basic plant research discoveries into technologies or approaches that improved agriculture. He said that modern research was complex and multidisciplinary and it was not possible for a single university to possess all the knowledge and equipment. Therefore, it was imperative to establish academic and research links and share resources, expertise and equipment with each other. The Vice Chancellor also highlighted that there was a lot of hunger even in developed countries where a large section of society could not afford food. He laid stress on strong collaborations among scientists at the national and international level to fight the threat of food insecurity.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Khalid Hameed Sheikh, the former Vice Chancellor of Punjab University, was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony which was also addressed by the Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah and foreign delegates from Canada and Nigeria. Prof. Khalid said that there was a dire need to explore the botany related fields at the micro and nano level. He mentioned that the technical advances in the subject such as genome editing and metabolic engineering exemplified how basic research discoveries were being translated into methods to develop and improve, both agriculturally and environmentally, important crops. He praised that the Department of Botany at GCU, established in 1902, is the oldest Botany department in the entire sub-content which holds the distinction to publish the first research Journal "Biologia" in Pakistan in 1955.

Speakers at the concluding ceremony of the International Conference on Plant Sciences laid stress on research for effective utilization and conservation of indigenous plants species. Dr. Kun-Fang Cao from Guanxi University, China delivered his key note address on increasing hydraulic efficiency along with hydraulic safety and mechanic strength during the evolution of basal angiosperms. Prof. Dr. Job N., Nmadu from Nigeria said that Pakistani teachers had played a strong role in developing the education system in Nigeria. He lauded the hospitality of Pakistanis, saying they are a wonderful nation. Prof. Dr. Talok Singh Sahota from Canada also addressed the ceremony.



## GCU forms new society, Society of Culture and Heritage (SOCH)

The Government College University Lahore formed a new society, SOCH, to study and represent the multiple cultures within their society. Prof. Pervaiz Vandal, a renowned architect and pro-Vice Chancellor of Institute for Art and Culture, chaired the launching ceremony of SOCH.

Prof. Mirza Ather Baig, eminent writer highlighted the deep contradictions between the academic culture practiced in their educational institutions and the cultural systems of signification prevalent in their society. He said that this state of affairs hampered the processes of learning, creativity and education. Prof Baig, who is also the chairman of GCU Societies Board, mentioned that the objectives of SOCH were divided into three categories i.e. conceptual, exploratory and per-formative. The first category is to have intellectual discourse, second to explore the indigenous heritage and in the third category, the society will encourage students to perform folk culture, singing, theater and music.

Prof. Pervaiz Vandal said that it was very unfortunate that the quest for knowledge was suppressed in their society. We don't let our children to question us which is wrong. He lauded the societies system of GCU Lahore which let the students to deliberate upon issues which were not generally discussed in the classes. He also explained the significance of multicultural society of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that the diverse cultural milieu at the GCU was an off-shoot of more than 55 societies and clubs jointly run by the students and the advisors i.e. faculty members. He mentioned that different reputed educational institutions had replicated this decades-old societies system of Government College University Lahore which played effective role in the personality development and character building of the students. He hoped that SOCH would work to achieve the objectives envisioned by its founders. Mr. Aasim H. Lodhi, SOCH Advisor also addressed the ceremony.



## ORU newly-elected body met the Vice Chancellor

The newly elected executive committee of Old Ravians Union (ORU), led by the President Mian Muhammad Ashfaq Mohlan, met with the Vice Chancellor GCU Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah at the Syndicate Room.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Honorary Secretary ORU, Syed Tayyab Hussian Rizvi Secretary General, Rana Shahzad Iqbal Khan Vice President, Syeda Saadia Ghaznvi VP Ladies and Farrukh Hayat Pannoun Treasurer ORU were also present. The Vice Chancellor urged the Old Ravians to play a more active role in the development of their alma mater.

The newly-elected ORU President expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his extraordinary support to the union. He mentioned that Old Ravians across the world would be mobilized to raise funds for the development of the university. The executive members of the union, Muhammad Rashid, Naeem Tahir, Najum Latif, Wasif Idress Nagi, Naveed Ahmed, Usman Saeed, Ahsan Gujjar and Riaz Ahmed were also present.





## GCU Holds Seminar on Structural Weaknesses in Pakistan's Economy

A seminar was held at Government College University Lahore on "Policy Options to address Structural Weaknesses in Pakistan's Economy". Dr. Vaqar Ahmad, eminent economist pointed out the lack of coordination between institutional bodies in reforming the country's economic system. He made a presentation on the Malaysian Economic Model of Growth and underlined the need for bringing down the size of the government, saying that it would help in curtailing the non-essential expenditures from the society.

Dr. Vaqar, who is the Joint Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, discussed the basis for competitiveness in the government institutions and need for the post eighteenth amendment institutional reforms. A large number of faculty members and students attended the seminar organized by the Mehboob-ul-Haq Chair Economics Society. Later, Dr. Vaqar held a detailed meeting with Vice Chancellor and explored opportunities of research collaboration between GCU and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad.

## Flower Competition held at GCU

The Dry Flower Competition was held at Government College University Lahore where students from different colleges and universities used the floral art as a medium to promote sustainable use of plant waste materials. Around 160 students competed on different categories in the Dry Flower Contest i.e. Central Table, Corner Table and Wall Hanging, besides shirt painting and poster competitions held on the themes related to environment issues. The competitions were organized by the GCU Horticulture Society at the Salam Hall.

Prof. Zaheer-ud-Din Khan, Advisor Horticulture Society GCU said that the competitions are held every year to highlight the environmental issues and promote sustainable use of plant waste materials. He mentioned that the students 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. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony. He appreciated the widespread participation of students in the competitions, saying that the university's Horticulture Society was also playing a key role in the beautification of GCU's New Campus at Kala Shah Kaku. He advised that the society members to hold a flowers' decoration competition among the university's gardeners as well to encourage their efforts. Later, the Vice Chancellor presented shields and certificates to the winners of the competitions. Alisa Sarfraz and Fatima Hafeez from Apwa College Lahore, Subham Idrees from Lahore College Women University and Javaria Mubeen from Cantonment Board Postgraduate College secured the first positions in different categories.



## Grand Christmas Celebrations at GCU

The faculty and staff members of Government College University Lahore celebrated the Christmas with the Christian community at a colourful ceremony at the Bukhari Auditorium which was especially decorated in a traditional style with lights, balloons, flowers, flags and a Christmas tree.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah Vice Chancellor, Mr. Saboor Ahmed Khan the Registrar and Prof. Dr. Sultan Shah cut the Christmas cake with the university's Christian staff, students and faculty members.







The Vice Chancellor said “we should not only accept the minorities, but also celebrate them”. He added that GCU had always stood out for promoting tolerance and religious harmony. If we want peace, we must tolerate in the society towards the beliefs, faith, race, religion and ideas of other people.

Prof. Dr. Peter John from the Chemistry Department said that the Christmas was a time of delight, sharing the joys and acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation, celebrations and promoting love and peace. He mentioned that in every religion, peoples' rights had a preference over the other rights. The minority staff members of GCU expressed the gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and other guests for celebrating Christmas with them. They said that Christmas gave the message of peace and love to all humanity.



## Smart Devices Put On Display at Apex'18

The final year engineering students from different universities exhibited their self-made smart devices, from fully automated lathe machine to foot power generation system for public buildings which includes robots and innovative technologies at the Annual Projects Exhibition (APEX 2018). The exhibition was organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering at Salam Hall.

About 30 smart devices were displayed which included AI-based home automation device, compressed air energy storage system, fire-fighting robot with wireless control, smart scoreboard for basketball, Google supported traffic management system, autonomous self-balancing military robot, visible light communication system, water quality monitoring system and voice control wheelchair for the physically-challenged.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor said that knowledge was nothing without its application; these students worked very hard on their projects ranged from automation to power electronics to surveillance. He mentioned that market had become highly competitive, so the university graduates had to be highly innovative and technically sound to survive. The Vice Chancellor also guided the students about further research on their projects.

Dr. Junaid Zafar, Chairperson Department of Electrical Engineering said that APEX 2018 was aimed at providing opportunities to the students to demonstrate their knowledge and technical skills to the companies but also educate and motivate the other students to come up with more innovative ideas and technologies. He stated that more than 300 students submitted the projects, out of which only 30 projects were displayed. Different companies and funding agencies were also invited to APEX 2018 to witness and fund the projects. Later, the fully automated lathe machine developed by the team of FAST University students secured the first position and cash award at the APEX 2018. AI-based home automation system of GCU students secured the second position.





## GCU holds an International Conference On "Gender, Religion and Culture in Psychology"

A three-day international conference on "Gender, Religion and Culture in Psychology: Issues Challenges and Prospects" was held at Government College University Lahore. The objective of the conference was to discuss that how theories developed in the west are being adopted in the Pakistani context and how gaps in culturally embedded literature create room for research in non-western societies. The students and faculty members from 40 universities of Pakistan, seven illustrious researchers from UK, USA, Germany and Iran participated in the conference which was organized by the Psychology Department in collaboration with the federal and provincial higher education commissions.

Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education was chief guest at the inauguration ceremony which was also addressed



by Dr. Jaime Diaz Granados Chief Executive Officer American Psychological Association, Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah Vice Chancellor GCU and Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool the conference chairperson.

The federal minister said that the importance of social sciences and humanities could not be ignored even in this age of science and technology. He mentioned that their government would increase budget for research besides establishing new universities. He proudly shared that he was an alumnus of Psychology Department of GCU, saying that he studied psychology for six years at the Government College Lahore and later taught for two years as a young lecturer.

The Vice Chancellor said that universities charters were needed to be reviewed as there were different clauses and rules of business that impeded the progress of higher education institutions. We have very high hopes from the present government that it would do for the education that was not done before. The Vice Chancellor mentioned that GCU had made it to the Times Higher Education World Universities Ranking for the first time last year due to the hard work and dedication of its faculty members. However, he stated that GCU would witness more rapid development in the coming years with the completion of its new campus at Kala Shah Kaku.

Dr. Jaime Diaz Granados explored how culture formed people's thoughts and behaviours and how psychological science could inform the ways that culture shaped people's self-concepts, perceptions, relationships, and moral reasoning.

The conference chairperson said that literature demonstrated that the psychology of gender and religion were knitted together in the local and national cultures as well. The conference covered the multiple issues related to religion, gender and culture and their relevance to subjective and psychological well-being in 20 scientific and one poster session.





## Mathematical Workshop held at ASSMS-GCU

A Five-day mathematical workshop on “Advanced Topics in Mathematics” was held at the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences (ASSMS) in collaboration with the Punjab Higher Education Commission. Four eminent foreign Mathematicians, Dr. Shaun Cooper from Messy University New Zealand, Dr. Karl Dichler from Dalhousie University Canada, Dr. Simon Kristensen from Aarhus University Denmark and Dr. Mumtaz Hussain from La Trobe university Australia addressed the workshop which was attended by the students and faculty members from different universities across Pakistan.

The foreign speakers said that the Number Theory was one of the oldest and the most important branch of Mathematics but a serious dilemma was that the subject had been highly ignored in third world universities.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice Chancellor GCU appreciated the role of ASSMS for promotion of Mathematics in Pakistan. He expressed gratitude to the foreign speakers for their valuable time and asked them for their continuous support for further developments in mathematics in the country. The Vice Chancellor emphasized the serious need for arranging these kinds of workshops on unobserved areas like number theory more often.

Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, the Director General of ASSMS highlighted the history of number theory in the region. He mentioned that Government College happened to be a central hub of number theory during the headship (1936 - 1947) of famous number theorist, Prof. Sarvadaman Chawla. He also pledged that ASSMS would keep on organizing such thematic promising events for promoting mathematics in the country.

## Sufi Literature Moot Begins at GCU

A two-day conference on “the role of Sufi literature in the promotion of peace and tolerance” held at the Government College University Lahore under the auspices of the Persian Department and Higher Education Commission.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Amir Shah, the Vice chancellor chaired the inaugural ceremony of the conference which was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shahid Dean Faculty of Languages, Islamic & Oriental Learning, Dr. Saadat Hassan Saeed Distinguished Professor and Prof. Dr. Fakhar-ul-Haq Noori from Punjab University Oriental College Lahore.

The speakers said that extremism could be eliminated from the society by promoting the teachings of great Sufi saints. They stressed that Sufism unified people irrespective of their caste, culture, creed and religion.



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