



Fig. 1 - Sheikh Muhammad Hayat aside the display board of Museum
(Photo by HKL, 2018).

**Field Memories with Sheikh Muhammad Hayat
(1934-2020)**

Mueezuddin Hakal

The birthplace of Mr. Muhammad Hayat was village Jhawariyan, in District Sargodha, and the date was 4th February 1934. After receiving secondary education, he started working as a teacher at a local school in District Sargodha. Later his service shifted to District Khoshab.

His connection with Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations (TIAC) was very long, since the time of its inception. He was regularly visiting Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hassan Dani, Dr. M. Saleem, Prof. Dr. Ashraf Khan, and Dr. Ghani-ur-Rahman, the Directors of this Institute, to slake his intellectual thirst. My first interaction with him was at Lahore in Second Museum Conference at COMSATS in 2017. Where he invited me to visit Khoshab, but he visited TIAC before my first academic tour to District Khoshab.

My first visit was in February 2018, the second tour was in October 2018, and the last with him was in October 2020. Mr. Hayat was not a teacher only, but also he worked as an investigator of history and archaeology. In his academic journey, he explored many of the sites in the surroundings of the Salt Range, and gave access to the sites to the researchers, and facilitated their field activities at Khoshab.

In this connection, he authored six books including *tārīkh-e Sa'ud-i 'Arab* (1992), *tārīkh-e Islāmī Jamhūriya-e Irān* (1994), *tārīkh-e Wast-e Asia* (2003, 2nd edition 2020), *Sarzamin-e Sargodha* (2003), *Zill'a Khoshab, tārīkh ke a'ine me* (2014), and *Tārīkh-e Ālam-e Islām*. His major contribution was to establish a collection of artefacts for the museum with his name 'Hayat Museum of Natural History and Archaeology' established by the District Administration of Khoshab.

He facilitated many scholars to have academic tours to Khoshab. First, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani visited the area on his insist. Dr. Saleem with his support arranged several field trips in Soan-Sakesar Valley and Khoshab. Dr. Saif-ur-Rahman Dar visited the site of Nari and produced a paper. After him, I visited the site of Nari and Temple of Kattha Sagral, and Rorapindh was for the first time explored and identified as a contemporary site of the Gandharan period, in the first tour. In the second fieldwork, we moved up to the valley Sakesar and visited the ruins around the lake of Śakyamuṇi-sar, noticed the unique graves of the early Islamic period, monuments of the Mughal Age in Khoshab, and also to Amb temple. In third and recent fieldwork we visited the early Islamic graves in Sakesar and revisited the sites of Nari, Rorapindh, and Kattha Sagral. Nari was previously identified by Saif-ur-Rahman Dar (2002) as the site of Pre-Indus cultures continuing to the later phases of Civilizations, from the surface data, and excavations based future investigations will add more to it. From the surface

investigations of data from Rorapindh, we have declared it to be the site of Scytho-Parthian and Kushan age, contemporary to the sites of Gandharan heritage and culture in the Khoshab region. Temple at Kattha Sagral (Hakal 2018) is adding about the architectural history of Hindu Shahis, the mound on which temple was existing can establish the connection between Gandharan and Hindu Shahi period history. The monumental large size graves in this area with their unique ashlar masonry with vernacular Indian elements of elaborated decorations marks the emergence of Islam in this land and the continuity of local traditions. The monuments of the Mughal age add more to the glory of Islamic History in this area, on-road between Kabul and Lahore.



Fig. 2 - Mr. Hayat, second from left, during the last field with TIAC team at Rorapindh (Photo by HKL, October 2020).

Thus, the role of Mr. Muhammad Hayat in the explorations of the sites here has helped us to understand the cultural sequence of history from the Kot-diji period to our times. We planned to visit the archaeological sites in the desert area of District Khoshab, which was our next planned academic tour to this area. It was appearing that he was in hurry to show us everything, for which he was regularly mentioning “after me, no one will show you all that I have seen”. Unfortunately, he left us before guiding us to his explored sites in this region.

It was shocking news for me to receive a call and message from the personal number of Muhammad Hayat around 12:02 PM on 1st December 2020 by his grandson about the news of his passing away. That day, I had nothing else, only to pray for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace.