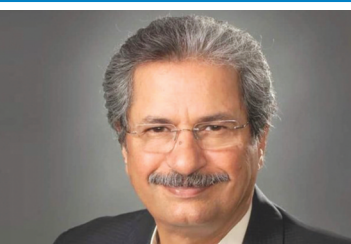




Independence Day, Defence Day celebrations recall sacrifices



Remote education faces challenges



Asad Umar, Nong Rong stress joint efforts to cope with calamities



Media urged to discourage extremist attitude

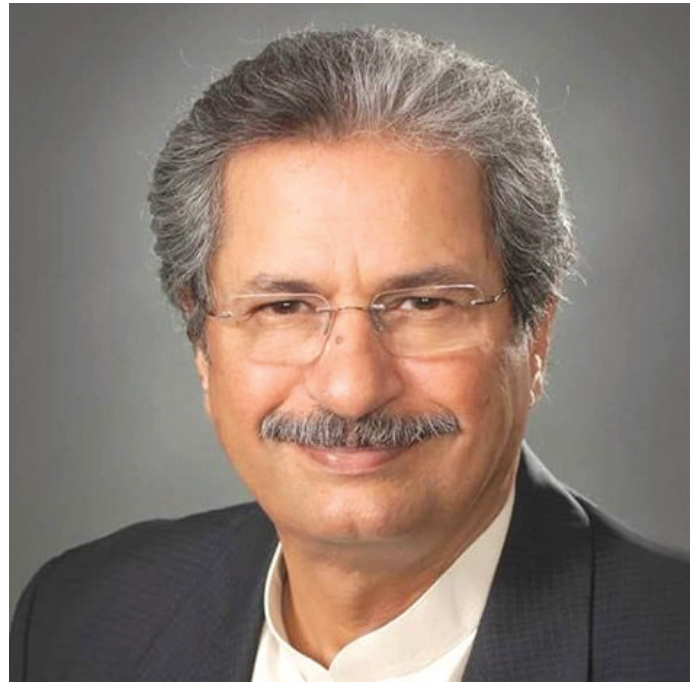
Remote education faces multiple challenges amid COVID-19

THE remote education is facing multiple challenges; however, things are getting better now after the government took special measures to address the digital divide for the education in urban and rural geographies and with diverse needs.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood stated this while addressing the Hybrid International Conference 2021 on Global Academia in Islamabad. According to United Nations report, more than 91 per cent students have been affected by the schools' closure. By April 2021, about 1.6 billion young students were out of schools. The school closures and the loss of family incomes kept students out of school indefinitely.

Shafqat Mahmood said that the govt is taking considerable steps for the education of children with disabilities. He shared that various tertiary education institutions exempt candidates with disabilities from inaccessible admission tests, has relaxed age limits, providing fee concessions, and also offering appropriate examination modalities.

He also mentioned that educational institutes' infrastructure should be wheelchair-friendly for physically challenged children, while sign language and braille specialist teachers should be available to cater to the needs of children with hearing and visual impairments. ■



SHAFQAT MAHMOOD
Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training

No power can suppress passion of Pakistanis

UNIVERSITY of the Punjab pays homage to the valiant defence forces of Pakistan and remembers the sacrifices of our martyrs. Our Army has achieved unprecedented success in war on terror and no army in the whole world has such success story to its credit. Pakistani Army defending our boundaries with valour and presented great sacrifices for the nation. Pakistan Army is No 1 army in the world and the whole nation always stand with our brave soldiers in difficult times. Our engineers and technologists are also contributing to make our defence stronger than ever. The quality of our atomic program is at par with any developed country of the world. No one can defeat Pakistani nation as it is ambitious and patriotic.

We must play our role for the development of our country by recognizing the requirements of our country and understanding the necessities of the present age. All the Pakistanis must excel and perform well in their fields. PU would also play lead role in the development of country as it has major responsibility on its shoulders being the oldest university of the country. May we rise



PU VC PROF DR NIAZ AHMAD

as a nation and materialise the dreams of our martyrs by protecting our homeland against forces of ignorance, poverty, hunger and lawlessness. ■

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Editorial Note

THIS edition highlights various colorful activities including Independence Day Celebrations to recall the sacrifices of our forefathers to achieve their dream of a separate homeland – Pakistan. Every year PU celebrates this day with national zeal and fervor. This year's message was to realize the dream of freedom fighters in the true sense by making Pakistan prosperous and strong. This aim can be achieved through education and research.

Punjab University administration is emphasizing applied research as a mission to help resolve the issues faced by various sectors of the country through the required research support from the

universities. For this purpose, the vice-chancellor has increased research funding to the university faculty and research scholars. Research proposals submitted by the faculty members are in the process of scrutiny and awards are expected to be announced soon.

Besides PU funding, a large number of faculty members are doing research funded by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan as well as other national and international organizations. The recent increase in QS Ranking has motivated the university faculty to focus more on their research potential, especially applied research, a much-required focus of the academia to ensure our national development and prosperity. ■

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Independence Day celebrations: sacrifices recalled

BY RABIA YOUSAF

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad has paid special tribute to the sacrifices of ancestors and said that it was due to their sacrifices and visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal that the nation was living in an independent atmosphere. He was addressing the flag hoisting ceremony in connection with Pakistan's 75th Independence Day outside the Vice Chancellor's office.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Niaz Ahmad said that every Pakistani should play his/her role for the development of Pakistan. He said

that we must make efforts for the betterment of our institutions. He said that teachers must play their role for resolving the issues being faced by the country as well as society. He said that man is blind without education. He called upon the university teachers, employees and students to take part in the tree plantation drive of the government with enthusiasm.



After the flag hoisting ceremony, the senior faculty members gathered at Vice Chancellor's Committee Room Punjab University. The participants expressed their views about Independence Day.

Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar

Pro Vice Chancellor PU

The prevailing situation of minorities in India proved that why establishment of a separate homeland for the Muslims was necessary in the region. We must eliminate personal differences and work together for the development of the country. Unity and harmony is the key behind the success of any nation.



Prof Dr Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi

Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies



Pakistan is great blessing of Almighty Allah on us. We must take care of stature and the sanctity of our homeland like our own home and even more than that from the core of heart.

سروں پہ چھت بھی ہے دیوار و در میسر ہے
ہزار شکر کہ رہنے کو گھر میسر ہے

Hence, this is great blessing of Almighty Allah on Pakistanis that today we are living independently and peacefully in this homeland. Protection of Pakistan is necessary on all nationals. We should value the importance of independence. Independence of religion, culture, language, tradition and separate homeland is enough to say Thanks to Allah Almighty. The people of Pakistan must also remember and be thankful to those who sacrificed their lives to earn freedom for us.

Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry

Chairman School of Economics

TODAY is not only the day to celebrate independence with happiness but also this is the day to renew our pledge with determination to make this country a piece of land in which everyone can live independently. Everyone can enjoy the taste of freedom. Being a teacher, it is our prime responsibility to play our active role for the development of our society and country. We must make efforts to make this nation a great, brave, self-reliant one so that we can stand tall amid the comity of nations. We must tell the world that we are going to achieve the motives for which our country was established. For this, we all have an important role to play. I want



to give a message to teachers, students and civil society that we must join hands and move forward with courage and hope.

Prof Dr Rifaqat Ali Akbar

Director Institute of Education and Research

PAKISTAN is one of the greatest blessings of Allah in which we breath in an independent atmosphere. It is a result of great sacrifices of our ancestors. My grandfather used to tell me that how the Muslims of the sub-continent were treated with disgrace and discrimination. Outside his school, there was a milk shop.



The classes of the Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus were held and dealt separately. And my grandfather said the milk shop owner, who was a Hindu, used to throw the glass beneath his chair which was used by the Muslims student for drinking Lassi where dogs and cats used to sit and licked those glasses.

After that, lassi was used to be served to the Muslims in the same glass without properly washing it. This was the level of hate of the Hindus towards the Muslims. Later, due to the vision of Allama Iqbal and efforts of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, this country came into being in which all of us are living and independent and respectful life without fearing such hateful behaviour of the Hindus.

Prof Dr Abdul Qayyum Chaudhry

Chairman Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education



HE sang the poem "Sohni Dharti Allah Rakhay Qadam Qadam Abad" which created an emotional environment in the committee room.

Prof Dr Mahboob Hussain

Chairman Department of History & Pakistan Studies

THE hostile attitude of Congress towards Indian Muslims and Muslim League forced our leaders to demand a separate homeland.

We are thankful to our leaders who guided the nation and made great efforts for establishment of an independent country for the Muslims.

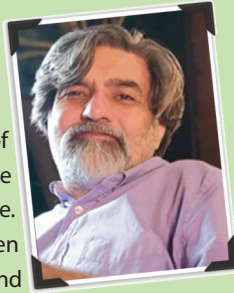


06 | Independence Day



Prof Dr Ahmad Bilal PU College of Arts & Design

PROF Ahmad Bilal recited the poem of Munnu Bhai, as it depicts time before independence and after independence. He recited it in response to the professor spoken before him about the true spirit of freedom and sense of loss on tragedies like East Pakistan or APS.



او وی خوب دیہاڑے سن
بھگ لگدی سی 'منگ لیندے سان
مل جاندا سی 'کھا لیندے سان
نئیں سی ملدا اتے رو پیندے سان
روندے روندے سوں رہندے سان

ایہہ وی خوب دیہاڑے سن
بھگ لگدی اے 'منگ نئیں سکدے
ملدا اے تے 'کھا نئیں سکدے
نئیں ملدا تے 'رو نئیں سکدے
ناں روئیے نے سوں نئیں سکدے

منو بھائی

earth which can undo Pakistan because it is a blessing for the nation from Allah SWT. We must keep in mind the true meaning of the existence of our country and above self-interest we must contribute our selfless, committed and dedicated efforts in the progress of country.

We cannot forget the vital and crucial role and efforts of women which they played throughout the building of Islam and Pakistan. As we see Hazrat Khadijah (R.A) was the very first women who accepted Islam and contributed her efforts and money for the successful growth of our religion Islam. On the other hand, we see the sacrifices and bravery of Hazrat Zainab (R.A) who not only stand united with her brother Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) during all the wars and difficult times but she also keeps this legacy after the event of Karbala. We also cannot deny the successful political representation of women in Pakistan like Madam Fatima Jinnah who was the biggest support of her brother, the father of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. She stressed upon the participation of women in the development of nation and country, and women should be given the opportunities to put up their efforts to serve the humanity and country and for the successful growth and development of Pakistan. ■

Prof Dr Muhammad Arshad

Chairman Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics

INDEPENDENCE Day is actually the day of self-accountability along with celebrations.

We must count the achievements as well as the failures on every August 14. The Pakistan we have today, is it the same as of August 1947? Certainly no. Is it being taught to our young generation why East Pakistan was separated?

Who were the culprits responsible for this tragedy? Just to share, my parents migrated from Jalandhar to Pakistan. They sacrificed because they were dreaming of "Islamic Republic of Pakistan". My father passed away in 1991 and he often said, "it is not that Pakistan we were dreaming of." I think our nation must know the achievements along with reward/acknowledgement for



Prof Dr Syeda Mahnaz Hassan

Chairperson Department of Social Work



PAKISTAN is a beautiful gift from Allah which we got after many sacrifices, hard work, dedication and devotion. There is no country on the earth like Pakistan. This freedom was impossible without the sufferings and sacrificing of a nation. She reminded the true meaning and slogan of Pakistan to the audience which was 'لا إله إلا الله' (There is no God except Allah) which means that there is no power on

those, our heroes, who are behind these achievements as well as the failures along with those who are responsible for these failures on every Independence Day. Only a strict and fair self-accountability would make this piece of land "Islamic Republic of Pakistan". ■

Faiz-ul-Hassan Sipra Chief Engineer



AUGUST 14 is a day we are proud of when we got an independent homeland for us. First of all, I am thankful to Allah and secondly, I am thankful to Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This country is a result of the tireless efforts and sacrifices of Jinnah, his companions and our ancestors who sacrificed themselves for the creation of a new homeland

for the Muslims of sub-continent. We salute them and pray for them. Pakistan is a great country and we are a great nation. Pakistan armed forces, academicians, doctors, engineers and professionals are acknowledged worldwide. The state of infrastructure in Pakistan was not as such impressive when it came into being. However, we have developed a great infrastructure. As an engineer, I call upon the need to impose engineering emergency in our country because the problems we are facing in this age can be coped through imposition of engineering emergency. Engineers can solve all the problems being faced by the country as we need dams, schools, roads, power houses etc. ■

Dr Shinawar Waseem Ali Chairman Department of Food Sciences

THE hypocrisy of the Hindus is exemplary. Even today, we read news of mob lynching of the Muslims by Hindus in India. Even today, the Muslims can't perform their religious obligations without any fear and they are banned to eat the meat of beef/cow. On the other hand, India is one of the largest beef exporters in the world and a number of Hindu companies deal in exporting the meat of cow. Therefore, we must be thankful to Allah that we are now living in an independent country in which we have freedom to live as per our religion.



Dr Muhamamd Shabbir Sarwar Assistant Professor Communication Studies



THE Muslim Press played very courageous role during the Independent Movement and its significance was heightened to level that it was referred as 'Militant Press'. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar, Abdul Halim Sharar, Hasrat Mohani, among others, were prominent on this mission.

Sir Syed published the Causes of Indian Revolt in 1959 besides promoting logic and education through his Mohammadan Social Reformer. He ultimately started talking about the Two Nation Theory. Later, Abdul Halim Sharrar and Maulana Hasrat Mohani in Urdu-i-Mu'alla published revolutionary thoughts. Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar in an editorial in The Comrade, titled: "Choice of the Turks", supported the cause of Turkey in the Balkan war and gathered Muslims. In another article Muhammad Ali wrote: "we have lived because we have dared, and we shall still dare, and we shall still live." Maulana Zafar Ali Khan's Zamindar fought courageously and closed several times and launched again through fundraising. When Hindu Press criticised Allam Iqbal's historic address of Allahabad, newspapers Inqilab, Muslim Outlook and Hamdam came forward to support the demand to set up a Muslim state in their majority areas. In 1940 Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah demanded Muslims to launch newspapers and he raised funds to run newspapers. Jinnah launched Dawn and Manshoor from Delhi as Muslim League's mouth pieces. ■

Dr Muhammad Hameed Chairman Department of Archaeology

PROFESSOR Dr Ahmad Hassan Dani (Late) is called as "The Father of Archaeology in Pakistan". Whatever development we see presently in the county is only due to the untiring efforts which he made in the field of Archaeology and its integration with related disciplines such as History, Anthropology, Linguistics, Art History etc. as evident by the amount of publications in the form of books and articles of international reputation. The scholar who had command over 30 languages, introduced Archaeology of Pakistan to the world, through his works on Indus Valley Civilization, Gandhara, Iron age, Silk Road, Rock Carvings, Islamic Architecture etc, Gold medalist in the subject of Sanskrit from Banaras Hindu University, and the only Muslim student with such distinction, had to face discrimination at different levels during Pre Independence period. The creation of Pakistan also brought freedom to work which ultimately produced the most reputed, popular and authentic Archaeologist and Historian of the country. ■



○ PU RANKING TO IMPROVE FURTHER:

DR KHALID MEHMOOD

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad made reforms for quality learning outcome



Dr Khalid Mehmood



BY ZEESHAN ASHRAF & MARYAM IMRAN

THERE are more than 40 thousand universities in the world and Punjab University has been ranked among the top 62% universities as according to percentile evaluation, in 2018 we were among the top 78% universities, in 2019 top 75%, in 2020 top 68% and now in 2021 in top 62% universities of the world. This was stated by PU Ranking Committee Chairperson Prof Dr Khalid Mehmood during an interview.

PU News: What is your strategy to improve PU ranking?

Dr Khalid Mehmood: Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar joined PU as Vice Chancellor in 2018 and made a university ranking committee and appointed me chairperson with senior professors as members of the committee. We planned and contacted the international agencies. We shared our data with one of the most prestigious agencies i.e., QS University Rankings. Initially, we were ranked in Top 1000 universities. Now, are in the same range of 801-1000 but there's another criterion to measure the ranking i.e., percentile evaluation. According to percentile evaluation, in 2018 we were among the top 78% universities of the world, in 2019 top 75% and after that we were in top 68% and now in 2021 in top 62% universities of the world. There are more than forty thousand universities in the world and Punjab University has been Ranked among the top 62% universities. In my view, it's a great growth and we will get a chance to grow further.

In QS Asia we also got promoted. When we started working three years before, we were at 232 position, after one year we came at 193, then 195. Now in the latest ranking of Asia, we are at 178. According to me, it's a great jump. In the same way the third measure of ranking is subject ranking, in which we have been ranked three times. Initially only three subjects, chemistry, agriculture and physics, were included from Punjab University. Next year it became five and in the latest ranking our thirteen subjects are there. So, in my view as we took interest in ranking and shared our data with the agency with the help of our administration, so our position in ranking started to get better.

PU News: What is the QS ranking criteria? Which factors ensured your 16 percent improvement?

Dr Khalid Mehmood: The QS ranking is based upon four to five factors. They do a worldwide survey of the university's reputation. Academicians and employers are also included in this survey. The research data is also collected from the focused database and they analyze the numbers of publications of the faculty and H-index, which is an indicator.



“
In QS Asia ranking we have a 'great jump' as three years ago PU was at No. 232 now; we are at No. 178
”

There are some other measures also like student teacher ratio, number of international faculty and students. So, after analyzing all this the ranking agency decides the ranking. In all these areas the university brought reforms which can be seen in last three years, while appointing the teachers, PhDs were given preference and in this way the number of teachers holding PhD degree has increased.

The ranking committee updates the Vice Chancellor with latest criteria, which helps him in taking necessary measures. For example, in order to promote the research culture, the university is making certain policies which will make the indicators better and it will automatically affect the ranking.

PU News: Sir how see resources vs quality of education? Are you satisfied with the performance of the students of Punjab University?

Dr Khalid Mehmood: A total of 47 thousand students with limited resources are studying at PU, for which we should be thankful to public sector for allocating resources for

needy students but I think more resources are needed. It means with limited resources we are teaching a number of students, so if we compare this output with the input I'm completely satisfied and feel that our university is doing more than it could do.

PU News: Sir, as you are associated with the Institute of Information Sciences (Library

Sciences), let us know the reason behind the decreasing trend of students' presence in the library?

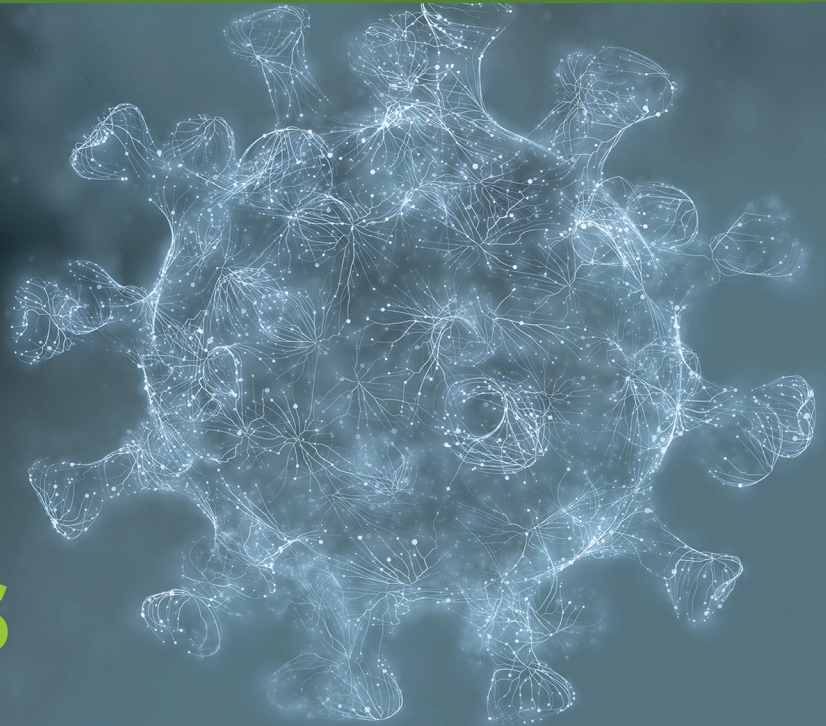
Dr Khalid Mehmood: In our society, the trend towards libraries has been low from the beginning. One of the major reasons is a smaller number of libraries in our country. Secondly, in our society the culture of reading, writing or researching is very less. Nowadays, technology has also changed the trend of library completely. The content that was only available in libraries is now easily accessible for students through their mobile phones, laptops and tablets.

PU News: How do you see information, electronic reading and mobile phones?

Dr Khalid Mehmood: Students are getting a lot of content and books for their thesis and research on their mobiles and laptops for which they don't have to go anywhere. Furthermore, electronic reading has its own benefits which include easy searching and duplication along with this there are some drawbacks also like it effects on eyes but still electronic reading is easier paper reading. ■

Two-day national conference on 'Challenges of Governance in Pakistan Amid Covid-19 Pandemic'

Asad Umar stresses joint efforts to cope with calamities



TWO-DAY national conference on 'Challenges of Governance in Pakistan Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic' organized by Punjab University Department of Political Science. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Mr. Nong Rong attended online, while PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, former caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Prof Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi, Founding Director Center for Public Policy and Governance FC College Lahore Dr Saeed Shafqat, Dean Faculty Behavioral and Social Sciences Prof Dr Umbreen Javed, Chairperson Department of Political Science Prof Dr Iram Khalid, researchers,

senior faculty members and a large number of students participated in the conference.

Asad Umar while addressing the inaugural session of the conference said that we need to work together to deal with natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes and corona-virus. All institutions including media, judiciary, scholars, doctors, nurses, paramedical staff played a vital role during the COVID. In COVID-19, the government of Pakistan was also facing the challenges of saving the economy along with the health of the people, which the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) were set up to combat and convey the truth to the people.

He said that the government and the military leadership in the NCOC together made the best decisions in the national interest. Based on daily data, the NCOC has decided on lockdown, hotspot lockdown and smart lockdown so that people's health and economic condition can be improved. He said that he made all the decisions keeping in view the situation of his country after learning from other countries. He said that the process of vaccination started and the same laws were applied to all keeping the debate of the poor on the sidelines and even the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan in turn vaccinated them.

He said that in view of lack of resources and



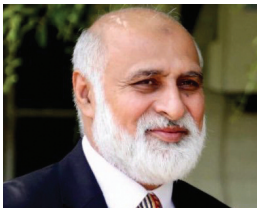
Punjab Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasnain Bahadar Dreshak, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad, PVC Dr Saleem Mazhar, Prof Dr Umbreen Javed, and Prof Dr Iram Khalid sit on stage during the national conference.



The govt and the military leadership in the NCOC together made the best decisions in the national interests - **ASAD UMAR**



Long-standing friendly relations with Pakistan further enhanced during the epidemic - **MR. NONG RONG**



Various departments of PU have taken steps for the welfare and psychological support of the people - **PROF NIAZ AHMAD**

poor health facilities to deal with the epidemic, the government has increased the facilities provided to hospitals and the use of technology has made it easier to calculate the number of patients in hospitals, availability of oxygen, condition of beds and medical facilities through various applications. He said that China supported Pakistan in difficult time and through artificial intelligence, the government was formulating a strategy for the future so that an effective and integrated strategy could be formulated to tackle challenges like corona. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers in organizing the best event.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said that since the onset of the corona epidemic, the Chinese government has mobilized its people under the best strategy and provided awareness to meet this challenge. He said that scientific research and medical training were promoted on priority basis and to curb the spread of corona an effective smart lockdown was implemented across the country. He said that the Chinese government, realizing its global responsibilities, supplied 450 million doses of vaccines to various countries and provided other medical supplies in large quantities.

Long-standing friendly relations with Pakistan were further enhanced during the epidemic. He thanked the Government of Pakistan for sending medical supplies to China at the beginning of the corona and the Chinese government has so far provided 3.2 million of vaccines and other medical devices to Pakistan. Nong Rong praised the successful strategy

of the Pakistani government and the NCOC against corona, saying that effective planning in Pakistan not only prevented the spread of pandemic but also maintained its socio-economic stability.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad said that the steps taken by the government to curb the spread of corona and to improve the economy are commendable. He said that during the pandemic situation when all the universities were closed, Punjab University played its lead role and arranged online classes and examinations so that the education of the students would not be hampered. The students were allowed to take physical and online exams and fees were reduced appropriately. He said that PU did not fire any of its employees from but also salaries, other benefits were also paid on time.

He said that after taking over the post of Vice Chancellor of Punjab University, with just three years of hard work, Punjab University's world ranking has improved by 16%, Asian ranking by 54% and for the first time in the history of Punjab University, 13 faculties have been ranked. He said that various departments of PU have taken steps for the upgrading, welfare and psychology of the people. He said that our media team has done a great job in making the people aware of the excellent performance and the role of Punjab University during pandemic. He appreciated the efforts of Dr Umbreen Javed, Dr Iram and his team for organizing such conference.

Dr Hassan Askari said that last year was a year of learning a lot for human history. He said that such challenges may be faced in future also for which permanent planning is required. He said to prevent the spread of corona, the government took a number of steps, including enforcing the same law everywhere in the lockdown, for which the NCOC, led by Asad Umar, made the best decisions. He said that in view of the deteriorating economic condition of the people, the government helped them through the Ehsas cash program, reduced interest rates on loans and also played a vital role in meeting the living needs of the people. He said that during the corona epidemic, the state and society realized that mutual help was needed to deal with such a situation.

Dr Saeed said that the issue of governance during pandemic was faced globally. He said that corona has had economic, political, social and cultural implications. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan would be effective for Pakistan and Tajikistan and the future of education and health development depends on technology. He said that new sources of employment for online businesses were created during the corona epidemic in Pakistan. Dr. Umbreen Javed and Dr Iram also addressed the moot. ■



PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad, Prof Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi, Dr Saeed Shafqat, Prof Dr Umbreen Javed, Prof Dr Iram Khalid, senior faculty members, researchers and students pose for a photo on the 2nd day of conference.

12 | Campus Life



IAP Director Prof Dr Rafia Rafique plants a tree on Independence Day.



Children pose for a photo on Independence Day.



PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad and faculty members pay a visit to the mausoleum of Allama



Participants of flag hoisting ceremony pose for a photo on Independence Day.



Iqbal and offer Fateha.



PU VC Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad and PU PVC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar react after smashing the shuttle during a badminton match at Sports Gymnasium.



Prof Dr Syeda Mahnaz Hassan, Prof Dr Muqqadas Rehman, Dr Aliya Khalid and Dr Sania Zahra Malik attend Independence Day ceremony in the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room.



Mrs. Mussarat Jamshed Cheema, member Provincial Assembly/ member Syndicate Punjab University plants a tree along with faculty members on Annual Tree Plantation Drive 2021.



PU SCS organizes training workshop

Media urged to discourage extremist attitude

Reconciliation; peace, harmony, equity, freedom of speech stressed

SPEAKERS at a two-day faculty training workshop have called upon the need to counter violent extremism through promotion of peace and tolerance in society at all levels. The workshop was jointly organized by Punjab University Department of Digital Media in collaboration with the Department of Development Communication and Media Foundation 360 at Hameed Nizami Hall, School of Communication Studies.

PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad, senior journalists Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, Sohail Warraich, Department of Digital Media Chairperson Dr Savera Shami, Chairperson Department of Development Communication Dr Ayesha Ashfaq, Media Foundation 360 President Mubashar Bukhari, Shahpara Salim, faculty members from various departments

and students participated in the two-day training workshop.

PUVC Prof Niaz Ahmad while addressing the workshop said that this is the prime responsibility of the universities to arrange such dialogue where ideas could be exchanged for



Differences of opinion must be dealt with an open heart



MUJEEB UR REHMAN SHAMI

promotion of peace and harmony in the society. He said that there is a need to promote positive sentiments among the public through promotion of a culture of tolerance. He said that

we must not react aggressively to the point of view of others.

Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, a senior journalist, said that differences of opinion must be dealt with an open heart. He said that one should understand one's and others' limits and respect the ideas of others. He said that there is no space for extremism in the country. He said that the constitution is supreme and the extremist ideologies were not owned by our society and were prohibited by the state.

Sohail Warraich, a senior journalist, said that we needed to be clear on our narratives. He said that peace could be promoted by adopting the concepts of Muhammad Ali Jinnah as the Islamic Constitution of 1973 is the best constitution and it is very close to the vision of Jinnah. He said that Jinnah and Fatima believed in women empowerment.



PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad, senior journalists Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami, Sohail Warraich, Dr Savera Shami, Dr Ayesha Ashfaq, Mubashar Bukhari and other faculty members pose for a photo at the concluding session of two-day faculty training workshop.

Dr Savera Shami said that countering violent extremism from society is a dire need of the hour. She said that all stakeholders in the society should play their role for elimination of extremism from the society.

Mubashar Bukhari said that extremist attitudes had stopped our cultural activities. He said that our culture was very rich which needed to be revived for the welfare of society.

The resource persons also suggested the faculty from various departments of university to think upon the values that lead to peace and tolerance in a society. They discussed how culture could help promote peace and harmony in the country. They said hatred could be eliminated by promoting positive cultural activities. They presented examples from lifestyle of Lahorites in 1960s.

They said that Lahore has produced famous singers and musicians in the sub-continent and has been a center of literary giants. They were of the view that some incidents of violence against women and children have created serious problems and there was a dire need to resolve those issues so that such incidents

could be averted. They said that extremist attitudes needed to be addressed for the welfare of Pakistan and the media should play its positive role to discourage attitude of anarchy and intolerance.

Many concepts including acceptance to all

institutions. Furthermore, the speakers discussed the root cause of extremist behaviours, i.e. lack of quality communication of individuals with their family members, peers and teachers/supervisors in social and educational settings. The speakers advised the



Peace could be promoted by adopting the advice of Muhammad Ali Jinnah



SOHAIL WARRAICH

forms of diversity, equity, freedom of thought and speech and positivity were discussed with the students. After that the students were engaged in discussion on peace and harmony; what paradigms of thought and action relates to extremist behaviours and how can these be avoided through knowledge gained from educational



There is a need to promote positive sentiments for promotion of a culture of tolerance



PU VC PROF NIAZ AHMAD

students to start conversations at the university with the spirit of tolerating the others' viewpoint to promote harmony. The session brought to light the awareness and significance of peace and tolerance at individual as well as institutional levels to bring a positive change in the society. Later, souvenirs were distributed among the guests and participants. ■

Pakistan is drowning in plastic pollution – it's time for change!

A Series of Awareness Webinars (Hybrid Events) on Plastic Pollution Free Pakistan was organized by the College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES), University of the Punjab, Lahore. These webinars focused on the theme of Plastic Free Pakistan in order to create awareness among the individuals / public.

The webinar was held in context of Plastic Pollution Free Pakistan and the Chief Guest for this webinar was Director General WWF-Pakistan Hammad Naqi Khan. The webinar was proceeded with the welcome address by Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmad. He described that how plastic is destroying our environment.

The first speaker of the webinar was College

Environmental Sciences (CEES) Associate Professor Dr. Abdul Qadir. His topic of presentation was "Surveillance of Plastic Pollution on Ecological Integrity of River Ravi and Chenab, Pakistan". Anum Tariq, CEES lecturer was the second presenter. Her Topic of Presentation was "Impact of Microplastic Pollution on Feeding and Nesting Behavior of Birds".

Javeria Tahir, young researcher of Lahore College for Women University presented on Impacts of Microplastic Pollution on Environmental Matrices of Namal Lake. A very well-known researcher of Sustainable Development Study Centre Government College University (GCU) Dr. Abdul Sattar Nizami also joined the webinar to present on



Plastic Waste Driven Factories – A cure or Curse?

Other young researchers of CEES Mehrab-e-Ahmad and Samia Farooq gave their lecture on "Spatio-temporal Distribution of Microplastics on Macrobrachum Sp. In Riverine Ecosystem". Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences Associate Research Fellow Dr. Wenwen Gong gave an Interactive Session on the topic "What Impacts do we Expect from Plastic Particles in Agro-Ecosystem?"

Dr. Muhammad Maaz Arif from Department of Community Health Sciences, Fatima Memorial Hospital, College of Medicine and Dentistry highlighted the Effects of Micro and Nanoplastic on Human Health.

Technical Expert from PCSIR Dr. Saira Taj informed the audience about Formulation





PU faculty members and students pose for a photo after attending the webinar on "Plastic Pollution Free Pakistan".

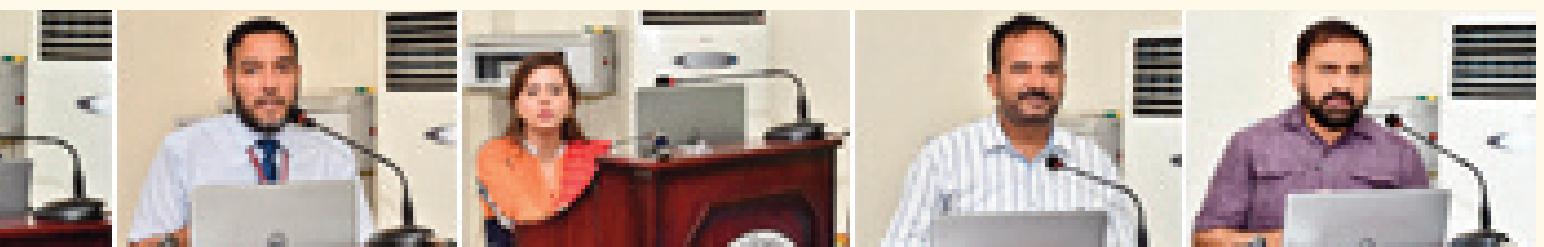
and Use of Biodegradable Plastic as an Alternative Packing Material. The last speaker Principal Investigator at Anthropogenic Contaminants National Oceanography Centre, United Kingdom (UK) Dr. Alice Horton described the "Plastic Cycle: Land, Rivers and Oceans".

Lastly, Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan addressed the audience about the Role of WWF for Eliminating Plastic Pollution in Pakistan. Mr. Hammad & Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmad also distributed prizes among the winners of Poster and Documentray. The winner of the documentary was Mehrab and Samiya from CEES and the winner of poster competition was Sadaf Tagor, US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water, Mehran University, Jamshoro, Sindh.

At the end Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmad

concluded the event by thanking all the participants, the organizers Dr. Abdul Qadir,

Ms. Anam Tariq and all the volunteers who made this event successful. ■



Social welfare system to help end human trafficking



Speakers attend 'national seminar on human trafficking'.

SPEAKERS at a national seminar on human trafficking have said that the menace of human trafficking is linked with social problems being faced by the members of the society and a comprehensive social welfare policy can help eliminate human trafficking. They were addressing a seminar organized by Punjab University Institute of Social and Cultural Studies. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, ISCS Director Prof Dr Rubeena Zakar, Dean Faculty of Law Dr Amanullah, Director Anti-human Smuggling, FIA Islamabad Zaheer Ahmad, CHRS CEO Waqar Haider, faculty members and students participated in the seminar. Addressing the seminar, Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar urged the social scientists to come forward and play their role for elimination of social issues like human trafficking.

Prof Dr Rubeena Zakar said that the issue of trafficking in persons (TIP) was connected with social problems being faced by the people and human trafficking occurred in countries where there were serious human rights violations and people wanted to change their fate at any cost. She said that TIP was linked with people's living conditions, minimum dignity, absence of a rescue system, social safety net for marginalized sections of society and decent work environment. In Pakistan, there was a huge

gender gap in labor force participation. She further said that if we wanted to achieve sustainable development goals, we needed to eliminate human trafficking including forced labor, child labor and forced marriages from Pakistan. She said that the government needed to

provide decent work opportunities to all that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration.

Zaheer Ahmed said that the issue of human trafficking was connected with all of us as children were being sold and purchased for forced labor and beggary. He said that there were organized gangs who purchased children for beggary on the roads. Dr Aman Ullah said that one of the basic reasons of the wars was lack of provision of human rights moreover, peace could be established through prosperity and giving due rights to the others. Later, a question answer session was also held. ■



“ To achieve the sustainable development goals, it's necessary to eliminate human trafficking including forced labor, child labor and forced marriages from Pakistan ”

Prof Dr Rubeena Zakar

Israel-India nexus: regional and security implications for Pakistan



PU VC Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad, President Golden Ring Economic Forum Lt. Gen. (R) Sikandar Afzal, Chairman GREF Hasnain Reza Mirza, Former Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr Farid Malik and PVC Dr Saleem Mazhar sit on stage during a seminar on regional security situation.

SEMINAR on "Abraham Accords: Israel-India Nexus in Indo Pacific and Implications for Regional Security and Interests of Pakistan" was jointly organized by Regional Integration Center and Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab and Golden Ring Economic Forum. Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar welcomed the guest speakers and emphasized on creating a dialogue on the geopolitical issues. The focus of discussion evolved around maritime environment in Indian Ocean, the US China rivalry and its implications for Asia Pacific, Growing influence of US-India cooperation in Indo Pacific and involvement of Israel in Indo Pacific post Abraham Accords.

The experts agreed that this emerging situation in the Indian Ocean pose clear threat to the interests of China, Iran, Russia and Pakistan. The logical response to the evolving situation defining geostrategic landscape of this region is cooperation of these states making a golden Ring based on their geo economic interests. President Golden Ring Economic Forum Lt. Gen. (R)

“
Emerging situation in
the Indian Ocean pose
clear threat to the
interests of China, Iran,
Russia and Pakistan
”

Sikandar Afzal highlighted the philosophical and historical background of Abraham Accords insinuating the growing role of Israel in the region. Chairman GREF Hasnain Reza Mirza introduced the role and purpose of the think tank.

Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid Chairperson, Department of Political Science emphasized the strategic role of CPEC for Pakistan in this entire situation which is strategic target also in wake of this political and strategic environment. Research fellow GREF Dr. Zainab Ahmed explained the conceptual transformation from Asia Pacific to Indo Pacific and its implications for Pakistan and how geo-

economics now precedes geo politics to transform the geo strategic landscape.

Gen (R) Muhammad Yusuf highlighted the interests of Israel in the region and its implications. Geopolitical analyst Lt. Gen (R) Ghulam Mustafa explained the roles of the US Central Command and Indo-Pacific Command and their operations encircling China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Rana Eijaz Ahmad highlighted the weaknesses of Pakistan's institution which hinder preparedness to deal with evolving situation. Former Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr. Farid Malik emphasized how Chinese model has so many lessons for Pakistan. Dr. Hasnain Ahmed explained the ideological and conceptual sensitivity of Israel for Pakistan's society.

The session was moderated by the Director of Regional Integration Centre (RIC) Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali. In his concluding remarks PVC Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar and the Patron-in-Chief of RIC, Punjab University emphasized on cultural intercourse of golden ring states to facilitate diplomatic and economic ties. ■

Teachers training to counter violence, extremism held at IAP

PUNJAB University Institute of Applied Psychology (IAP) in collaboration with Inter University Consortium for promotion of Social Sciences (IUCPSS), and Media Training and Research Center (MTRC) has organized 3-day Teacher's Training on "Peaceful and Safer Campuses" under the Faculty Development Program. The training program focused around countering violent extremism, leadership & critical thinking for nominated faculty members.

Dean Faculty of Humanities, FC College and focal person of Prof Dr Altaf Ullah Khan and IAP Director Prof Dr Rafia Rafique shared the key objectives of the project which involves uplifting technical skills of the educators regarding creation of safer and tolerant atmosphere at the varsities.

Following a productive discussion session revolving around campuses, freedom of speech, improvisation of teaching skills in the

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Promoting peace and ways to resolve conflicts is crucial for the future and mental health for teachers and the students
”



Prof Dr Altaf Ullah Khan, Prof Dr Umbreen Javaid, Prof Dr Rafia Rafique and Dr Afifa Anjum pose for a photo at the concluding session of three-day faculty training program.

classroom settings by inculcating creativity, critical thinking, tolerance and leadership among students and the contemporary crises of the universities. Moreover, promoting peace and ways to resolve conflicts on campus and in the classroom is crucial for the future and mental health for both the teachers and the students.

Dr Altaf Ullah Khan furthered the training and shared perspectives on mentoring and

leadership. More than 40 faculty members attended the training program. It was an on-campus program after a long break ensuring SOPs that resulted in an interactive 3 days session. The 3-days training program was concluded by the Certificate Distribution Ceremony by Dean faculty of social sciences Prof Dr Umbreen Javaid followed by closing keynote speech by Prof Dr Rafia Rafique. ■





Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar cuts the ribbon along with Dr Shamaila Dodhy at the inaugural ceremony of Institute of English Studies.

English Dept gets Institute status after 58 years

THE Department of English Language & Literature was restructured and entitled the status of Institute of English Studies after 58 years under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar. The institute celebrated its inauguration ceremony on August 12, 2021. PU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar graced the event as the chief guest.

After the auspicious ribbon-cutting ceremony, the chief guest was ushered to the Main Hall where the Director Institute of English Studies Dr Shamaila Dodhy welcomed the guests. In addition to that, she traced a brief history of the former Department of English Language & Literature since its inception in 1963.

The first Director of the Institute of English

Studies Dr Shamaila Dodhy discussed the vision and future prospects of the Institute with in an imperative focus on high standard of teaching & research. The Pro-Vice Chancellor affirmed interminable support to expand the Institute's domain even further. Lastly, the Dean of Arts & Humanities, Prof Dr Amra Raza, gave a concluding speech of gratitude. ■

PU main library and Iqbal Academy Pakistan sign an MoU

Collaboration aims to scan rare books of Allama Iqbal's collection

■ Iqbal's rare material will be preserved in digital form

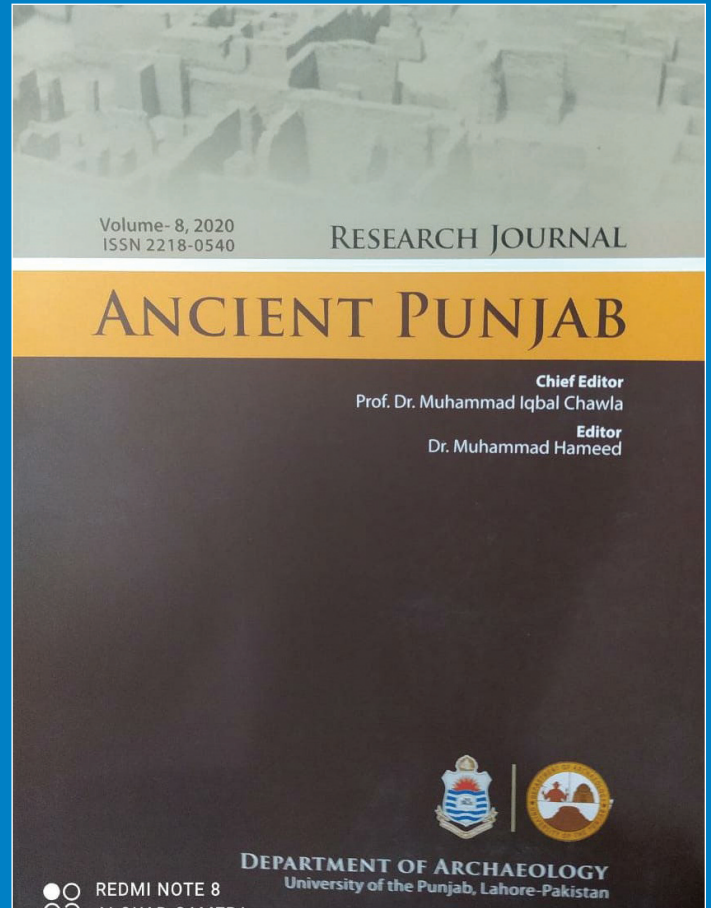
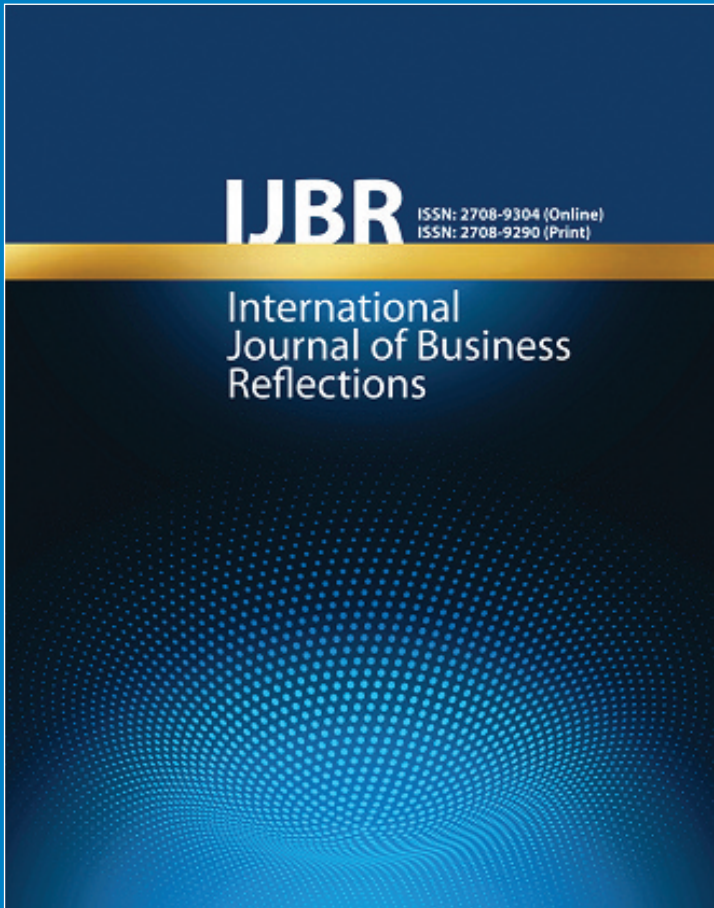
PUNJAB University Library and Iqbal Academy Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Scanning of rare books of Allama Iqbal' collection with side notes on every book in his own hand writing at Punjab University Library.

The purpose of this agreement is to preserve the rare material in digital form and make it available for research purposes by both The Punjab University Library and Iqbal Academy, Pakistan. Director Iqbal Academy Prof Dr Baseera Ambreen and Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani signed the memorandum in the presence of Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, in his office. ■



Director Iqbal Academy Prof Dr Baseera Ambreen and PU Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani sign an MoU. PVC Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar also present.

HEC recognizes two PU research journals in 'Y' category



THE Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has recognized two journals of Punjab University in Y category. In this regard, recognition has been given to Hailey College of Banking and Finance (HCBF) research journal titled "International Journal of Business Reflections" and Department of Archeology's research journal titled "Ancient Punjab".

The HCBF journal under the leadership of Prof Dr Mubbsher Munawar Khan Principal and Dean Faculty of Commerce has already released its first volume. Speaking at this occasion, Prof Dr Mubbsher Munawar Khan appreciated the efforts of the Editorial Board especially Dr Sammar Rahi in this regard.

He invited scholars to send their quality research work for publication in the journal, which is recognized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. He hoped that HCBF's Journal would soon be able to make its place in top quality journals of the world.

It is also important to mention that it is the first business research journal of University of



the Punjab recognized by the HEC. Dr Munawar was optimistic that the scholars conducting research in business related areas will take advantage and will submit their research work for publication in the

forthcoming issues.

Department of Archeology Chairman Dr Hameed said that the department was established in 2004 and this milestone has been achieved after 17 years. ■

PU pays tribute to late Dr Nusair Ahmed



PVC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan and others sit on stage during the condolence reference of Dr Nusair Ahmed.

PUNJAB University Officers Welfare Association organized a condolence reference to pay tribute to the landmark services of late Dr Nusair Ahmed, former senior medical officer, PU Health Centre, who died of cardiac arrest. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Academic Staff Association President Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Chief Medical Officer Dr Muhammad

Akram, Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani, President Officers Welfare Association Jalil Tariq, faculty members, family members and a number of officials participated in the event.

Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that Dr Nusair was an example of honesty and dedication for others. He said that he brought a good name for Punjab University through his services. Dr Khalid Khan said that Dr Nusair was a pious man who always solved problems of others on priority. Dr Mumtaz

Anwar said that the services of Dr Nusair Ahmed would be remembered in golden words. Jalil Tariq said that Dr Nusair Ahmed was a hardworking person and a senior doctor. Dr Akram said that Dr Nusair was a punctual doctor and the gap he left can't be fulfilled. Dr Haroon Usmani said that he had almost fifty years of friendship with Dr Nusair and he could not forget his companionship forever. The participants also offered dua for the departed soul. ■



Family members of Dr Nusair and PU officials pay tribute to late Dr Nusair Ahmed.

PM'S CLEAN & GREEN PAKISTAN PROGRAM

**PU plants
15,000
fruit trees
in one & a half
years**

VC, PVC plant **cheeko,
palm & olive** as part
of 2021 drive



PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz has inaugurated a new tree plantation campaign in connection with Prime Minister Imran Khan's initiative to plant maximum trees for improving environmental conditions in Pakistan. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Resident Officer II Jalil Tariq, faculty members, officers and employees participated on the occasion. The VC, Pro VC and others planted trees of cheeko, palm and olive at the ground adjacent to Admin Block.

Talking to the participants, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad said that it was a must to plant maximum trees for the survival of all living beings on the earth. He said that every Pakistani should

participate in the tree plantation drive and it was our prime responsibility to save the natural environment. He said that PU was playing its role for improving the environment of Lahore city.

Resident Officer II Jalil Tariq said that in the last one and a half years, PU has planted 15 thousand fruit trees. He said that 40 types of fruit trees have been planted and various gardens of fruit trees have been

established on campus and the university has launched the Greens to Orchard program under which fruit trees were being planted with a survival rate of more than 90 percent.

Meanwhile, PU College of Earth and Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison also organized a ceremony to plant trees at its premises. PU CEES Principal Prof Dr Sajid Rashid, faculty members and students participated in the event. ■



PU VC Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad inaugurates new tree planation drive along with PVC Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Resident Officer II Jalil Tariq and others.