

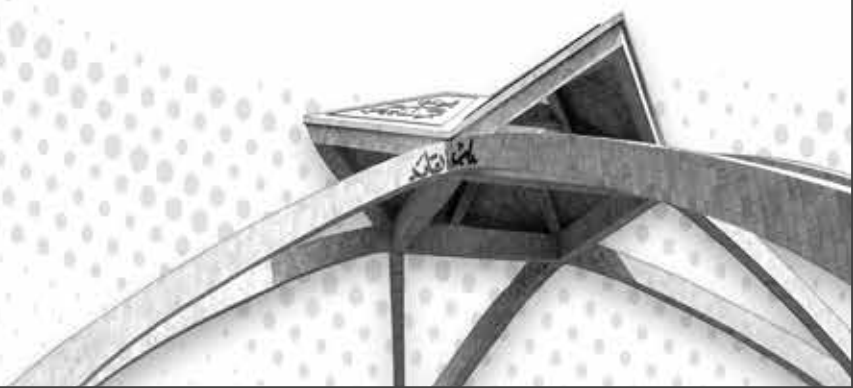
SEPTEMBER, 2022

# QAU Chronicle

A NEWSLETTER OF QAUID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD



Quaid-i-Azam University  
Islamabad







QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY  
ISLAMABAD

# QAU Chronicle

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- QASMS Executive Club arranged a beautiful sky lantern night
- Management Premier League revived
- Industrial trip arranged
- MoU signed between QAU and Northwest A&F University
- MoU on Geosciences Cooperation between Geological Survey of Pakistan and QAU
- MoU between Wather Walay and Department of Earth Sciences, QAU
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PAF Air War College Institute and QAU
- QAU inked MoU with House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC)
- QAU inks MoU with Pakistan Blockchain Institute
- Oath taking ceremony Quaidian Association of Microbiologists (QAM)
- Internal Student Chapter Paper Contest (ISCPC-22) held
- Faculty Achievements
- Departmental Activities
- Inter Departmental Competition Session 2021-22



# 6549 graduates receive degrees at QAU Convocation

Some 6549 graduates received degrees at 9th Convocation of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. President Dr Arif Alvi, Chancellor of the University conferred the degrees to the successful graduates.

Addressing at the convocation the President said equipping the country's youth bulge with knowledge and skills as per market demands was essential to properly utilize their potential. President Alvi said Pakistan had the fifth largest young human resource in the world, and thus required the right direction to achieve the goals of prosperity in line with the vision of the Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Iqbal. He proposed that universities in the country should also work on a 'virtual component' of education to help increase the number of highly-qualified graduates.

The President said that the brain drain of professionals in the 70s and 80s incurred a big intellectual loss to the country. He urged the graduates to serve the nation and contribute towards their society. He also lauded the QAU for achieving the top rank in the country besides getting several other accolades at the world stage of academics.

While addressing the audience, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor, QAU said that Quaid-i-Azam University was continuing with its tradition of academic prestige and was ranked among the top 100 universities of Asia, with its research citation ranked at 28th in the world. He said QAU had recently established a Kamyab Jawan Centre and a Business Incubation under one umbrella to provide the graduates with a platform for entrepreneurship.

He announced that the disciplines of artificial intelligence and cyber security would be started from the next academic session while the QAU was also set to launch Sports Sciences and Media Studies, he added. The VC said the QAU had signed 70 Memoranda of Understanding with different universities across the globe and had established a pension fund and student endowment fund to facilitate both its faculty and pupils.

The president on the occasion gave away medals to the students on achieving distinction in their respective disciplines. In all 202 students received the Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor's Medals. Parliamentary Secretary for Education Ms. Wajiha Akram, members of faculty, and graduates of the QAU also attended the event.

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Vice Chancellor





## Ehsaas and NCSW join hands for welfare of women and girls

Commemorating sixteen days of activism campaign against gender-based violence, the event titled 'Humein Ehsaas Hai Khwateen Ka' was held under the umbrella of Ehsaas. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, was the chief guest on occasion.

The event was co-organized by Ehsaas, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), and Quaid-i-Azam University. Nilofer Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW); Dr. Ismat Tahira, Secretary BISP; Arif Anwar Baloch, Secretary NCSW; and Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University also graced the occasion.

In his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali said financial and economic empowerment of women could ensure gender equality. He said that women still face discrimination and exploitation in rural areas, and we can end this menace by creating awareness. The Vice-Chancellor noted that at Quaid-i-Azam University, girl students play a very influential role in academic and extra-curricular activities.

Addressing the occasion, Dr. Sania said, "Gender-based violence is unacceptable at any level and should be stopped for the development of society and economy. Our government is fully committed to empowering its women. Ensuring sustainable women empowerment, Ehsaas fifty percent plus rule is squarely embedded in all Ehsaas initiatives, including Ehsaas cash transfers, Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships, Ehsaas interest-free loans, and Ehsaas Amdan asset transfers. Currently, Ehsaas is also ensuring financial inclusion of 8 million Ehsaas Kafaalat beneficiaries through the provision of bank accounts; the entire process will be complete in six months."

"Ehsaas is the only programme worldwide that offers a higher stipend amount for girls compared to boys under its conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes".

Dr. Sania Nishtar

She also reiterated that education is essential for the socioeconomic empowerment of girls and women. "Ehsaas is the only program worldwide that offers a higher stipend amount for girls than boys under its conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs; Ehsaas School Stipends and Ehsaas Nashonuma," she highlighted further. Dr. Sania also applauded the collaboration between NCSW and Ehsaas and expressed hope that this event will lead to a longstanding and meaningful women empowerment-centric partnership in the coming days.

In the opening remarks, Chairperson NCSW Nilofar Bakhtiar expressed her joy at being back at Quaid-i-Azam University, where she briefly studied during her academic career. She shared a brief historical perspective of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence and explained how this violence is the most pervasive and least convicted crime in the world. Chairperson also appreciated the Ehsaas program's unyielding efforts to uplift the women in Pakistan. She also encouraged participants to commit to ending violence against women and motivated all students to enthusiastically chant the slogan "End Violence Against Women NOW."

Inspiring the participants, girl recipients of Ehsaas Undergraduate scholarships also narrated their stories about how Ehsaas had enabled them and their families to pursue their higher studies.





# National Assembly's Standing Committee on Federal Education appreciates the achievements of QAU



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22nd meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture was held at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. MNA, Mian Najeebuddin Awaisi, chaired the meeting. The Committee discussed different agenda items. Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, briefed the committee regarding the university's academic excellence, initiatives, and plans. The committee lauded the performance of the Vice Chancellor and administration of the University for its Progressive Initiatives and dynamic programs.



## A Delegation from the University of Wah visits QAU

A faculty delegation from the University of Wah headed by Prof. Dr. Nazir Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UW, visited Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU). The delegation met with Raja Qaiser Ahmed, Registrar, QAU, and Dr. Muhammad Idrees, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU, to discuss and explore the avenues of academic collaboration between the two institutions. Senior faculty members and Chairpersons of the different departments also attended the meeting.





## Student Projects of the Department of Computer Sciences received funding from (NGIRI)

Student Projects of the Department of Computer Sciences received funding from IGNITE's National Grassroots Research Initiative (NGIRI). These departmental student projects which solve real-life computing problems received funding up to Rs. 80,000.

The following five projects developed by the students were approved for funding by IGNITE. These projects include:

- Cricket Bowling Training app for Kids elbow extension analysis, by Waseem Khan, Supervised by Dr. Muazzam Azam Sindhu
- Automatic Quantification of wheat spikes using Neural Networks by Ibadullah Kahttana, Supervised by Dr. Ayyaz Hussain
- ECG monitoring system using IOT, by Haroon Rasheed, Supervised by Dr. Muazzam Ali Khan Khattak
- Smart Electricity Manager, by Zeeshan Arif, Supervised by Dr. Muazzam Azam Sindhu
- Smart Garden Health Monitor App, by Taimoor Aslam, Supervised by Dr. Muazzam Azam Sindhu

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## Seminar on "Countering Violent Extremism in Pakistan"

The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) organized a "Countering Violent Extremism in Pakistan" seminar at the DSS Auditorium, QAU. Prof. Dr. Anita M. Weiss, Professor at the Department of International Studies, University of Oregon Eugene, was the Guest Speaker. She is a Professor in Asian Studies, PPPM, Religious Studies & Sociology, and the author of the book "Countering Violent Extremism in Pakistan." This book identifies and analyses the impact of the various ways in which local people are responding, taking stands, recapturing their culture, and saying 'stop' to the violent Extremism that has manifested over the past decade in Pakistan.





# Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi reported the most extensive genomic and epidemiological data on Coronavirus

Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi, Professor and Chairperson at National Centre for Bioinformatics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in collaboration with researchers from the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, and National Genomics Data Centre, Beijing Institute of Genomics, CAS / China National Center for Bio information has recently reported the most significant genomic and epidemiological data of coronavirus in Pakistan that includes the full-length high-quality genome sequences of more than 150 coronavirus samples from Pakistan. This study was recently published in the prestigious international journal Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics with the title "Genomic Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Pakistan".

The data reveals initial introductions and transmission of the virus in Pakistan and has identified 29 over-represented mutations/variations in Pakistani samples of coronavirus. As Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi explained, mutations are tiny errors in the genetic code that occur during the spread of the virus. Principal investigator of this study Prof. Dr. Yiming Bao, who is the Director of the National Genomics Data Centre, Beijing, further added, "While some mutations in genomes of coronavirus are harmless, others can bring about such changes in the virus that can enhance its transmissibility and infectivity and thus making it more deadly, as in the case of Indian, UK and South African variants of COVID-19".

The genomic epidemiology of coronavirus in Pakistan revealed international introductions of COVID-19 in Pakistan from 28 countries and identified five distinctive spreading clusters during the first wave of pandemics. The largest cluster was introduced among them, possibly from the USA, France, Portugal, Sweden, Oman, and Qatar, consistent with the epidemiological investigations. No progenies of these 150 viruses have been found outside of Pakistan, most likely due to nonpharmacological intervention, such as travel restrictions, etc., to control the flow of viruses outside our country. This recent study by Dr. Amir's research team and collaborators could guide effective disease control and spread strategy.

"So, we, evolutionary biologists know that to check the virulence of the virus and keep its spread under control, it is important to keep track of virus evolution through massive genome sequencing initiatives," said Prof. Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi. According to Dr. Amir, their ongoing work on coronavirus genome sequencing would further clarify the genomic epidemiology of COVID-19 in Pakistan.

"While some mutations in genomes of coronavirus are harmless, others can bring about such changes in the virus that can enhance its transmissibility and infectivity and thus making it more deadly, as in the case of Indian, UK and South African variants of COVID-19".

## Online Skills Training Workshop for Children with Behavior Disorder

A one-day an online skills training workshop for children with Behavior Disorder was conducted by Ms. Sadaf Arif, an Applied Behavior Analyst and registered Behavior Technician (BACB, USA). The key topics covered by the resource person included parental stress management, enhancing positive family interaction skills, procedure for therapists and psychologists to help parents and examining and changing patient thoughts.



## NIP organized Sports Week

NIP's Annual Sports Week was organised recently. In this regard, NIP's student body organized a series of sports-related activities under the guidance of NIP students' affairs incharge Dr. Saira Khan and NIP Director Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif. Various games, including cricket, badminton, table tennis, chess, ludo, and football, were offered, and the NIP student body enthusiastically participated in them.

## Seminar on Cybercrimes and Cyber Security

“The Cybercrime Wing (CCW) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) deals with the growing threats of cybercrimes and is the only unit of its kind”

An awareness seminar titled 'Cybercrimes and Cyber Security' was delivered by Ms. Zooni Ashfaq and Mr. Najeeb ul Hassan from the Cyber Crime Wing, FIA. The activity was attended by a packed house of students who received the training with immense interest. While introducing their FIA wing, the speakers shared that the Cybercrime Wing (CCW) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) deals with the growing threats of cybercrimes and is the only unit of its kind in Pakistan that directly receives complaints and take legal measures against cyber criminals. The awareness seminar covered rich and vital information with the audience, including the importance of cyber security, types of cybercrime, secure usage of smartphones and other electronic devices, secure browsing, keeping one safe on the web and social media platforms, dark web services, social engineering and being cyber wise. On this occasion, information leaflets were also distributed among the attendees, besides gifts given to the students for asking pertinent questions.

## Seminar on “Registration of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in Pakistan” by NCB & ORIC

A Seminar on “Registration of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in Pakistan” organized by the National Center for Bioinformatics & ORIC was held. The guest speakers of the seminar were Mr. Meesaq Arif, Executive Director IPO, and Ms. Saima Kanwal, Deputy Director IPO explained the IP system in Pakistan and stressed the significance of IP-based technology transfer in research organizations. Ms. Saima Kanwal, Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Office Pakistan (IPOP), delivered a talk covering in detail the Intellectual Property Rights, Copyrights, Patents, and Trade Marks, highlighting their importance and what all actions are to be taken by an individual to protect their innovative work.

On this occasion, Dr. Sikandar Azam, Chairman NCB, expressed his gratitude to IPO and ORIC for their cooperation and patronage in organizing the seminar. He thanked the guest speaker, Mr. Meesaq Arif, ED, and Ms. Saima Kanwal, DD IPO, for attending the workshop.

# Financial Management Seminar: Pakistan Stock Market and Role of K Trade, Digital Banking & Fraud Prevention



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The students of BSBA 5B arranged a seminar on Financial Management under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr. Waseem Abbas. The guest speaker, Muhammad Talha Malik, current growth manager of K trade, informed the students about the modern-day digital trends in the Pakistan Stock Market and the Role of K trade. Moreover, digital monetary trends, such as digital banking, were also discussed. However, risks are associated with digital trade and banking, such as security risks, legal risks, operational risks, risks related to the application interface, and much more. Shahid Jamil Kashmiri, Manager of banking services at Allied Bank Limited, taught the audience how to avoid and manage risks and frauds associated with digital banking.

## Seminar on “Islamophobia A political Dividend in India.”

The Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, organized a one-day seminar on “Islamophobia: A Political Dividend in India”. The panel was moderated by Dr. Salma Malik, Assistant Professor, QAU; the speakers included Ambassador Abdul Basit, former High Commissioner to India; Group Captain S M Hali, Sitara-i- Imtiaz; Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson of Defense and Strategic Studies Department, QAU.

In her introductory remark, Dr. Salma Malik underlined the efforts made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, in sensitizing the world about Islamophobia. She added that these efforts have continued during the tenure of PM Imran Khan. The strategy ultimately bore fruit as the UN has now recognized an International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

Ambassador Abdul Basit delved back into the genesis of RSS. He remarked that this ‘saffron brigade’ is rooted in the works of Savarkar, the pioneer of Hindutva ideology. He added that this extreme nationalism is not only about territorial expansion but also about creating a Holy Land (amalgamating minorities into the Hindu culture). Ironically, this rabid nationalism is increasing the legitimacy of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP). Modi, associated with RSS since childhood, has mastered the art of voting politics by spreading anti-muslim rhetoric. There is a conscious effort to convert the Muslim nation into a minority through measures including the citizenship act; the “Ghar Wapsi” Program aims to convert Muslims into Hindus, hustling with history and changing the name of roads associated with the terms of Mughals. It has become a part of statecraft-hood and will continue under the BJP regime.

S. M. Hali narrated that Islamophobia is not a new phenomenon, but it has its traces in the history of the subcontinent. By elaborating on the historical incidents, he showed how it is transferred from generation to generation and how severe the animosity would be in the coming age, which would be destructive. During the British era, the young boys were trained as cadets in an academy run by the Hemani, the niece of the founder of Hindutva. The training inculcated in their minds that Muslims were their natural enemy and must be subjugated. The surgical strikes in the guise of the Uri attack in 2016, the Balakot strike in 2019, and the recent Missile incident stemmed from ultra-nationalistic tendencies.

Dr. Shabana Fayyaz emphasized that because there is something wrong with the very psyche of the Hindutva adherents, it will erode the integrity of the state of India. She argued that religion or culture is not an evil force, but when it’s used to suppress a minority, it gradually gets a bad reputation.





## Seminar on “Blue Economy, Potential, Challenges, and Prospects for Pakistan”

Rear Admiral Syed Faisal Ali Shah SI(M), Director General Joint Cantonment Gwadar at Joint Services Headquarters, was invited to the department as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on Blue Economy, Potential, Challenges, and Prospects for Pakistan.

The Speaker educated the audience about the concept of the blue economy and the potential of maritime resources, as Pakistan is one of the most endowed countries with one of the most diverse coastlines, comprising the fifth largest mangrooves forest is a source of livelihood for 500,000 people. According to survey estimates, immense oil reserves are yet to be explored fully, which can provide significant revenue earnings for the country in the coming decades.

He also emphasized and highlighted the economic potential through tourism, fisheries, and ship-making and breaking industry; with more than 95% of the country's trade dependent on the sea, Pakistan still lacks a maritime vision. It is the answer to the country's rising unemployment, energy crisis, and food insecurity, but due to several aspects, including inadequate resources to explore and exploit, lack of private sector initiative and involvement, non-optimized port operations, and slow pace of development, the country stands to lose on the immense economic value of the maritime sector. He further elaborated on the potential of Gwadar port, the jewel in the CPEC crown.

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## Soft Skills Seminar

The students of BSBA and BSPA enrolled in the 3rd Semester organized an engaging session on Soft Skills. The guest speaker Tassaduq Gillani enlightened the audience about the importance of soft skills in the modern corporate world. Time management and the matter of time were the focal points of the discussion. He also cultured the audience about future goals, determination, and mindset in personal and practical life.

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## Financial and Credit Management Seminar

The School of Management Sciences, QAU students, organized a financial and credit management seminar. The guest speakers were Muhammad Omer, Regional Business Head North of The Bank of Punjab, and Syed Asghar Abbas Naqvi, Regional In-charge/Assistant General Manager of Pakistan Stocks Exchange (PSE). They gave students hands-on knowledge of financial and credit management. Students from the whole department joined the seminar and actively listened to the tips and tricks delivered by the speakers.

# Consumer Financing and Financial Management Seminar

The students of BSBA have recently arranged a seminar on Consumer Financing and Financial Management. The guest speakers, Tanveer Ahmad, Assistant Vice President of Askari Bank, and Dr. Mehmood Qureshi, lecturer and consultant at the Ministry of Agriculture indulged students in exciting conversations about investment and the stock market and risks associated with investing in stocks.



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## National Conference on Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihood

One day National Conference on "Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihood" was organized by the department of Environmental Sciences, QAU, in association with Awaz Foundation Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor, QAU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest. The MNA Noureen Farooq Ibrahim, a member standing committee on water resources, climate change, and convener sustainable development goals (SDG)-13, was the chief guest of the concluding session.

## Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan completed the ALP-PARC-funded project

Grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) is the world's most important fruit crop. It contributes 50% of the world's fruit production in fruits, raisins, juice, wines, soaps, and the canning industry. It has specific climatic and edaphic requirements to grow well and produces quality yield. *Vitis vinifera* is native to the Mediterranean region and can withstand varied conditions. It can be cultivated in various soils, ranging from gravelly sands to heavy clays, with a pH ranging from 5.5 to 7.0, depending upon the type of growth.

Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) is potentially one of the suitable habitats for this crop. This area is spread over an area of 27220 sq. Km that extend along the Pak-Afghan border, hosting a human population of 5 million. The FATA has always played a significant role in our country's development, including the agriculture sector. 70 % of its population depends upon local small-scale agriculture production for their livelihoods and food's nutritional requirements. The total water availability for the agriculture crop at the moment is 3,986 acres feet, which can irrigate a small percentage of agricultural land, i.e., 35.7 percent of the total agricultural land where cereal and vegetables are grown. In the present-day situation, while the government is trying to rehabilitate and develop Ex-FATA, making it part of KP province, it is a better time to initiate small-scale research projects like ours and mega developmental projects. Therefore, Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP), Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), funded the project to introduce horticulture in general and Viticulture in particular in Ex-FATA the region with the following main aims and objectives.

**Project Aims:** This ALP, PARC-funded project aimed to introduce suitable crops at suitable times. To keep in mind the suitability of habitat, prevailing poverty in the region, and potential of Viticulture (Grape Production) as a highly-priced cash crop, Ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) were proposed for this project.

**Project Objectives were:** To find out the suitable Grape varieties produced by public institutions and local grape growers (adapting to extreme climate and topography, fungal resistance, high crop yield, and good quality) for propagation and extension in semi-arid subtropical and dry temperate regions of Ex-FATA Pakistan.

To introduce viticulture in Ex-FATA, Pakistan in general, and its Dry Temperate Ecological Zone in particular.

To alleviate poverty by enhancing the socioeconomic status of people of Ex-FATA through viticulture development.

To play a role in bringing the FATA region to mainstream development in the scenario of Vision 2025.



## Celebrations of World Soil Day

Soil is one of the four pillars alongside water, air, and light, upon which life's structure is built. FAO has declared 5th December as World Soil Day. It's celebrated all around the globe to convey a message regarding the importance of soil every year. As Pakistan's top-ranked university, QAU also gives special attention to this day as soil studies are essential not only to its curricular and co-curricular activities but also to obey a moral obligation.

Keeping in mind the theme of the Soil Day Celebration, "Halt Soil Salinization, Boost Soil Productivity," the Department of Plant Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University in collaboration with the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), and PASTIC organized one-day symposium where Soil Scientists from Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad gave talks to the faculty and students. Students presented various models and posters showing how to Halt Salinization and pollution of soil.

Chief Organizers of the event, Dr. Shujaul Mulk Khan, Associate Professor of Plant Sciences, introduced the event briefly, the history of World Soil Day, and the importance of Soil to biodiversity. He further explained that the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), in 2002, under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, started to celebrate this day. Later on, the FAO Conference 2013 unanimously endorsed the 5th of December as World Soil Day. The 68th UN General Assembly approved in December 2013 by designating 5th December 2014 as the first official WSD. FAO has supported the WSD as a global awakened awareness-raising for all the stakeholders since then. He also acknowledged the efforts of Dr. Hazirullah, Director of ORICS, his team, and Dr. Maryam PASTIC National Centre for their active collaboration with Plant Sciences to organize the event. He further said that the event had been registered on the FAO site as well <https://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/worldwide-events/en/>.

Soil salinization and sodification are major soil deterioration processes threatening ecosystems and are recognized as among the most critical problems.

Key Note Speakers of the event, Dr. Tariq Sultan and Dr. Shahzada Sohail Ijaz, emphasized the motive of the day to raise awareness about maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by pointing out the dangers of soil salinity. Soil salinization and sodification are major soil deterioration processes threatening ecosystems and are recognized as among the most critical problems at a global level for agricultural production, food security, and sustainability in arid and semi-arid regions.

Prof Dr. Safia Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Biological Sciences, and Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Chairman Department of Plant Sciences, asked the participants to raise awareness about the importance of mother soil by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil salinization, and encouraging masses of the society to improve soil health and productivity.

Prof Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, focused on the importance of the day and overall co-curricular activities of the No. 1 University in the country, the QAU. He resembled a teacher and researcher with a Tower of light which enlightened the youngster with knowledge and wisdom to accept the modern world's challenges and bring positivity to society. The event ended with the distribution of shields among the position holders of the posters competition, speakers, and organizers, followed by an awareness walk. More than 300 participants attended the ceremony.

## International Conference on Applied Zoology held at QAU

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam urged young scientists, teachers, and researchers to step forward and meet the emerging challenges of economic development and national progress. He addressed the inaugural session of the 4th International Conference on Applied Zoology (ICAZ-2021) at QAU. The conference was organized by the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in collaboration with the Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF) and the Applied Zoological Society of Pakistan (AZSP).

Highlighting the issues of agricultural research, the Minister said that wheat production in Pakistan has been stuck for the last 12 years; livestock production per animal is the lowest in the world. "The gene technology, breeding, feeding, and health care of the animals is the essence to increase the production. However, we need to execute the best practices of the developed economies and invest in human resource development," he added. The Minister said that we need to have world-class universities and islands of excellence to compete for the world and progress.



Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Muhamad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, said that the two-day conference had brought together the leading academicians, scientists, researchers, medical practitioners, and various industry professionals from all around the world.

"I see this conference as a great opportunity for leading researchers to share their innovative ideas, experiences, and cutting-edge research in Applied Zoological Sciences. This effort will undoubtedly provide a great platform to show the importance of Animal Sciences focusing on diversity and biology," said the Vice Chancellor. He also lauded the efforts of the patrons, principal organizers, organizing secretaries, and conveners for organizing the successful event.

The scientific program of the ICAZ 2021 was designed to discuss significant fields such as Biochemistry, Biodiversity, Bioinformatics, Biomedical, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biotechnology, Cancer Biology, Cell, and Molecular Biology, Development Biology, Ecology, Entomology Environmental Biology, Fisheries, Food and Nutrition, Fresh water and Marine Biology, Microbiology, Ornithology, Paleontology, Parasitology, Pest management, Physiology, Poultry Science, Toxicology, Wildlife Conservation, Zoo archaeology.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, and Dr. Muhammad Naeem Khan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Baltistan, Skardu, also addressed the audience.



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## Human Genetics Lab, Department of Zoology publishes paper in 'EMBO Journal'

In a multinational collaborative study, the group of Dr. Sajid Malik, Human Genetics Lab, published critical research in EMBO Journal. The study was initiated at the Human Genetics Lab, Quaid-i-Azam University, several years back. Part of the research was carried out with the help of a Turkish collaborator at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey. The subsequent cellular studies were carried out in South America, at the University of Chile, Santiago, Chile, and several other labs in North America. The researchers studied an inbred Pakistani family with an intellectual disability and discovered a mutation in the PDIA3 gene. This study presents a genetic and biological framework for disease modeling and learning novel therapeutic targets for neurodevelopmental disorders.

## Successful Launch of MPhil Evening Program

Under the supervision of the Director NIP, Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif, the NIP team successfully launched an evening program for MPhil. This is the first-ever evening program offered by the National Institute of Psychology. The program is mainly designed for professionals who can quickly join evening classes for their academic progression. To welcome evening program students and familiarize them with NIP culture, NIP Director, Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif, and MPhil Evening Program Coordinator, Dr. Jamil Ahmad Malik, arranged an orientation session.



## Awareness Campaign on Wildlife Preservation

NIP's BS-I students conducted an awareness campaign on wildlife preservation in their course titled "Foundations of Social Work" under Ms. Arooj Mujeeb (RA Cum Lecturer). The campaign was conducted in collaboration with WWF. The campaign's activities included regular visits to the hiking trails of Islamabad to meet and interview tourists. A comprehensive questionnaire was developed to gather information about the demographics of the visitors as well as regarding their knowledge of wildlife. At the end of one month campaign, the students presented a brief report of the movement to the WWF director at the Islamabad office. All the students engaged in this campaign were awarded a one-month internship certificate by WWF.

## NIP Students attended the National E-Commerce Convention

A group of NIP students accompanied by Ms. Riffat Zahir from the NIP faculty attended the National E-Commerce Convention held at the Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. The three components of the convention included the inauguration of the E-tijarat online portal, an exhibition of successful startups, and awards to the industry leaders for their services to the country and the economy. Prime Minister Imran Khan, the chief guest of the event, said that while addressing the attendees on this occasion, the government was planning on expanding the information technology (IT) sector in a few years and urged the youth to take advantage of the "technological revolution" in the country.

## Certificate distribution ceremony of National Idea Bank, NIB competition held

The certificate distribution ceremony of the National Idea Bank, NIB Competition was held. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates and shields among the winners of different competitions.

While addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University said that every business and venture begins with an idea; to be successful, there needs to be a continual series and stream of excellent and innovative ideas. He lauded the organizers' efforts and urged the youth to come forward and participate in the NIB competition. "Ideas and innovations are not born in to vacuum; these need to be presented, tested, and put to productive feedback. It is pleasing to see our youth sharing ideas without fear of failure under NIB's umbrella," said the Vice Chancellor.



Briefing the audience regarding the initiative, Dr. Hazir Ullah, Director, ORIC, and QAU's Focal Person for NIB, said that National Idea Bank Pakistan is a collaboration between Academia, Government, Industry, and Society to identify and showcase innovative ideas and to solve indigenous problems. He said that under this initiative, more than 2000 creative ideas were received and judged throughout the country, while provincial-level events for these ideas were arranged in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Islamabad. He said some 26 pictures had been selected in the field of Education, Health, E-commerce, Construction, Natural resources, and Agriculture for the final ceremony.

The Honorable President of Pakistan inaugurated National Idea Bank (NIB) to promote the talents of Pakistani youth, innovate ideas, solve industry problems and build a robust knowledge-based economy.



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## The Program Coordinator of TIKA called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali

Mr. Muhsin Balci, the Program Coordinator of TIKA, called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) is a government department focusing on development cooperation and working in more than 150 countries. Dr. Muhammad Sajid Khattak, Deputy Director, P&D, QAU, accompanied the delegation.

## Members of the Pakistan Bar Council visited the School of Law, QAU

Members of the Pakistan Bar Council visited the School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad. The delegation consisted of Advocate Haroon Ur Rasheed, Member Legal Education Committee, and Advocate Hassan Raza Pasha, Member Finance Committee, Pakistan Bar Council. The members visited the building of the School of Law and met with the permanent and visiting faculty.

The members attended a meeting chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University. Bar Council members were informed of the achievements of the School of Law, QAU, and the plans of the University. The members showed satisfaction with the existing available infrastructure and facilities of the School of Law.







## Awareness Session on Complex Financial Crimes held at QAU

An awareness session on “Complex Financial Crimes: Cyber Security, Money Laundering & FATF” was held at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU). Dr. Sanaullah Abbasi, Director of the General Federal Investigation Agency, was the guest speaker.

Director General FIA briefed the audience about the phenomena of complex crimes in society, including money laundering, cyber security, and the role of FIA in tackling and combating these prevalent challenges. Director General emphasized that we should join hands with our youth to eradicate emerging crimes as “young people are the change agents” and educational institutions are society’s assets. He also informed the audience that FIA had started E-Investigation system. Dr. Sanaullah Abbasi and Registrar QAU agreed to sign MOU so that anyone, especially girl students, would easily submit their complaints online against harassment, cyberbullying, account hacking, or identity theft.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, praised Dr. Sanaullah Abbasi for taking the initiative of awareness campaigns with renowned educational institutions of the country regarding complex financial crimes.

“Young people are the change agents” and educational institutions are society’s assets”



## H.E. Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, visited QAU

The certificate distribution ceremony of the National Idea Bank, NIB Competition was held. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates and shields among the winners of different competitions.

While addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University said that every business and venture begins with an idea; to be successful, there needs to be a continual series and stream of excellent and innovative ideas. He lauded the organizers’ efforts and urged the youth to come forward and participate in the NIB competition. “Ideas and innovations are not born in to vacuum; these need to be presented, tested, and put to productive feedback. It is pleasing to see our youth sharing ideas without fear of failure under NIB’s umbrella, “ said the Vice Chancellor.



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## International Conference On "Us-Pakistan Relations: The Way Forward" held

The Area Studies Centre for Africa, North and South America at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Dawood Law Associates co-hosted a one-day international conference on "Pakistan-US Ties: The Way Forward." Conference participants discussed ways to improve the bilateral ties between the US and Pakistan, especially in light of Pakistan's paradigm shift in foreign policy towards "geo-economics." The Conference was attended by scholars from both the US and Pakistan to discuss the dynamic of bilateral ties between the two countries.

In his Welcome speech, the Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, lauded the role of QAU in promoting rich dialogue culture through such initiatives and providing a negotiation platform to the national and international academia on issues of mutual importance. Emphasizing the vast geo-economic potential of Pakistan, he further said, "I would like to emphasize upon showcasing the strength of Pakistan's immense potential as a huge market comprising of more than 212 million people among which 60 percent comprises of youth and its equal potential as a connecting point for South, Central, and West Asia, which makes it a hub of geo-economic interactions to promote peace and prosperity in this highly connected and globalized world."

Conference Co-host Attorney Dawood Ghaznavi further appreciated the role of Area Study Centre QAU in promoting bilateral ties between Pakistan and the US through educational exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congressman Al Green admired the Pakistani diaspora's role in promoting bilateral ties between the two countries. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee highly appreciated the efforts of the incumbent government in Pakistan to address the challenges of climate change. While sharing her personal experiences of the visit to Pakistan identified several areas of cooperation, such as education, e-commerce, and medicine, and lauded Pakistani people as "great humanitarians."

While focusing on the joint vision of the US and Pakistan on "Geo-Economics," the US Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela Angler emphasized strengthening economic ties between the two countries. She added, The United States is by far Pakistan's largest export market, but there is still room for growth. Pakistan has much to offer U.S. investors across a wide range of sectors, notably fast-moving consumer goods, IT, agribusiness, and financial services. There are numerous reasons to be optimistic. For example, Pakistan has become the leading U.S. dairy cattle exports market, enabling Pakistani dairy farmers to increase productivity and profits dramatically."

The Director General (America), Mr. Mudassar Tipu, in Foreign Office, Islamabad, also participated in the Conference. In his remarks, he asserted that the trade and investment climate of the country is encouraging owing to the promising 220 million population, friendly and non-discriminatory regulatory laws, improved security apparatus, and opportunities in Special Economic Zones.





The focal person for Overseas Pakistanis in PM Office, Mr. Atif Khan, further explained the role of the Pakistani diaspora in the US in expanding their bilateral ties by adding new avenues such as trade and e-commerce.

The conference concluded with remarks by the In Charge, Area Study Centre, Dr. Sadia Sulaiman, who termed this particular phase in Pakistan-US ties a "Window of Opportunity" for both countries to redefine their bilateral relations without focusing on a third country.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee highly appreciated the efforts of the incumbent government in Pakistan to address the challenges of climate change.

## Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Academic Block, Labs & Girls Hostel held

Groundbreaking ceremony of the PSDP project "Provision of Academic and Research Facilities & Girls Hostel" held at QAU. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, inaugurated the construction work at the site.

After the formal inauguration, the construction work started for the Girls Hostel No. 14 with a covered area of 45000 Sqft, the Services Block with a covered area of 42596 Sqft, the Academic Block for Taxila Institute of Asian Civilization with a covered area of 30072 Sqft.

Dr. M. Sajid Khattak, DD(P&D) and Engr. Bakht Rahman, Project Director, QAU, briefed the Vice Chancellor and ceremony participants regarding the project.





# Japanese Calendar Exhibition organized



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H.E. Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), inaugurated the Japanese Calendar Exhibition here at Central Library, QAU. The event was organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) and the Directorate of Students' Affairs, QAU.

While addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Japanese Ambassador said that the Japanese calendar exhibition is an annual cultural event being organized as part of the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. He told the displayed calendars to portray various aspects of Japanese art, culture, heritage, and lifestyle. The Ambassador said events like this would help to strengthen people-to-people contact and bilateral relations between both nations.

In his vote of thanks to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University lauded the organizers' efforts. He urged the students to learn how Nations and advanced economies thrive. He said the accomplishments of the Japanese Nation in the field of science and technology are commendable.



## Annual book fair inaugurates

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, inaugurated a two-day Book Fair organized by the Dr. Raziuddin Siddiqi Memorial (DRSM) Library. As many as 15 leading publishers and booksellers from Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the Book Fair. A wide range of books, including Natural, Biological, and Social Sciences, was displayed at a subsidized rate. Students of Quaid-i-Azam University can purchase books at a 30 percent discount. The Vice Chancellor praised the organizers' efforts for providing students with an excellent source of knowledge and motivation to read. Many students, scholars, teachers, and visitors attended the Book Fair.





## QAU launched an assessment report on the “Panahgah” initiative of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal

Department of Sociology, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) has launched a third-party assessment and evaluation report on the “Panahgah” initiative of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) to help PBM for making informed decisions about their expansions and improvement of the project.

The report covered all five “Panahgahs” in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The research team headed by Dr. Hazir Ullah, Department of Sociology, QAU, accessed and interviewed the respondents to give a comprehensive and deeper understanding of the beneficiaries' views on the services available to them in these Panahgahs.

While briefing the audience, Dr. Hazir Ullah said that beneficiaries have unanimously shared that the shelter homes and free food have increased their daily/monthly income and savings. According to our findings, the free food and shelter initiative has helped the daily wagers to increase their protection by reducing spending on their daily food and night stay.

“Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 that they used to spend on their food and accommodation are now saved. This has increased their monthly saving from the estimated Rs.10000/ to 15,000, and the beneficiaries unanimously appreciated food quality,” said Dr. Hazir Ullah.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, lauded the research team's efforts. He said that the initiative would help to assess the program's effectiveness and provide research-based guidance and suggestions for improvement. He suggested that the other industries of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) should also be considered and evaluated by scaling up the scope of the study.

Managing Director Pakistan Bait ul Mal, Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar, thanked the Quaid-i-Azam University and the Department of Sociology research team for sharing the assessment report. He said the findings would help Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal to expand the scope of shelter homes across the country in line with the PM's vision of developing Pakistan as an Islamic welfare state.

The free food and shelter initiative has helped the daily wagers to increase their protection by reducing spending on their daily food and night stay





# MOL Pakistan donates academic books and computers to QAU

MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company has donated academic books and computers to the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Representatives of MOL Pakistan contributed to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, QAU. MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of MOL Group, operating in the country since 1999. The Vice Chancellor thanked the MOL group for donating the books, computers, and 15 fully funded scholarships for needy students of the University.



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## Conference on the Securitizing Non-Traditional Security Dynamics in South Asia held

School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University, in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Pakistan, organized two days International Conference on; Securitising Non-Traditional Security Dynamics in South Asia: Contemporary Challenges and Future Trajectories. The Purpose of the conference was to chart how non-traditional security challenges in South Asia can be securitized and identify the opportunities it provides for regional cooperation.

In the Inaugural Session, Dr. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Director School of Politics and International Relations, welcomed the speakers and engaged the audience. He said the conference's objective is to enter into a meaningful discourse on securitizing non-traditional security challenges in South Asia and to bring voices from Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and the rest of the region on this crucial subject.

Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan, elaborated that academic research is objective, transparent, logically consistent, verifiable, honest, and, most importantly, relevant. He said HSF has always tried to strengthen this research on non-traditional security issues in Pakistan and the region.

Dr. Raja Qaisar Ahmed, Registrar Quaid-i-Azam University, welcomed such academic engagements and stressed the promotion of open spaces for such critical debates. He noted that this is high time to go beyond the established narratives of security and build new knowledge for better future trajectories.

In the keynote address Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain, Professor of Public Policy at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, explained the history and evolution of non-traditional security. He elaborated that Geopolitics includes 1) access and control over resources, 2) interdiction of these resources 3) denial of these resources to the enemy.

He said Geo-economics, on the other hand, deals with resource nationalism. Through their interplay, the two create the current world order. He further explained the features of the contemporary South Asian System.





Session I of the conference, “Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations of Non-Traditional Security,” was chaired by Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor, SPIR, QAU. Among the panelists, Dr. Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal, Assistant Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations, argued that securitization theory has helped us understand the power play of politicians and decision-makers in formulating national security policy. The second panelist, Dr. Suba Chandran, Professor and Dean, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India, elaborated on conceptualizing and contextualizing non-traditional security. The last panelist of the session, Dr. Arshi Saleem Hashmi, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National Defense University, Islamabad, discussed the regional and transnational non-traditional security challenges and how the states, after identifying them, may be able to come up with coordinated efforts to deal them.

The Session II of the conference, “Economics, Trade, and Development in South Asia,” was chaired by Dr. Aisha Younus, Assistant Professor, SPIR, QAU. Among the panelists of this session were Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad; Ms. Ammara Durrani, Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pakistan, and Dr. Sukalpa Chakrabarti, Deputy Director and Associate Professor, Symbiosis School of International Studies, Pune, India.



## The conference on “Climate Change and Environment” concludes at QAU

The Department of Environmental Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), in collaboration with the Pakistan Partnership Initiative, organized a two-day International Conference on Climate Change and Environment. The conference was an effort to combat and tackle Climate Change to bring significant benefits to human health, the economy, and sustainable development.

The speakers at the conference believed that the natural balance of the global climate is changing rapidly, leading to uncertain



climate conditions. Nations of the world, including Pakistan, face one of the single most significant challenges to health and life: Climate Change's menace.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, lauded the organizers' efforts to provide the students and young researchers with an excellent opportunity to learn and share research. He said the research on "Climate Change and Environment" would help alleviate poverty while preventing and mitigating the detrimental effects of human-induced environmental damage.

In a two-day conference, research papers were presented on the themes including impacts of climate change on wildlife and air pollution, forest cover changes, the vulnerability of urban flooding due to climate change, climate change-driven extended pollen seasons and extreme pollen allergies, conversion of waste to energy and impact on climate change, the effect of land encroachers on natural resources, the effect of climate change on water resources of Islamabad, transport system vs. climate change, tourism vs. climate change, agriculture & Natural Resource Management.

While addressing the conference, Dr. Sohail Yousaf, Chairperson, Department of Environmental Sciences QAU, said that Climate change is not just related to the environment but also causes social and economic insecurity; hence people remain uncertain of their future. "The developing countries like Pakistan are extremely vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change, and it is difficult for them to meet the costs of adaptation and mitigation," he added. He also highlighted the contribution of the Department of Environmental Sciences, QAU, in addressing the indigenous problems.



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## Industrial Trip arranged

Quaid-i-Azam School of Management Sciences arranged an Industrial tour for the graduating batch of the master's program to the major industrial areas. The Industrial time aims to instill hands-on knowledge of the corporate environment and interpersonal skills in the students of QASMS. The five-day tour was supervised by Dr. Muhammad Junaid and Co-supervised by Mr. Aqeel. Students visited Mannu textile mill near Lahore, Masood Mills in Faisalabad, and the international textile industry, US apparel. Moreover, they saw the DC office.





## MoU signed between QAU and Northwest A&F University

On Friday, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Quaid-i-Azam University and Northwest A&F University (NWAUFU). Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, QAU, and Prof. Wu Pute, President (NWAUFU), signed the document. Under the MoU, both institutions agreed to cooperate in the fields of Agriculture and Agriculture related disciplines.

The institutions also agreed to joint efforts to establish the Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological Resources and Sino-Pak Bio-health Agriculture Overseas Sci-tech Demonstration Park at Quaid-i-Azam University. Both universities will also initiate staff exchange programs and students and joint training programs for graduates and undergraduates.

## Certificate distribution ceremony of National Idea Bank, NIB competition held

The Department of Earth Sciences signs MoU with the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP). Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah signed the MoU, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, Director General, Geological Survey, Pakistan. The objective of this MoU is to conduct activities in the field of geosciences based on equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefits. Exchange and cooperation will be completed in the following areas.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| i). Field works and Training                             | ii). Sample study and interpretation           |
| iii). Joint Conferences and workshops                    | iv). Diplomas, Short Courses, and Certificates |
| v). Opening of GSP laboratories for Students and Faculty | vi). Internships for graduates                 |

## Memorandum of Understanding Between WeatherWalay and Department of Earth Sciences

The Department of Earth Sciences signed the MoU with WeatherWalay. The MoU was signed by Dr. Aamir Ali, Chairman Department of Earth Sciences, and Mr. Junaid Yamin, CEO of WeatherWalay. The objective of this MoU is to strengthen further the ongoing research related to Geohazards at the Department of Earth Sciences along with internship and job opportunities for students of the department of Earth Sciences.

## Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Paf Air War College Institute and QAU

By signing this MOU, the two institutions indicate their willingness to collaborate and establish mechanisms to work together in the following fields:-

- Assistance/ guidance to faculty and students in research work in mutually agreed areas.
- Lectures by the faculties on mutually agreed topics.
- Holding joint seminars on mutually agreed themes.
- Publishing research work in each other's publications per established criteria.
- Exchange of research publications.
- Other mutually agreed activities.



# QAU inked MoU with House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC)



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Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide housing finance facilities to the employees. The HBFC will give this facility to the regular employees of QAU. Dr. Raja Qaiser Ahmed, Registrar, QAU, and Mr. Faisal Murad, Group Head of Business & Operations for House Building Finance Company, signed the document. Under the MoU, HBFC will offer five housing finance products, namely "Ghar Sahulat Scheme", "Ghar Pakistan Scheme", "Ghar Pakistan Plus Scheme," "HBFC Khaas," and "Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar" to the employees of QAU.



# QAU inks MoU with Pakistan Blockchain Institute

Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Pakistan Blockchain Institute (PBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU. The Institute of Information Technology, QAU, and Pakistan Blockchain Institute (PBI) will work together on Blockchain Technology-based projects. The PBI will play a significant role in providing the awareness, research & implementation of Blockchain Technology. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, and Mr. Ahmad Manzoor, CEO of PBI, signed the document. Under the MoU, both parties will help develop nexus for collaborative projects between academia and industry. PBI will further extend its support for digital outreach and provide advisory services for technology activities, including industry talks and software competition in QAU.





## Oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected cabinet of the Quaidian Association of Microbiologists (QAM)

- Oath taking ceremony for the newly elected cabinet of the Quaidian Association of Microbiologists (QAM 2021-2022), farewell to the wardrobe of QAM 2019-20, and Prize Distribution ceremony of Departmental sports activities was held at the Department of Microbiology.
- The event's chief guest Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Biological Sciences, emphasized the participation of students in healthy activities at the Department and University levels. Prof. Dr. Aamer Ali Shah, Chairman Department of Microbiology, appreciated the involvement of students in extracurricular activities and highlighted the importance of such activities.
- Trophies and cash prizes were given to winners and runner-ups of the 7th Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed Cricket Tournament, 3rd Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed Badminton Tournament, and 1st Prof. Dr. Fariha Hasan Table Tennis Tournament.
- Newly elected cabinet members for the year 2021-22 are as follows:
- President: Salah ud Din Khan (PhD-V)
- Vice President: Asad Farooq (Mphil-II)
- General Secretary: Adeel Khawar (BS V)
- Joint Secretary: Iqra Javed (BS-VII)
- Sports Secretary: Kashif Nawaz (BS V)
- Event Manager: Tasswar Hayat (BS V)
- Media Secretary: Rumaysa Shoaib (BS III)
- Finance Secretary: Khizar Maqsood (BS III).

Trophies and cash prizes were given to winners and runner-ups of the 7th Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed Cricket Tournament.





# Internal Student Chapter Paper Contest (CPC-22)

The department of Earth Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, organized an Internal Student Chapter Paper Contest under the umbrella of “Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts” (SPWLA). The main themes of the Internal Student Chapter Paper Contest (ISCPC-22) were:

- i). Formation Evaluation of Conventional Reservoirs
- ii). Formation Evaluation of Unconventional Reservoirs
- iii). Automated Methods of Formation Evaluation
- iv). Specialized Measurements, Techniques, and Interpretation Methods
- v). Core and Well-Log Integration
- vi). Case Studies

Three chief oil and gas industry guests were invited to judge the Internal Student Chapter Paper Contest (ISCPC-22). The details of the judges are as follows;

- i). Mr. Irfan Hameed, Chief Petrophysicist (RMD), OGDCL, Islamabad
- ii). Mr. Ahsan Javed Deo, Senior Petrophysicist (RMD), OGDCL, Islamabad
- iii). Mr. Muhammad Safdar, Principal Petrophysicist, Schlumberger, Islamabad

The judges shortlisted the below given three top candidates among the presenters, and shields were awarded to them.

## Position Holders:

- i). Muhammad Bilal Malik (M. Phil student, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad)
- ii). Maha Ali Haider (Ph.D. student, University of the Punjab, Lahore)
- iii). Izaz Hassan (BS student, University of Malakand)

## Faculty Achievements

### ● Research Grant Awarded to Dr. Sobia Masood and Dr. Humaira Jami:

In January 2022, The Higher Education Commission (HEC) awarded Rs. 4016950/- (four million sixteen thousand nine hundred fifty) to the Project No 14887 entitled “Development and Effectiveness of a Web-based Psychoeducational Program for Reducing Radicalization in University Students,” having a total cost of Rs. 4016950/- and project duration of 12 months, submitted for funding by faculty members of the National Institute of Psychology, Dr. Sobia Masood (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Humaira Jami (Co-Principal Investigator).

### ● Project “Optimal Route Planning using Artificial Intelligence for last mile Delivery Services” by Dr. Khalid Saleem

In the project Optimal Route Planning using Artificial Intelligence for last mile Delivery Services: A case of Intelligent Transport System (ORPAI), a neural combinatorial optimization model will be designed and implemented for capacitated vehicle routing with a time window for dynamic customer orders on real-time data. This model can accommodate deterministic and dynamic requests generated for the construction of optimal routes (for last-mile delivery services), thus providing a bi-objective evaluation of both cost-effectiveness and computationally efficient route creation by deploying deep learning techniques for policy optimization. Industrial partner Tranzum Courier Services Pvt supports the project. Limited (TCS). Its principal investigator is Dr. Khalid Saleem. National Centre funds it in Big Data and Cloud Computing (NCBC), HEC, with Rs. 9.3 million. The project is expected to finish by June 2022.

### ● Project “Optimizing Model Inference and Coverage for Learning-based Testing (OMiCOLT)” by Muddassar Azam Sindhu

The project Optimizing Model Inference and Coverage for Learning-based Testing (OMiCOLT) is aimed at designing, implementing, and evaluating new grammatical inference algorithms with lower complexity, along with devising new coverage criteria for Learning-based testing (LBT). Both of these aspects will add to the practicality and utility of LBT for testing even more diverse and complex applications. This will enable the team involved to quickly transfer the technology as part of the project to industry and academia, thus allowing them to test relevant applications with a tool based on cutting-edge research. The principal investigator of the project is Dr. Muddassar Azam Sindhu. HEC-NRPU funds it with an amount of Rs. 2.1 million. It is expected to finish by June 2023.



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- The Paper "Voting Classifier-based Intrusion Detection for IoT Networks" received the best paper award.

The papers received the best paper award at the 2nd International Conference of Advanced Computing and Informatics, Morocco, 2021. The paper was "Voting Classifier-based Intrusion Detection for IoT Networks" by Muhammad Almas Khan, Muazzam A. Khan Khattak, Shahid Latif, Awais Aziz Shah, Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Wadii Boulila, Maha Driss, and Jawad Ahmad.

- Personality Development Workshops conducted by NIP

Four members of the NIP faculty had the honor of delivering two workshops as resource persons at Military College, Murree, and Karnal Sher Khan Cadet College, Swabi, respectively, on the topic of Personality Development in the last week of March 2022. Dr. Sobia Masood, Dr. Aisha Zubair, Dr. Naeem Aslam, and Dr. Saira Khan were the resource persons for the two-day workshop arranged for the faculty and cadets of Military College, Murree, on 28th-29th March 2022. On 30th March 2022, Dr. Sobia Masood and Dr. Saira Khan from the NIP faculty delivered a one-day training workshop for the cadets at the Karnal Sher Khan Cadet College, Swabi. The workshops were received at both venues, and resource persons appreciated their valuable input.

- Dr. Mohammad Tahir Waheed was awarded a certificate of achievement by WILEY Publications.

Dr. Mohammad Tahir Waheed from the Department of Biochemistry was awarded a certificate of achievement by WILEY Publications for a Top-Cited Article entitled "Correlations among oligonucleotide repeats, nucleotide substitutions, and insertion-deletion mutations in chloroplast genomes of plant family Malvaceae" published in the Journal of Systematics and Evolution.

- Dr. Iram Murtaza's research ranked top-cited in Wiley's Journal of Pineal Research.

Dr. Iram Murtaza's research entitled "Melatonin prevents neuroinflammation and relieves depression by attenuating autophagy impairment through FOXO3a regulation" was top-cited in Wiley's Journal of Pineal Research. "

- Ph.D. Scholar won the Young Investigator Award at an international conference.

Ms. Durre Shehwar (Ph.D. Scholar) from the Cell Biology Lab of the Department of Biochemistry Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad has won the Young Investigator Award at the 2nd International Conference on "Advances in Drug Discovery and Development" organized by the Department of Biochemistry and ORIC at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan.

- Dr. Ilhan Niaz, Department of History, won the 8th HEC Award for Best Book.

Dr. Ilhan Niaz, Associate Professor, QAU Department of History, won the 8th Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) Award for Best Book for The State During the British Raj: Imperial Governance in South Asia, 1700-1947.

### Department of Computer Sciences Publications with High Impact Factor

Using machine learning techniques for rising star prediction in basketball, by Zafar Mahmood, Ali Daud, Rabeeh Ayaz Abbasi, Published in Knowledge-Based Systems, 2021, Impact Factor: 8.038

On Deep Neural Network for Trust Aware Cross-Domain Recommendations in E-commerce, by Adeel Ahmed, Khalid Saleem, Osman Khalid, Umer Rashid, Abdullah Baz, Published in Expert Systems with Applications, 2021, Impact Factor: 6.954

Resolving cross-site scripting attacks through genetic algorithm and reinforcement learning, by Iram Tariq, Muddassar Azam Sindhu, Rabeeh Ayaz Abbasi, Akmal Saeed Khattak, Onaiza Maqbool, Ghazanfar Farooq Siddiqui, Published in Expert Systems with Applications, 2021, Impact Factor: 6.954

Energy-aware intelligent city management system using data analytics and Internet of Things, by Muhammad Babar, Akmal Saeed Khattak, Mian Ahmad Jan, Muhammad Usman Tariq, Published in Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments, 2021, Impact Factor: 5.353

Using graph embedding and machine learning to identify rebels on Twitter, by Muhammad Ali Masood, Rabeeh Ayaz Abbasi, Published in Journal of Informetrics, 2021, Impact Factor: 5.107

- Department of environmental sciences faculty member Prof. Dr. Riffat Naseem Malik was elected a fellow Pakistan Academy of Sciences in January 2022. She was also awarded a distinguished STEP fellowship in October 2021 to visit and for an interactive session at Ishfan University of Technology Iran. Dr. Abida Farooqi was awarded the JSPS Japan invitational fellowship in March 2022 at Osaka City University Japan.
- Under the NRPU21 call, Dr. Abdullah Khan won the grant of 10.47 million PKR to work on carbon capture. In contrast, Dr. Abida Farooqi was granted 1.8 million PKR for her project on water research in February 2022. Dr. Abida Farooqi and Dr. Riffat Naseem Malik have also started a joint collaborative project with Kagoshima University Korimoto Japan in January 2022.

- Prof. Dr. Riffat Naseem Malik, Dr. Abdullah Khan, and Dr. Mazhar Iqbal Zafar attended various International Conferences as invited speakers and presented their research work.
- The Chairperson National Center for Bioinformatics (NCB) QAU, Dr. Syed Sikander Azam, delivered the keynote presentation/Talk at the 1st National Hands-on Training.



## Departmental Activities: School of Law

### 4th David John Moot Competition

The students of the School of Law organized the 4th David John Moot Competition. Numerous departmental teams participated in the competition and displayed impressive advocacy and legal research skills.

### Welcome Party of Batch 2019-20

The students of the F-19 Batch organized a welcome party for the students of the F-20 Batch. The senior students gave the newcomers an orientation about the School of Law.

### Student Delegate at Vis Moot Competition University of Lahore

The students of F-18 Batch and F-19 participated in the Moot Court Competition held at the University of Lahore. The participants performed impressively against the teams from other law schools and qualified for the quarterfinal out of 38 units in the competition.

### Student Delegate at Vis Moot Competition at Pakistan Law College

An F-18 Batch School of Law team participated in a Law Moot Competition held at Pakistan Law College, Lahore. The team reached the semifinals out of 24 units of the Competition.

### Students participate in the 12th Annual East Vis Pre-moot Competition.

A team of students under the mentorship of Mr. Alam Zeb Khan participated in the Annual East Vis Pre-Moot Competition for Exclusive Oral Advocacy in Bahrain. The team competed against teams from the best law schools in the world. The competition provided an enriching experience for the participating students.

## Departmental Activities: Environmental Sciences

- Orientation session on Internship opportunities: An orientation session was organized by WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with QES to discuss the different internship opportunities for the students of the Environmental Sciences Department.
- Online conference to spread awareness on climate change: An online meeting was held by the School of Leadership and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Pakistan in collaboration with Guardian Environmental Society to spread awareness and educate the youth about smart cities and climate change.
- World Wildlife Day celebrated: In collaboration with Friends of Environment, Guardian Environmental Society celebrated world wildlife day by organizing an awareness walk from the department to the botanical garden and planting 500 indigenous plants. The theme highlighted the importance of forests and ecosystems for sustainable human livelihoods.
- Online session to celebrate World earth day: QES, in collaboration with UVAS SCENsociety, organized an online session to celebrate earth day. The theme was to Restore our Earth.
- Pakistan Day: QES celebrated the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan with national enthusiasm and arranged a plantation drive at QAU. The message of this special occasion was: "Think Clean and Go Green to keep PAKISTAN CLEAN!"
- QES organized an interactive session on Environmental protection. Ms. Zile Huma (MNA), Chairperson Central Advisory Committee on Environment and Tourism, highlighted the importance of Environmental protection.
- Trip to Khanpur Orange Resort: Quaidian Environmental Society arranged a One-day trip to Khanpur (Orange Resort) for the students of the department of Environmental Sciences.
- Iqbal's Day Celebrations: Iqbal's Day was Celebrated by QES in which students performed different activities.
- Departmental Annual Gathering: QES organized Annual Gathering for the Department of Environmental Sciences students.
- Clean Drive: The Green Youth Movement (GYM) club arranged for the New year's clean drive on 3rd January 2022. More than 50 volunteers made resolutions to keep QAU clean and green.



## Celebrations of World Soil Day

- Spring Plantation Drive: The GYM club inaugurated Spring Plantation Drive at Quaid-i-Azam university. Worthy Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah was the Chief guest and started the campaign by planting a tree. A total of 250 plants were arranged for this event.
- In Environmental Mela organized by the National Cleaner Production and Center Foundation (NCPC), MPhil student Tahreem Rasheed got second in the art competition.
- Panel talk on Climate action arranged by Lincoln corners in collaboration with US Embassy and National Library

## Awareness Event: Wildlife Management:

The Islamabad wildlife management board and GYM Club organized a Margalla Hills National Park awareness event at Quaid-i-Azam University. This campaign was intended to highlight the value of national parks and the risks posed by human activities to animals in national parks.

## Departmental Activities: Computer Science

The department regularly invites researchers and organizations from around the globe to enlighten the students and faculty about the latest research, trends, and technologies in the field of computer science.

### ● Talk by Dr. Mohsin Bilal on “Deep learning in computational pathology.”

The department invited Dr. Mohsin Bilal, a senior data scientist at PathLAKE Center of Excellence at the University of Warwick, UK. Department also requested Dr. Bilal to talk about weakly supervised deep learning in computational pathology. In the era of big data, distributed computational systems play a vital role,

### ● Dr. Salman Toor talks about “distributed computing infrastructures, recent challenges, and opportunities.”

In another seminar, Dr. Salman Toor, an Associate Professor at Uppsala University, Sweden, gave awareness about distributed computing infrastructures, recent challenges, and opportunities.

### ● Talk by Dr. Jamal Nasir on “New era of language processing.”

Another seminar was conducted on the new era of language processing, which is particularly important in computationally understanding human language. In this seminar, Dr. Jamal Nasir discussed the future research prospects of natural language processing by complex computational algorithms. Dr. Jamal Nasir works as a postdoc fellow at the prestigious Data Science Institute, National University of Ireland, Galway.

### ● Dr. Muazzam Ali Khan Khattak organized a lecture on Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Muazzam Ali Khan Khattak, an associate professor at the department, organized a lecture series on Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

### ● ICESCO Chair for Big Data Analytics

The ICESCO Chair for Big Data Analytics and Edge Computing was also established at the department. The chair was established with the help of ICESCO under the supervision of Dr. Muazzam Ali Khan Khattak. The main objective of the chair is to bring awareness about different fields in advanced computing, collaborate and coordinate with other member state universities, and organize various activities.

### ● The Huawei ICT competition was organized in collaboration with Huawei Pakistan.

A roadshow to the Huawei ICT competition was organized in collaboration with Huawei Pakistan. Huawei also established the Huawei Academy in the department. The academy will bring awareness about Huawei technologies, organize seminars, webinars, and training, and support Huawei in the form of equipment.

### ● A talk about data analytics by DICE analytics

A talk about data analytics was given by DICE analytics. DICE analytics provides consultancy services related to Big Data, Data Science, and Business Intelligence. To equip graduating students with knowledge about the latest technological trends, Mr. Yasir Khattak organized a session with outgoing students.



## Departmental Activities: TIAC

### Four days Archeological workshop.

(A 4-day Archaeological workshop was organized by the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, in which Digital Microscopy and Photography, Pottery making, Pottery Drawing, Calligraphy and Islamic Artistic Designs, and Ancient techniques of Beads and Sculpture making were taught by the experts.

### An International Conference on Buddhism in Pakistan

Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations at Quaid-i-Azam university and Silk Road Center, in collaboration with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (Uzbekistan), have organized an International conference and art festival on "Buddhism in Pakistan: History, Archaeology, Art and Architecture," in which 20 international scholars and artists have participated. The conference and art festival was held in Islamabad, featuring interactive research sessions and artwork followed by curated trips to key Buddhist Heritage sites in the ancient Gandhara region of Pakistan. This event was designed to promote the value of Pakistan's cultural and religious harmony in the country by bringing together diverse religious faith leaders such as Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, and Buddhists.

## Departmental Activities; Zoology

### Student of Human Genetics Lab, Department of Zoology visits Yale University through IRSIP, HEC.

Ms. Anisa Bibi, a Ph.D. student at the Human Genetics Lab, Department of Zoology, has achieved an IRSIP scholarship and is currently visiting Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. USA. This visit aims to get exposure to an international lab and learn cutting-edge research methods in molecular genetics. During her stay at Yale University, Ms. Anisa shall perform experiment work as part of her Ph.D. project.

### Students' achievements

Entrepreneurial Program for Women: Hira Akhtar of BSBA-8 B qualified for an entrepreneurship program for Women by WeCreate and TIE Pakistan. The program included several workshops to provide women with basic entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.

## Sports, Inter-Departmental Competition Session 2021-22

Sports have always played a vital role in creating a healthy environment. It is said that "the more playgrounds, the fewer will be hospitals." Sports indeed play a fundamental role in nurturing the sportsman spirit and prove integral for a healthy mindset.

The sports directorate organized Inter Department Competitions for Boys & Girls to develop physical and cognitive abilities. The Session 2021-22 Inter-Departmental Competitions started on 30 November 2021 and closed on 17 March 2022. A total of 09 Games were conducted for boys, and 04 events were run for girls. The complete detail of participating teams' Winner and Runners Up is as under:-

Position Table of Inter-Departmental Competitions for Boys

S.No.	Game/Event	Participating Teams	Winner	Runners Up
1	Badminton	19	Bio-Technology	Statistics
2	Football	26	QASMS	Information Technology
3	Table Tennis	15	Law	Physics
4	Cricket	31	QASMS	Chemistry
5	Tug of war	17	QASMS	Bio Chemistry
6	Volleyball	19	Microbiology	Math
7	Chess	32 players	Statistics	TIAC
8	Snooker	36 players	NIPs	Physics
9	Road Race	50 players	Computer Science	Information Technology



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Position table of Inter-Departmental Competitions for Girls

S.No.	Game	Participating Teams	Winner	Runners Up
1	Badminton	19	Economics	Sociology
2	Table Tennis	22	QASMS	Geo Physics
3	Chess	11 players	QASMS	Chemistry
4	Walk Competition	80 players	Public Administrative	Bio Chemistry








# Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad

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