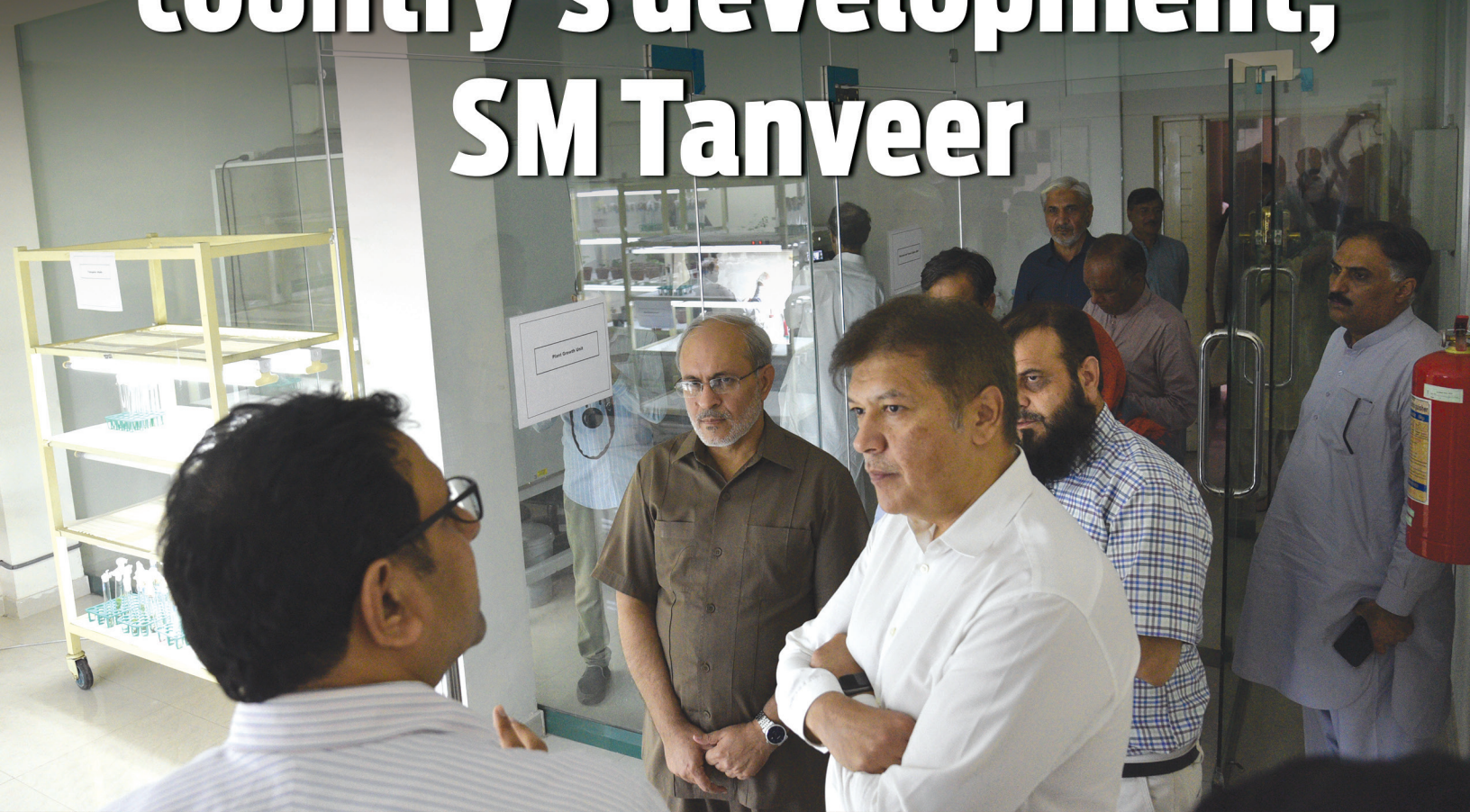




SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE - PAKISTAN (SINCE 1882)

Scientists play key role in country's development, SM Tanveer



Socio-economic justice a must for integrity:
Dr. Shahid - Page 06



"Central, South Asian regions vital for each other" - Page 10



DCMR conducts mobile photography exhibition - Page 18



Clean, green, peaceful environment essential for tourism: PU VC - Page 20

Technology to help boost agricultural sector

THE role of scientists in the country's development is very important therefore scientists should be encouraged in all aspects in their research projects. Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture, Commerce and Industry S.M. Tanveer expressed these views while visiting Punjab University Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology.

The caretaker government is taking all possible steps to promote research and development. During his visit to CEMB laboratories, he appreciated the achievements of PU scientists in the field of agriculture and health.

The government is serious to boost agriculture sector through introduction of reforms and promotion of relevant technologies. The government direly needs input of our scientists in this regard. The government is committed to resolve all problems being faced by agricultural scientists and will also welcome research-based recommendations for national development in this regard. ■



S.M. TANVEER
CARETAKER PUNJAB MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE,
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Higher education institutions need **patronage!**



PROF. DR. KHALID MAHMOOD
VICE CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB

PAKISTAN'S educationists have developed the best educational policies but their implementation is the real problem to improve education system in the country. Our education system mainly depends on the government sector to introduce reforms aimed at producing such individual that can move society and the country upward. However, it is seen that relevant stakeholders are not being taken onboard to improve education system.

It is very sad that due to some unfortunate circumstance, two and a half crore children are not going to any school for which steps must be taken to ensure their admissions. The

government is also not patronizing public sector universities, which will bring the state institutions of higher learning down just like government schools and colleges.

The problem of funding for government universities is being created and financial issues of the universities are not being solved. The culture of corruption, incompetence and sifarish is destroying our country.

It is time to reap the benefits of educational policies through their implementation. One of the major reasons behind increasing intolerance and extremism in the society is that the state is ignoring true educational issues. ■

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Editorial Note

PAKISTAN is in dire need of national integration. Educational policies, economy and the justice system have a strong relationship with national integration. After the 18th Amendment, higher education is considered more a provincial matter and the province level higher education commissions have been set up in Punjab and Sindh.

Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr. Shahid Munir said that economic exploitation was one of the key issues and the solution to all problems including education lies in the improvement of economy. He was speaking at a seminar on "educational policies and national integration."

PU VC Dr. Khalid Mehmood opined that the best education policies were developed in the country but implementation was the real problem. He said government schools, colleges and universities were on the decline because of not being patronized.

Educational policy making has a direct relation with the national economy and further both education and economy are linked to national integration. Another important factor is social justice. Injustice divides nations and people while justice creates a sense of nationhood and integration. There is a dire need to develop and implement educational policies to ensure national integration. This subject has become even more important after the 18th Amendment. Stakeholders from all provinces must be taken onboard in the process of educational policy making on part of the Higher Education Commission. Only required educational policy making and proper implementation of the same can ensure better economy and national integration. ■

In this edition

PAGE
08

**Winners of Anna
Molka Awards
announced**



PAGE
11

**Civilized society not
possible without
following Prophet (SAW)**



PAGE
17

**Learn art to create
perception, PU VC**



PAGE
19

**ORIC's website
launched**



PAGE
21

**CCP organizes seminar
on Alzheimer**



Scientists play key role in country's development, SM Tanveer



Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture, Commerce and Industry SM Tanveer along with PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood visit Punjab University Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB).

CARETAKER Punjab Minister for Agriculture, Commerce and Industry SM Tanveer has said that the role of scientists in the country's development is very important therefore scientists should be encouraged in all aspects in their research projects. He expressed these views while visiting Punjab University Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB).

PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, CEMB Director Prof. Dr. Moaz-ur-Rehman and faculty members were present on this occasion.

SM Tanveer, in his address, said that the caretaker government is taking all possible steps to promote research and development. During his visit to CEMB laboratories, he appreciated the achievements of PU scientists in the field of agriculture and health.

PU VC Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that the scientists of Punjab University CEMB are fully capable of solving the country's problems, but many projects need encouragement and funding.

Dr. Moaz-ur-Rehman, on this occasion,

gave a briefing on various research projects in the fields of agriculture and health. He said that CEMB has played an active role in solving the various challenges faced by the country in the field of agriculture and health.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Former Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Dr. Yusuf Zafar (TI) paid a visit to the Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB).

The purpose of their visit was to engage in discussions with the senior faculty of CEMB regarding the importance of research in the fields of agriculture and health biotechnology.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar, during the meeting, emphasized the need for research aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, considering Pakistan's population, which has now reached 241 million. He stressed the significance of addressing food security challenges through research and development in agriculture and animal biotechnology.

The visit of both the Chairman and the Former Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural

Research Council to CEMB underscores the importance of collaboration between research institutions and government bodies in tackling critical issues related to food security and sustainable development.

Prof. Dr. Moazur Rahman, Director CEMB, on this occasion gave a briefing to the esteemed guests about the ongoing research in agriculture and health sectors at the Centre.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali commended the efforts of the researchers at CEMB and highlighted the need for government policymakers to recognize and acknowledge their contributions. He also extended his congratulations to the researchers at CEMB on the approval received from the Punjab Seed Council for the cultivation of the CEMB CKC-05 cotton variety.

The visit of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Dr. Yusuf Zafar to CEMB highlights the importance of research institutions and government bodies working hand in hand to address the pressing challenges of food security and sustainable development in the country. ■

Discussion on cotton leaf curl virus, history, recombination and transmission

DEPARTMENT of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, Lahore organized one day Seminar on "Cotton Leaf Curl Virus; History, Recombination and Transmission".

Directorate of Pest Warning and Quality Control of Pesticides, Punjab presented the infestation data of whitefly and Cotton viruses of current years in different districts of Punjab while Prof. Dr. Judith K. Brown from University of Arizona, Tucson, USA talked on "Phylogenomics of whitefly vector Bemisia tabaci cryptic species globally and timely snapshots of vector mitotypes in Pakistan".

An alumnus of the Department of Plant Pathology and currently a Researcher in University of Arizona, USA, Dr. Muhammad Javed Iqbal presented the work of his research team on "Historical Dynamics of the Gemnivirus betasatellite complex and Phylogeography of two New World begomoviruses associated with Cotton Leaf Curl Disease".

A number of Researchers, Industrialists, Policy makers from public and private sector including CEO, Four Brothers Mr. Jawed Salim Qureshi, Cotton Breeder, Four Brothers Dr. Idress Nasir, Director CEMB Prof. Dr. Moaz ur Rehman, Director, SBB Dr. Muhammad Khursheed, Chairman, Department of Entomology Dr. Muhammad Shehbaz and Mr. Mohsin Hassan (Sanifa) participated in the event.

The honorable Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider distributed the shields among distinguished guests. The distinguished guests from University of Arizona, USA also visited the departmental Labs and experimental cotton fields followed by a meeting with Prof. Dr. Khalid Mehmood, Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab.

At the end, Chairperson Department of Plant Pathology Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum thanks all the participants, speakers and organizers of the event. ■



A group photo of participants along with Prof. Dr. Judith K. Brown and Dean Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider after a seminar.



Socio-economic justice to strengthen national integrity, Dr. Shahid



Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Chairman Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir addresses to the participants of a seminar on "A Critical Assessment of Pakistan Educational Policies on National Integration".

PUNJAB Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Chairman Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir has said that there is a need to ensure socio-economic justice in Pakistan to strengthen national integrity and achieve development goals through promotion of education. He was addressing a seminar on "A Critical Assessment of Pakistan Educational Policies on National Integration" organized by Punjab University Sughra Begum Center for Education Policy and Development.

On this occasion, PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Pro-Rector Superior University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Chairman Department of History Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Director Sughra Begum Center for Education Policy and Development

Dr. Sonia Umar, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Dr. Shahid Munir, in his address, said that economic exploitation is our one of the most important problems and the solution to all problems including education lies in the improvement of the economy. He said that why the problem of national integrity was not in India, Canada, America despite such a cultural diversity? He said that national integrity could not be strengthened by putting everything in the curriculum.

He said that only 13% of the youth in Pakistan enter universities. He said that there are only two classes in the world, the rich and the poor. He said that if the economic problems of the people are solved, then the problems like national integrity are also

solved. He said that poverty is the main reason why children stay out of school in Pakistan.

He further said that around 2,400 teachers will be trained this year under faculty development program. He said that leadership had an important role in national integrity. He said that for national integrity and development, women should come forward in every field. He said that there is a need to promote such research in universities that can solve the national, economic and social problems of the country.

He said that information technology has to be promoted in every sector to solve employment problems. He said that teachers have to play a role to promote the trend of starting their own business among students. He said that developing skills among the



A group photo of participants along with Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Chairman Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir and PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood after a seminar organized by Punjab University Sughra Begum Center for Education Policy and Development.

youth is the need of the hour.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that the best educational policies are developed in Pakistan but their implementation is the real problem. He said that a matter which is to be seen is that how common and what quality of education is prevailing in the country. He said that two and a half crore children are not going to any school for which steps must be taken to ensure their admission in the school. He said that after government schools and colleges, the state universities are also being brought down by not patronizing them.

He said that the problem of funding for government universities is being created and these problems are not being resolved. He said that the culture of corruption, incompetence and sifarish is destroying our country. He said that it is time to reap the benefits of educational policies through their implementation. He said that

intolerance and extremism are increasing by ignoring educational issues. He said that all stakeholders have to play a role for the development of the country.

Dr. Nizamuddin said that educational policies regarding colleges were made very late. He said that the trend of failing children in school must be stopped and changes in the structure of the system at the school level should be introduced. He said that children who do not go to school have a problem of transportation. He said that big mosques can be used for primary schools before noon.

Dr. Mahboob Hussain said that we are in dire need of national integrity. He said that the Parliament did not play a role regarding the education policies and there is no discussion on such policies. He said that the recent parliament has 5 PhDs and 102 foreign qualified people but hired technocrats, experts and NGOs for development of

education policies. He said that the recent parliament passed various Acts in haste.

He described the role of language as important in the formation of national curriculum. He said that religious and linguistic divisions are obstacles in the way of national unity. He said that real history should be taught in the national curriculum and discrimination on the basis of gender should end. He said that teachers and students are not consulted while formulating educational policies. He said that the universities are suffering from political and bureaucratic interference. He said that there should be All Party Conference for the continuation of education policies.

Dr. Sonia Umar said that Punjab University will continue to play its role for the educational development of Pakistan. She thanked the participants and said that the aim of the seminar is to promote national unity through education. ■

Winners of Anna Molka Awards for 2023 announced



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood inaugurates the exhibition of artists' work who participated in the contest of Anna Molka Awards for the year 2023 organized by PU College of Art and Design.

THE Anna Molka Awards for the year 2023 were announced at Punjab University College of Art and Design.

The award distribution ceremony was followed by an exhibition of the works of the artists who participated in the contest. The soft launch of the book 'Anna Molka, An Artist, An Educationist and Art Critic' by Zarar Babary also coincided with the event. PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, College of Art and Design Principal Prof. Dr. Sumera Jawad, faculty members and a number of students participated in the events.

The curator of the exhibition Sumbal Natalia said 'For this year's award, we received over 160 entries from all over Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan. Out of these entries, we had to shortlist 50 entries for 20-40 years category and over 12 entries for the above 40. The winner in the above 40 category this year was Mughees Riaz. While the honorable



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood inaugurates the exhibition of artists' work who participated in the contest of Anna Molka Awards for the year 2023 organized by PU College of Art and Design.

mentions in the category were Attia Shaukat, Bashir Haider, Rabiya Asim, Dr. Samina Zaheer and Nayyar Shehzad.

Mughees Riaz's award winning artwork

was oil on canvas, depicting a buffalo as animals have become almost a hallmark of his works along with birds and local characters. Sadia Rathore from Balochistan

won the award in the 20-40 category. Her oil on canvas artwork was titled, Bekhabian, Afsanay, Mehtab, Tamanaen. The honorable mentions in the category of 'above 25' were Asif Kasi, Fahad Tariq, Aiman Jaleel, Mahnoor Hasan Khan and Hafsa Munir. Four jurors who selected the winners were Amna Patodi, Jameel Baloch, Uzma Waqar and Amna Jamal.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, while addressing the ceremony, said artists carried unique abilities and Anna Molka would also be remembered for the services she rendered in the field. He said that it was very difficult to express certain feelings through art and due to particular abilities, artists reflected our social and cultural values through their art in a unique way. He also distributed the awards.

Dr. Sumera Jawad gave a background to the college and Anna Molka Ahmed's contribution in laying its foundation and then making it successful. She said the college was founded in 1940 when Anna Molka was a young woman and she continued serving it for the coming decades until the 1970s. She said in 1947, only two students were left behind as all Hindu and Sikh students migrated to India. She said Anna Molka



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood looking at an artwork in the exhibition of Anna Molka Awards for the year 2023 organized by PU College of Art and Design.

wanted that art to be taught in Urdu at the college, that's why Babari's book on her was also bilingual.

Dr. Ajaz Anwar, while remembering Anna Molka Ahmed, said her biggest contribution was to open a fine arts institute at the Govt. College Lahore (now GCU). Asghar Minhas was the first student of fine arts at the Govt. College Lahore. Asghar Minhas was hired at the Govt. College as a lecturer and retired as

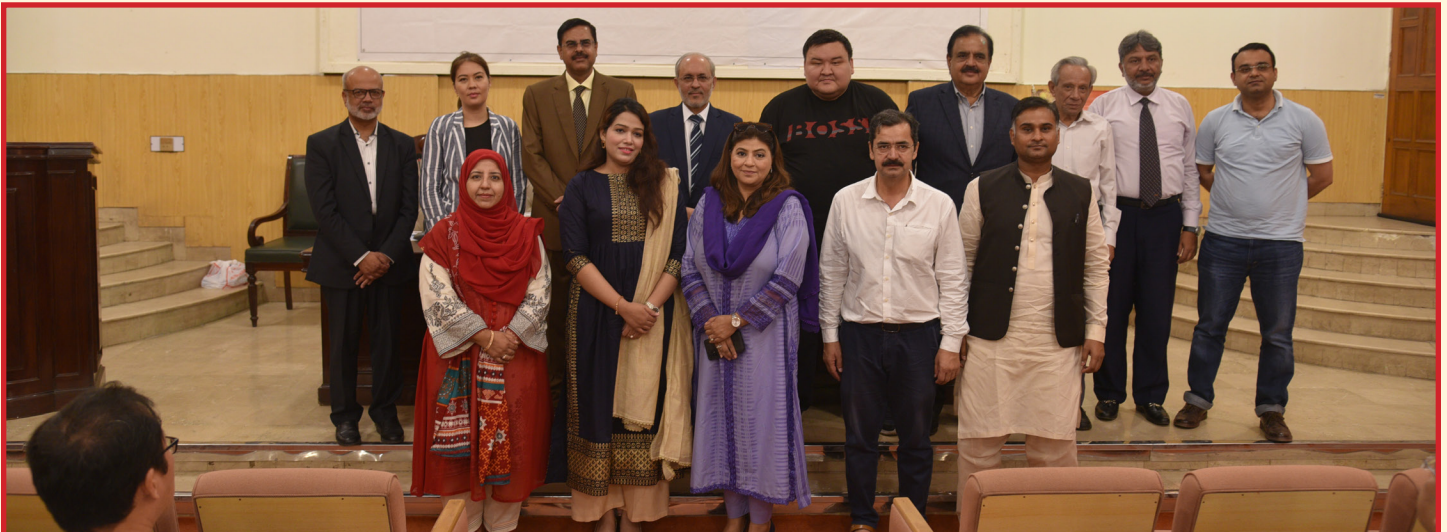
a lecturer, never demanding a promotion. He was hired for six months but he did not get pay for the next six years.

Miss (Molka) Ahmed had asked him not to quit as after him the fine arts department at GCU would end. He said there were few artists who were sculptors as well as painters and Anna Molka Ahmed was one of them. Shahnawaz Zaidi, Mr. Zarar Babary and others also spoke on the occasion. ■



College of Art and Design Principal Prof. Dr. Sumera Jawad presents a souvenir to PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood.

“Central, South Asian regions vital for each other”



A group photo of PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and others after a seminar on “Genetic and Historical Relations between Central and South Asia” organized by the PU Department of History and Pakistan Studies.

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that Central and South Asia are two regions sharing rich culture and history for thousands of years, the great Silk Road has connected the two regions. He was addressing a seminar on “Genetic and Historical Relations between Central and South Asia” organized by the Department of History and Pakistan Studies.

On this occasion, Honorary Consulate General Rao Khalid Mehmood Khan, Director of the Scientific Institute for the Study of Ulus Jochi Prof Sabitov Zhaksylyk, Chairman Department of History Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his address, said that Central Asia has historically played an important part in enriching the South Asian region politically, spiritually, and culturally. He said that all the Sufis of South Asia originated in Central Asia and established the spiritual linkages between the two regions for centuries. He said that Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva and other cities of Central Asia have produced poets, Sufis, artists and

scientists, who contributed immensely to the development of the South Asian region and similarly South Asian traders and businessmen have contributed substantially in the development of Central Asian states.

He said that mutual history and heritage can provide opportunities for cultural and spiritual tourism. He said that security and extremist threats and climatic and environmental issues are faced by the two regions and can be resolved by mutual cooperation.

Rao Khalid Mehmood Khan said that there is a lot of investment in research in the universities of Kazakhstan, which can also benefit the universities of Pakistan in many fields. He said that more steps are needed to enhance relations between the two countries at all levels. He thanked PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Dr. Mehboob Hussain and others for organizing the seminar.

Prof. Sabitov Zhaksylyk emphasized the importance of genetics for the study of genealogy and history. He stated that Central and South Asia are the two regions which have close connections and due to migrations, communication affinities and blood relations

have developed. He said that genetic studies can fill the gaps in history. He indicated the areas in which the Central and South Asian scholars could collaborate and develop joint projects. He invited the Pakistani scholars to come to Kazakhstan and work in genetic research to explore new avenues of history.

Dr. Mehboob Hussain said that Kazakhstan, a land of boundless beauty and cultural diversity, has a history that spans millennia. He said that its history is a testament to the resilience, innovation, and contributions of its people. “It is a history that has been carefully researched, documented, and preserved by historians who have dedicated their lives to uncovering the stories and events that have shaped this land,” he added.

He said that genetics has played a crucial role in unraveling the historical relations between Central and South Asia, shedding light on the complex tapestry of human migrations, interactions, and connections over millennia. He said that this seminar serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas, where scholars, students, and history lovers alike can come together to explore the multifaceted aspects of Kazakhstan’s history. ■

Civilized society not possible without following Prophet (PBUH), PU VC

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood has said that without following the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH), it is not possible to create a civilized society. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar organized by Punjab University Library in collaboration with the Punjab University Librarians Organization (PULO).

On this occasion, renowned religious scholar Dr. Hafiz Sarfraz Ahmad Khan, Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies Prof. Dr. Hammad Lakhvi, Dean Faculty of Oriental Learning Prof. Dr. Ghulam Moeen-ud-Din Nizami, Chief Librarian Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani, President PULO Saif-ur-Rehman Atique, faculty members, Librarians and a large number of students were present.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his address, said that to get out of the crisis situation, everyone including the Ulemas will have to act wisely. He said that the real purpose of a Muslim's life cannot be fulfilled by emotional slogans, but the adoption of the Prophet's (PBUH) life is essential. He said that the Prophet (PBUH) discussed every aspect of life including economy, society and the purpose of such gatherings is to learn these lessons.



PU Librarian Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani gives briefing to the honorable guests on the exhibition of books on the biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Dr. Hafiz Sarfraz Ahmad Khan said that no one can change the decisions of Allah Ta'ala and Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

He said that our faith is not complete without believing in Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), who is Khatam-ul-Nabien. He said that in the light of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), we should individually and collectively try to eliminate oppression from the society and establish a system of justice. He said that it is more important for us to know

about the Holy Prophet (PBUH) than to know ourselves.

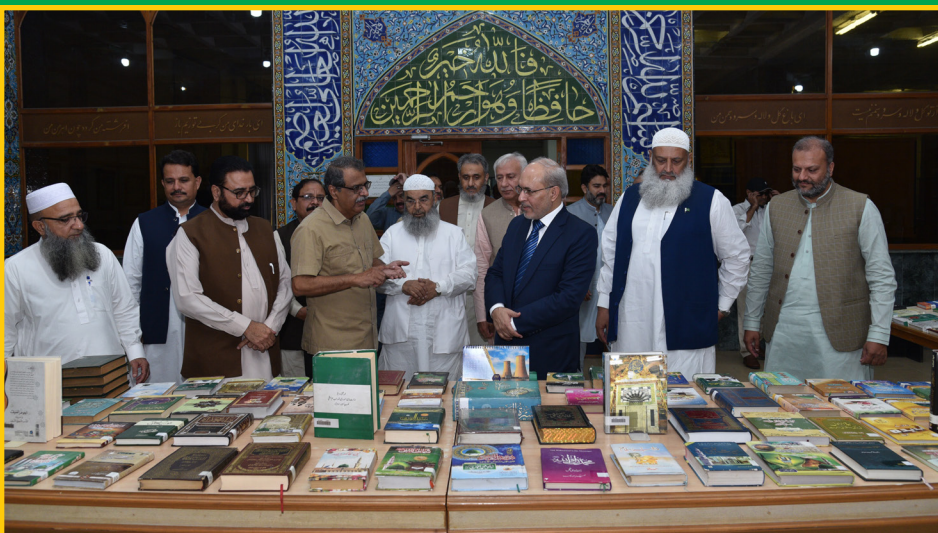
Dr. Hammad Lakhvi said that all of us are always in a state of examination in which the only way to succeed is to follow the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) way of life. He said that no work is important than the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Prof. Dr. Ghulam Moeen-ud-Din Nizami said that discussing the biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the most important need of the time. He said that the original status of mosques and libraries should be restored to give rise to Islamic civilization and culture. He said that libraries play the role of mind for the formation of nations.

Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani said that the PU Library will continue to play its dynamic role as a center of knowledge and literature and a community center. He said that the study of the biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is important in every era, but today it is more needed on scientific grounds.

Saif-ur-Rehman Atique thanked the VC and other guests for their support and participation in the event.

Earlier, PU VC Dr. Khalid Mahmood inaugurated the exhibition of books on the biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). ■



PU Librarian Dr. Muhammad Haroon Usmani gives briefing to the honorable guests on the exhibition of books on the biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood visits the student's stall on World Tourism Day organized by Punjab University College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES).



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood presents an Outstanding Student Award 2022-23 to a student of Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics on the occasion of Annual Function 2022-23.



Students pose with their certificates and shields after winning the "Team Trophy" at 6th All Pakistan Qiraat and Naat competition 2023 held by University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences.



Winners of Qiraat and Naat categories Hafiza Faiza Rasool and Rida Zahra pose with their medal and trophy received in Shanawar Inter-Collegiate Naat & Qiraat Competition organized by Fatima Jinnah Medical University.



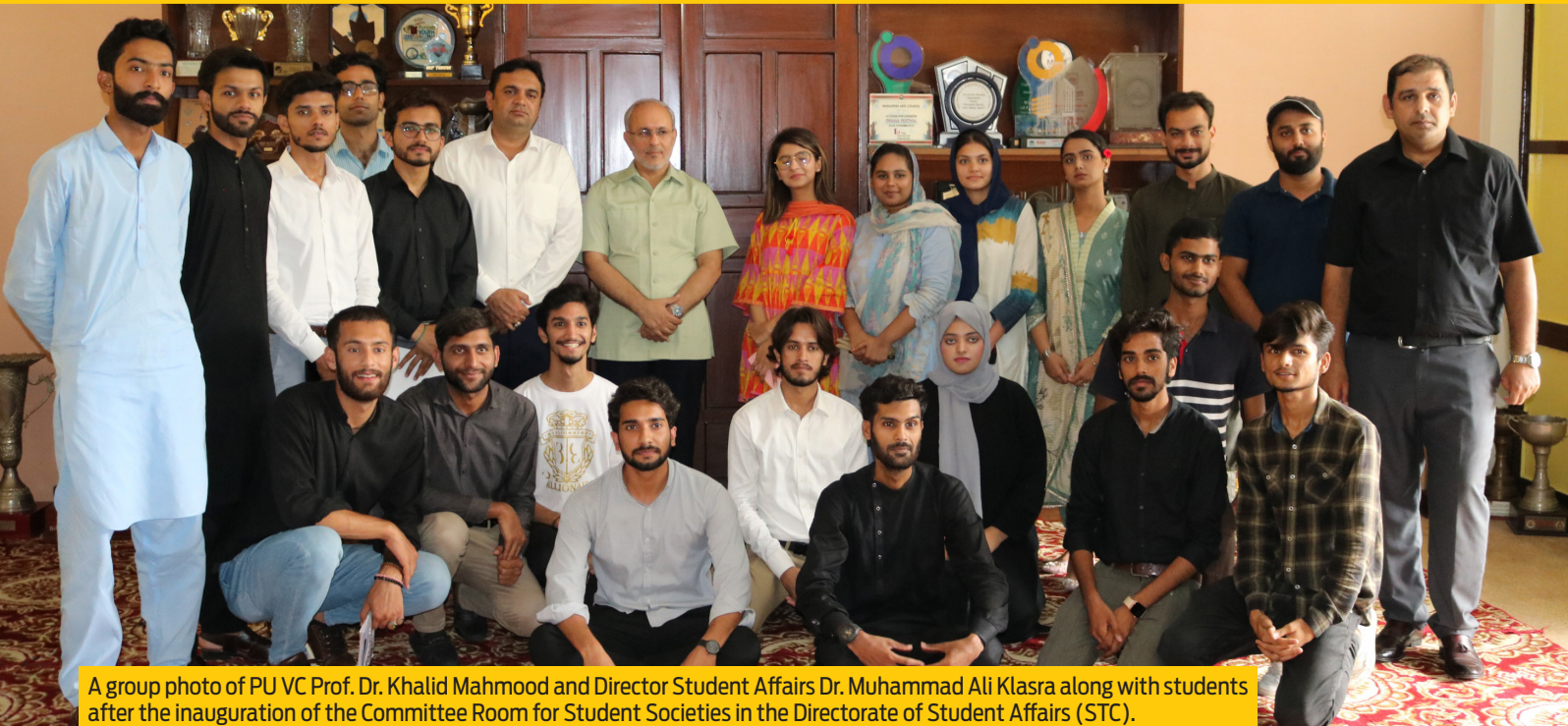
PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood sapling a plant in the garden of School of Communication Studies while Director SCS Prof. Dr. Noshina Saleem and Assistant Professor Dr. Tanveer also present.



PU Law student Isha Fatima poses with her most prestigious award of 'Best Advocate' received at the world-renowned 15th Henry Dunant Moot Court Competition 2023 hosted each year by the International Committee of the Red Cross.



Punjab University team comprised of Syed Kamal Ahmad from PU Law College and Ms. Nabiha Khan from Department of Space Science pose for a photo after winning the "Team Trophy" in All Pakistan Bilingual Declaration Contest 2023, organized by Allama Iqbal Medical College.



A group photo of PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and Director Student Affairs Dr. Muhammad Ali Klasra along with students after the inauguration of the Committee Room for Student Societies in the Directorate of Student Affairs (STC).



Students of PU Dramatic Society are performing in the "1st Inter-University Theatre Competition" organized by University of Home Economics.



PU team comprised of Ahmed Ijaz from Hailey College Banking & Finance and Ali Husnain from University Law College pose with their shields and certificates at the Inter Pakistan Quiz Competition 2023 organized by Fatima Jinnah Medical University.



PU team comprised of Youstra Ahmad from Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, Abdul Muneeb from College of Pharmacy and Amir Mushtaq Saifi from Department of Political Science pose for a photo after winning the "Team Trophy" in 2nd All Pakistan Trilingual Declamation Competition 2023 organized by Al-Aleem Medical College, Lahore.



PU students pose for a photo after winning the "Team Trophy" in 6th All Pakistan Literary Competitions organized by University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS).



PU Law College students Isha Fatima Tarar and Syed Kamal Ahmed pose for a photo after winning the "Team Trophy" in the Lahore Debating Gala 2023 organized by Fatima Memorial Hospital College of Medicine and Dentistry.



Ms. Nabiha Khan from Department of Space Science receives a shield after securing the Winner title in the English Humorous category in the Shanawar All Pakistan Trilingual Declamation Championship 2023.



Mr. Abdul Muneeb and Mr. Rizwan Cheema pose for a photo after winning the "Team Trophy" in the COMSATS All-Pakistan Declamation Competition 2023 organized by COMSATS.

Workshop on chemical, hazardous waste management

THE Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organized a highly successful awareness and training workshop on chemical and hazardous waste management. The workshop, held at a local hotel in Lahore, was conducted under the UNEP funded project, "Special Programme for Strengthening of National Legislation and Capacity Building of Stakeholders for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste in Pakistan."

The workshop aimed at enhancing awareness and understanding of the critical issues related to chemical and hazardous waste management in Pakistan and equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to address these challenges effectively.

Lahore Waste Management Company's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Babar Sahib Din welcomed esteemed guests and experts from Pakistan to the workshop. Mr. Din expressed his gratitude to the key stakeholders and resource persons who have dedicated their knowledge and experiences to ensure the workshop's success. Drawing attention to international efforts to manage hazardous waste, Mr. Din mentioned Pakistan's commitment to conventions like Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata. He stressed Pakistan's role as both a producer and importer of chemicals and hazardous waste, emphasizing the need to unite intellectual and technical resources to combat this challenge. Deputy Director (Chemical) at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Zaigham Abbas delivered enlightening introductory remarks, shedding light on the hazardous waste and chemical issue in Pakistan.

He shared the commitments of the government regarding the obligations and compliance of chemical and waste related Multilateral Environmental Agreements like Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata and Vienna Conventions and Montreal Protocol. He also highlighted the importance of the UNEP funded Special Programme in strengthening national legislation and building the capacity of stakeholders for sound chemical and hazardous waste management practices.

Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Ghauri informed the audience with his presentation on the harmful impacts of hazardous waste and chemicals on the environment and human health. He highlighted the severe consequences of improper waste disposal and underscored the urgency to adopt responsible waste management practices for the sake of our environment and well-being.

Prof. Dr. Farhat Yasmeen shared her expertise in a session on hazardous waste introduction, properties, types, and sources. Her informative presentation provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of hazardous waste, enabling them to identify, categorize, and handle such materials effectively.

Programmed Technical Officer at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Sajid Raza delivered an engaging presentation on the role of different stakeholders in sound chemicals and hazardous waste management. He emphasized the need for collaboration among government agencies, industry professionals, civil



A group photo of participants along with PU College of Earth and Environmental Sciences Principal Prof. Dr. Sajid Rasheed in a training workshop on chemical and hazardous waste management organized by The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure effective waste management practices throughout the entire value chain.

National Consultant Bushra Afzal delivered a comprehensive presentation on national regulations, guidelines, and policies for hazardous waste and chemical management. Her session provided participants with a deep understanding of the legal framework governing waste management in the country, emphasizing the importance of adherence to regulations and the significance of policy implementation. The workshop also featured a presentation on cradle to grave management of hazardous waste and chemicals by Sajid Raza. His session emphasized the importance of adopting sustainable practices throughout the entire life cycle of hazardous materials, from production to disposal. The participants, including government officials, industry representatives, academia, and civil society organizations, actively engaged in the workshop's sessions and expressed a high level of sensitivity towards the issues discussed. The knowledge shared and the networking opportunities provided during the workshop are expected to contribute significantly to the improvement of chemical and hazardous waste management practices in Pakistan.

Joint Secretary, International Cooperation Wing, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Kamran Ahmad in his concluded remarks expressed his appreciation for the active participation and insightful discussions throughout the event, emphasized the importance of environmental agreements and implementing the knowledge gained through the latest resources on chemical and hazardous waste to promote effective waste management practices in Pakistan in compliance with the Basel Convention.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination extends its gratitude to UN Environment for its support and funding of the Special Programme. The success of the workshop stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved. The workshop marks a significant milestone in the journey towards promoting sound waste management practices in Pakistan. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination remains committed to further advancing the implementation of effective measures for chemical and hazardous waste management, ensuring a safer and more sustainable future for all. ■

Workshop on data science with “R” from basic to advance technique



A group photo of participants after the completion of a “Two- Days Training Workshop on Data science with R from Basic to Advance” organised by Department of Plant Pathology.

THE Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Department of Plant Pathology is pleased to announce the successful completion of a “Two-Days Training Workshop on Data Science with R from Basic to Advance”. The purpose of this workshop was to equip the participants with essential skills in data analysis using the “R” software. Participants from diverse universities across Punjab eagerly joined this enlightening event.

The first day of the workshop commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib (focal person) welcomed the attendees and emphasized the significance of data analysis and R software in research and data representation.

Following this, Chairperson of the Department of Plant Pathology Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum commemorate this occasion with her words. The guest of honor, PU Director of General IT Prof. Dr. Kamran Abid discussed the importance of data science in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The first day of the workshop focused on introducing participants to the fundamentals of data science and R programming.

Dr. Mufassra Naz, a distinguished expert in the field, led engaging sessions covering data manipulation, data visualization, and statistical analysis using R with support of the

focal person Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib. Practical, hands-on exercises enabled students to apply their newfound knowledge effectively.

The second day delved deeper into advanced data science techniques, including machine learning with R, data mining, and predictive analytics.

The participants were provided with insights into real-world data sets and were guided through the process of building predictive models using R software.

The second day concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing participants to seek guidance and clarify their doubts regarding data science projects. Enthusiastic participation from both speaker and participants across various disciplines highlighted the growing interest in data sciences. Attendees praised the practical, hands-on approach and the clear instruction provided by instructors.

The concluding session was joined by Chief Guest Principal at Govt Jinnah Associate College for Women Prof. Dr. Tahira Sikandar and Guest of Honour University of Engineering and Technology Prof. Dr. Aneela Anwar. Both guests ignited their presence with some words and motivated participants even more. In recognition of their support and involvement, shields were awarded to Chief Guest, Guests of Honor, and Speaker. These shields were

presented by Chairperson Department of Plant Pathology and Focal Person of the workshop. Certificates of appreciation were also distributed to the hardworking organizing team. At the end of the workshop, participants expressed their gratitude to the organizing team of the workshop including Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib (focal person) and Prof. Dr. Arshad Javaid for organizing such an insightful and impactful training event.

The workshop received enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines, demonstrating the growing interest in data sciences. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the practical, hands-on approach and the clarity of instruction provided by the speakers.

The success of this workshop has encouraged University of the Punjab to consider more such initiatives in the future. Plans are already underway to offer advanced data science courses.

The Two-Days Training Workshop on Data Science with R was a significant step towards enhancing the data analysis skills of students. It reflects the university's commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation, equipping its students with valuable skills for the data-driven world. ■

DCMR conducts mobile photography exhibition



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood visits the exhibition of mobile photography of 8th semester students organized by PU Department of Communication and Media Research (DCMR).

PUNJAB University Department of Communication and Media Research (DCMR) organized an exhibition of mobile photography of 8th semester students. On this occasion, PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Director School of Communication Studies Prof. Dr. Noshina Saleem, Prof. Dr. Abida Ashraf, Prof. Dr. Lubna Zaheer, Prof. Dr. Hannan, faculty members and others were present.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, while appreciating the exhibition based on mobile photos of students under the supervision of Dr. Rizwan, said that despite the limited resources, students of Punjab University are showing the essence of their abilities in every field. He appreciated Dr. Noshina Saleem for motivating and encouraging students. ■



A group photo of students along with PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and faculty members in a mobile photography exhibition.



Students should learn art to create perception, PU VC



A group photo of students along with PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Director School of Communication Studies Prof. Dr. Noshina Saleem and others who complete their internship in PU Web TV and who win the documentary competition under the British Council.

PUNJAB University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood has said that the present era is the era of perceptions on the basis of which decisions are made, so it is important for students to learn the skill of creating a good perception.

He expressed these views while addressing the ceremony for the distribution of certificates of appreciation among the

students of the first batch who completed the internship in PU Web TV organized by the Punjab University Web TV and for the students who won the documentary competition under the British Council.

On this occasion, Director School of Communication Studies Prof. Dr. Noshina Saleem, Assistant Professor Dr. Nasim Ishaq, Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Dr. Khuram Shahzad and students participated.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his address, said that the documentaries of the students of PU Web TV are commendable.

He said that presenting the best content with limited resources is an art and the creative work of the students is proof of their hard work and supervision of their teachers.

He congratulated the students who received the certificates. ■

Clean, green, peaceful environment essential for tourism, PU VC



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood leads an awareness walk regarding World Tourism Day organized by PU College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES).

PUNJAB University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood has said that a clean, green and peaceful environment is necessary for the development of tourism in the country. He was addressing an awareness walk, seminar on World Tourism Day organized by Punjab University College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES).

On this occasion, Principal CEES Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmed, Director General University of Management Technology Abid Hussain Sherwani, faculty members and a

large number of students were present.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his address, said that by traveling, a person can improve his environment by learning different cultures and ways of living. He said that humans have contributed to destruction of environment and it is a good omen that students are providing awareness to fix this problem. He said that a large part of the economy of many countries is related to tourism.

He said that practical measures are needed to promote tourism in Pakistan. He said that the students of College of Earth and

Environmental Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Sajid Rashid will play the role of ambassadors to promote tourism.

Dr. Sajid Rashid said that it is everyone's responsibility to make the environment pleasant and green for promoting tourism in the country. He said that PU CEES will continue to encourage students for a clean, peaceful and pleasant environment. On this occasion, awareness stalls were also set up by the students regarding tourism and environment. Later, an awareness walk was organized under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood. ■

ORIC's website launched

PUNJAB University Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) has launched its official website to facilitate teachers and promote industry-academia linkages. In this regard the inaugural ceremony was held at PU Vice Chancellor's office. PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Director ORIC Dr. Shakil Ahmad, Director General IT Dr. Kamran Abid, Deputy Director ORIC Dr. Aqil Inam, Deputy Director ORIC Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Deputy Director ORIC Dr. Irfan, Director IT Imran Qureshi, Deputy Director Mujtaba Gondal and others were present.

Dr. Khalid, in his address, shed light on the importance of website and appreciated the efforts of ORIC and IT staff for designing a comprehensive website. ■



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood inaugurates the official website of Punjab University Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) to facilitate teachers and promote industry-academia linkages.

CSAS explores pathways to peace

AN international Webinar titled, "Pathways to Peace: Thinking for a Change" was arranged at Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Ms. Christina Cheng, the Director of TOCAsia Singapore was the guest speaker. Director CSAS Dr. Naheed S. Goraya presented the welcome note to the speaker and participants. The guest speaker focused that clear thinking is the best gift that can be given to anyone. We need to spend more on peace education and less on Arms, if we want to build civil peaceful societies.

Ms. Cheng focused that the world needs positive peace where change in attitudes and system is required. However, it rests with the societies to connect those dots.

A large number of M.Phil and PhD Students from various disciplines attended the webinar. ■

CCP organizes walk, seminar on Alzheimer



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood leads an awareness walk regarding Alzheimer disease organized by PU Centre for Clinical Psychology.

PUNJAB University Centre for Clinical Psychology (CCP) organized awareness seminar and walk on "Alzheimer's Disease". PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Director CCP Prof. Dr. Saima Dawood, Secretary General of Alzheimer's Pakistan National Association Dr. Hussain Jafri, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

Dr. Khalid, in his address, appreciated the efforts of Alzheimer's Pakistan and PU CCP.

Dr. Saima said that the seminar was based on awareness related to Alzheimer and their free day care facility for patients with Alzheimer to improve their quality of life. She thanked Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Dr. Jafri and other participants. Later, Dr. Khalid led an awareness walk regarding Alzheimer disease. ■

CSAS organizes talk on extremism, counter-extremism book

THE Centre for South Asian (CSAS) organized a Book Talk. The book, "Extremism and Counter-extremism Narratives in Pakistan: An Analysis of Narrative Building", has been authored by Dr. Sadia Nasir, an Adjunct faculty Bahria University, Islamabad. The book has been recently published by Routledge; London and New York as part of its series on Routledge Studies in South Asian Politics, and is the first of its kind to analyze extremist narratives and counter-narratives, from different lenses at the same time. Dr. Sadia talked about her maiden book that is divided into two main themes;

- How extremism steeped in Pakistan's society through a naïve approach towards use of symbols and language in national notions
- How extremism can be countered through counter extremism initiatives and counter extremism narrative building.

She said that narratives play an essential role in constructing social reality. She spoke about the extremism that has been embedded so deeply in the country's social fabric. She discussed how the words like radicalization, terrorism and extremism are interchangeably used, yet need a clarity. The counter extremism narrative building was unsuccessful as state was unable to grasp and imbibe the problem.

In the end, Dr. Naheed S. Goraya, the Director CSAS, said that Dr. Sadia's book is a valuable and much-required contribution to the prevailing literature on extremism and narrative building in Pakistan. This book would serve students, academics and policymakers in recognizing the confines of counter-narratives in Pakistan, while providing them with a thorough overview of extremism and extremist narratives.

After that, there was an interactive Q & A session with the Author of the book and University teachers and students. ■

International Youth Day celebrated at Center for South Asian Studies

"INTERNATIONAL Youth Day" was celebrated at Center for South Asian Studies, in collaboration with Bedari Organization. The distinguished guests participated in the seminar, were Project Manager Bedari Organization Mr. Adnan Ahmed, Youth Leader – ITA Mr. Waqas Ahmed, Youth Representative Activist Social Entrepreneur Ms. Kiran Mehboob, Director Human Rights Department Mr. Muhammad Yousuf and Assistant Director of Local Government and Community Development Ms. Anum Choudhary together with the staff of Bedari Organization. Director Centre for South Asian Dr. Naheed S. Goraya was the chief guest on the occasion.

Mr. Adnan Ahmad, the Project Manager, Bedari Organization discussed that young people should participate in politics, such as voting, campaigning, running for office, or joining political parties. It empowers them to influence policies, enhances the legitimacy of local governance systems, and fosters a culture of civic engagement and democratic values among future leaders and citizens. It also ensures that these systems reflect the diversity and needs of the population.

Mr. Waqas Ahmed (Youth Leader – ITA) addressed to the participants that Local governments play a crucial role in engaging youth and addressing employment and entrepreneurship issues, fostering a culture of innovation and social responsibility. They provide opportunities for participation in decision-making processes, access to public services, and help develop skills, talents, and potentials, contributing to community economic and social well-being.

Dr. Naheed S. Goraya, in the end, talked about Youth's role in the society, as an agent of change. She stressed that the young generation's involvement in decision making can play an instrumental role and they should come on the front and work for an inclusive society and sustainable peace. But this can only happen when the youth come out of intolerance and realizes the sense of responsibility.

After that, there was panel discussion about Youth Political Participation and representation in the current local governance system. The program was followed by Q & A. ■

Tree Plantation campaign at HCC



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood plants a sapling in connection with the tree plantation campaign in Hailey College of Commerce.

PUNJAB University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood planted saplings in connection with the tree plantation campaign and inaugurated the newly renovated gate in Hailey College of Commerce. On this occasion, Dean Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider, Principal HCC Prof. Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmad, faculty members and employees were present.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his speech, said that all the departments should take steps for new degree programs as per the need of the time.

He praised the organizers for promoting the ongoing educational and constructive activities in the college. Dr. Hafiz Zafar thanked PU VC for his support and highlighted the future plans. ■

MG Motors, Confucius Institute discuss Chinese culture



MG Motors in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, University of the Punjab organized a program on "Chinese Culture and its impact" in which the Director of Confucius Institute, Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman addressed the participants and said that culture and language is an integral part of any nation, and the knowledge about culture and language will strengthen Pakistan-China relations and increase business activities.

Session related to "Chinese culture and its impact" was conducted in by the instructor of Confucius Institute Abdullah Ze Hasham.

Instructor of Confucius Institute Abdullah Ze Hasham addressed the participants and said that Chinese culture is five thousand years old and They are still connected with their traditions. They also gave the participants Chinese language practice and a calligraphy session in which the participants participated enthusiastically. Rafia Riaz Instructor Chinese Language not only told the participants about paper cutting but also made paper cutting from the participants. ■

Dr. Mehta honored

PUNJAB University Hailey College of Banking & Finance (HCBF) Principal Dr. Ahmed Muneeb Mehta has been conferred with an honorary title as Research Fellow at INTI International University, Malaysia. This prestigious recognition, which includes support in various research initiatives by the renowned Malaysian university, is a testament to Dr. Mehta's steadfast dedication to business research. His commitment underscores his mission to fortify academic and research excellence within HCBF, further enhancing Punjab University's global academic standing. ■

PU, DRAP to launch joint ventures in pharmaceutical sector



PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and Chief Executive Officer DRAP Asim Rauf exchange documents after signing an MoU to promote mutually beneficial relations between the two organizations.

PUNJAB University and Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance mutual cooperation for research and training in the relevant field and to promote mutually beneficial relations between the two organizations.

PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and Chief Executive Officer DRAP Asim Rauf signed the MoU in a ceremony. On this occasion, Principal PU College of Pharmacy Prof. Dr. Syed Atif Raza, eminent dignitaries from Pharmaceutical Industry, secretary PQCB, community pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Consultant, Regulators and faculty members were present.

According to MoU, this collaboration

would allow the academia to share its research in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for its appropriate utilization by the regulator and other organizations. Main objectives of this collaboration are to support research activities and to equip the future leadership in Pharmacy with theoretical knowledge as well as practical experience in policy and regulatory issues of Pharmaceutical sector.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood, in his address, said that PU has always been working towards encouraging research activities in all sectors. He said that PU College of Pharmacy has the world class faculty having PhD and experience in various pharmaceutical technologies and Pharmacy practices and have potential to bridge the industry - academia gap and has taken number of initiatives to establish strong

linkages between the Pharmacy stakeholders for the promotion of Pharmaceutical research.

He said that the MoU will address the research on forthcoming regulatory issues and challenges and transfer of new technologies in pharmaceutical and will be able to provide market need based professionals.

Asim Rauf said that DRAP would provide expertise to Punjab University College of Pharmacy, reciprocally would encourage its faculty and students to undertake research in different areas of Pharmaceutical sector. He said that under the MoU, DRAP would help in identification of research areas.

Prof. Dr. Syed Atif Raza, extend vote of thanks to PU VC Dr. Khalid Mahmood, DRAP CEO Asim Rauf and other guests. ■

PU Senate approves budget recommendations



Governor Punjab / Chancellor PU Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman presides over a 360th meeting of Punjab University Senate.

THE 360th meeting of Punjab University Senate was held under the chairmanship of Governor Punjab / Chancellor Punjab University Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman in Old Campus (Senate Hall).

On this occasion, PU VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Registrar Dr. Ahmad Islam and Senate members were present. The Senate approved budget recommendations the current fiscal year.

Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman, while addressing the meeting, said that Pakistan's bright future is in the hands of our youth and the role of teachers is important in grooming the new generation and nurturing positive thinking in them. He said that in 2013, the Higher Education Commission was allocated 34 billion rupees and this amount was gradually increased every year to 120 billion rupees by the PML-N government in the 2018-19 budget, which is a proof of the priority given by the PML-N government to education.

He said that after 2018, the higher education budget was cut due to which the universities had to face problems. He said that when the coalition government came in 2022, there were many challenges and despite the country being at risk of default, the government increased funding for Higher Education Commission. He said that



academia-industry linkages were necessary to promote the research culture and increase the financial resources of the universities.

He said that Punjab University is our pride and its degree is recognized all over the world. He said that our students were very talented and should be guided on the path of positive thinking and goodness to eliminate hatred. He directed the universities to take steps to promote distance education.

He said that former students of Punjab University were present all over the world and they should be recognized at university and department level.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that despite increase in the salaries, the budget allocations

for disbursement of salaries have not been increased to match the difference due to which difficulties are being faced in payment of salaries and pensions. He said that Punjab University was providing the cheapest and quality education in the region. He said that the ranking of the university has increased and many subjects has been included in international rankings.

He said that several committees have been established to increase the sources of income of the university. He said that the PU is also facing severe financial pressure due to the temporary suspension of the affiliation process of the colleges. The meeting after deliberations approved all the agenda items. ■