



Fortnightly

The Gandhara Hindko Board online English Newsletter



GANDHARA NEWS

گندھارا نیوز

April-2024, Vol:1, No.2

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"We Encourage Researchers", Muhammad Zia Ud Din

Umama Arif, hailing from Mansehra, an M. Phil. student at the Air University Islamabad, visited the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar to explore Hindko language and research. She had a meeting with the Chief Executive Committee of the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar Mr. Muhammad Zia Ud Din, and recorded his interview. Muhammad Zia Ud Din welcomed Umama Arif. He emphasized the importance of appreciating such research and encouraging researchers, especially in promoting language, as awareness among the new generation regarding language promotion is crucial.

The Gandhara Hindko Board and Academy work tirelessly for the promotion and advancement of particularly Hindko and also for other languages of Pakistan. These institutions have given Hindko language its due recognition by translating the Holy Quran in Hindko, publishing Hindko dictionaries, introducing Hindko in census as well as in NADRA form.

Umama Arif deeply appreciated the efforts of the Gandhara Hindko Board and Academy, and demanded the establishment of a similar academy in Abbott Abad, Manshera. Muhammad Zia Ud Din assured her of full cooperation. Umama Arif stressed the importance of promoting regional languages.



Thirty Years of Strengthening Participatory Organization

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), is a non-governmental entity in Pakistan dedicated to promoting democratic, social, and environmental development. Under the auspices of SPO, a prestigious event was organized to commemorate 30 years of its services, held at the Serena Hotel in Peshawar. Members of the Gandhara Hindko Board also participated in the event. The event was attended by men and women from various walks of life; that are associated with different sectors of SPO. This includes stakeholders, organizations, members of the community, and esteemed dignitaries affiliated with SPO and its associated stakeholders. The event commenced with a profound speech by the esteemed member of the Gandhara

Hindko Board, Ms. Rakhshanda Naz (currently Ombudsman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), who expressed gratitude to all the organizers. She emphasized the need for empowering Pakistani communities and promoting social justice to consistently strive for positive change in Pakistan. Besides, cake cutting, the event consisted of various sessions, where participants and attendees also shared their thoughts. An interesting part of this event was a music session, in which artists from various languages of Pakistan presented music. In reference to the music of the Hindko language, Tahira Rafi from the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar represented various Hindko melodies. At the end of the gathering, thanks were extended to all the guests.

"The Provincial Government should Oversee All Languages" Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar



On February 21st 2024, Mr. Muhammad Zia Ud Din, the General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, issued a statement regarding International Mother Language Day, emphasizing the significance of languages as an integral part of our identity. He highlighted how nations that have preserved and promoted their mother languages have progressed, contrasting them with those who neglected their linguistic heritage. Muhammad Zia Ud Din stressed the importance of strengthening and preserving mother languages to strengthen our cultural identity. He highly praised the efforts of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar for its initiatives aimed at the development of various Pakistani languages, including Hindko.

Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar is recognized as the premier institution in Pakistan dedicated to the advancement of Hindko and other regional languages. Zia credited the academy for raising awareness among youth, particularly through social media platforms, about the importance of education in mother language. He emphasized the contemporary necessity of providing education in mother languages, noting that it not only preserves linguistic diversity but also promotes healthy competition. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is particularly known for its diverse linguistic landscape, making it a province where linguistic diversity thrives. Languages spoken in the region include Hindko, Pashto, Saraiki, Kohistani, Khovar, Gojri, and Persian. Muhammad Zia Ud Din further demanded that mother languages be given their due recognition and rights, urging both federal and provincial governments to allocate

funds to the Gandhara Hindko Board and ensure the development and protection of all languages in accordance with the UN Charter and the Constitution of Pakistan.

A Multilingual Poetic Session titled "Hum Hain Sukhan Nawaz"

A multilingual poetic gathering was held as a collaboration of Pakistan Television corporation and Radio Pakistan at the auditorium of Radio Pakistan. Ahmad Nadem Awan (Joint Secretary Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar) and Prof. Malik Arshad Hussain (famous poet and researcher) presented Hindko language while Nasir Ali Syed, Mushtaq Shabab, Aziz Ijaz and Bushra Farrukh represented Urdu; Pashto was represented by Dr. Abasin Yousufzai and Dr.

Samina Qadir and Abdul Jalil Hashmi represented Khovar.

At this event, representatives of various languages other than stated above were notably absent, who could have presented their respective languages and literature. Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan Peshawar played a commendable role in promoting this initiative towards academic and literary circles.

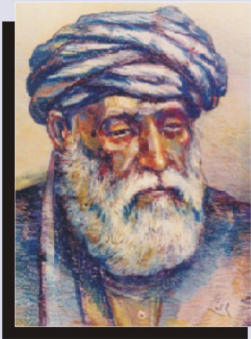


“The Culture Day” A Colorful Event at Edwardes College



Like every year, Edwardes College Peshawar organized a Culture Day event. On this occasion, representatives from various languages and cultures of Pakistan were invited, and beautiful stalls were set up, showcasing cultural artifacts, traditional attire, and other items. The Culture Day organized by Edward's College encompasses a variety of intellectual traditions. Individuals from various schools of thought participate. A large number of people attended the day including special guests such as the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and other prominent personalities. Stalls representing books from the Gandhara Hindko Board and Gandhara Hindko Academy

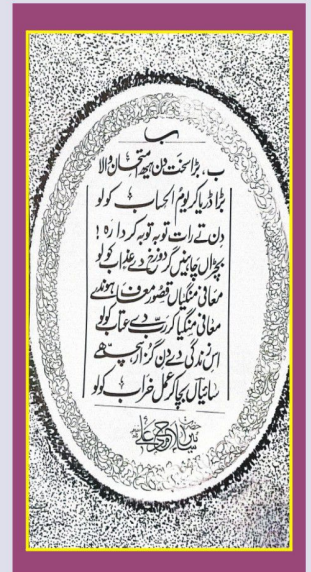
Peshawar were also set up at the event, where Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and other participants showed interest and appreciated the books. Similarly, the literature and culture of other languages spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also represented. Representatives from Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar including Ahmad Nadeem Awan, Sikander Hayat Sikander, and Khadim Ibrahim, attended the event. Staff members of the Gandhara Hindko Academy were also present. It is noteworthy that Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar participates annually in the Culture Day event organized by Edwardes College and sets up stalls featuring their books, which are warmly received by the attendees



The Calligraphy of Ahmed Ali Saien's Poetry

Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar is honored for the Calligraphic Rendition of the entire collection of renowned Sufi poet, Ahmad Ali Saien. His work has been meticulously transcribed onto large charts. Ahmad Ali Saien, hailing from Peshawar, is a distinguished sufi poet. He was such a great poet that after listening to his Hindko poetry in Lahore, Allama Muhammad Iqbal honored him with the title of "Hindko's Ghalib". Ahmad Ali Saien was not only a prominent poet of Hindko but also of Urdu and Persian. The esteemed literary and scholarly figure,

Farigh Bukhari, wrote about him, stating that Ahmad Ali Saien is the personality who established the first literary gathering (Bazme-Sukhan) in this region. Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar has been honored to not only publish all the works of Ahmad Ali Saien but also to preserve them by creating an Android app for his poetry. This initiative adds another milestone to the achievements of the Gandhara Hindko Academy, as it marks the first time that the poetry of a Sufi poet has been transcribed into large charts in calligraphy, representing regional languages of Pakistan. This achievement was brought to completion by Mr. Muslim Javed, a disciple of the renowned artist and calligrapher, M. M. Sharif.”





SILVER JUBILEE OF THE Gandhara Literary Gatherings

Under the auspices of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, various efforts have been made for the promotion and development of the Hindko language and literature. This includes the organization of literary and critical sessions continuously being held since 1997. These sessions not only showcase the literary creations in Hindko but also delve into discussions with various personalities, debates on several books, poetry recitals, and lectures.

Over the past 26 years, prominent figures such as Farigh Bukhari, Raza Hamdani, Johar Mir, Mohsin Ehsan, Khatir

Ghaznavi, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Awan, Dr. Ilahi Bakhsh Akhtar Awan, Mukhtar Ali Nayyar, Naz Sethi, Saeed Gillani, Nazir Bhatti, Sheen Shaukat, and many other renowned poets and writers have not only participated in these sessions but also presented their literary creations. The Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar has received acclaim for preserving the complete records, including audiovisual materials and written documents, of these sessions. So far, under the umbrella of the Gandhara Hindko Board's literary gatherings, 681 sessions have been held and this series continues.

Triumph in Hindkowan Newspaper: Six Years of Success

Under the auspices of Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, the weekly Hindko newspaper "Hindkowan" successfully completed its six years of publication. Six years ago, the desire of Muhammad Zia Ud Din, the General Secretary of Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, resulted in obtaining the declaration of "Hindkowan Newspaper" and the regular publication of the newspaper began. During the six-year period, the number of readers of "Hindkowan Newspaper" increased significantly, and it is now read from Khyber to Karachi and around the globe through online publication. The "Hindkowan Newspaper" has gained widespread acceptance in political, social, and public circles. In promoting journalism and highlighting public issues, the "Hindkowan Newspaper"

has played a significant role. For readers interested in literature, a literary section was included in the newspaper titled "Gosha e Adab", especially focusing on Hindko prose and poetry. In addition, the columns written by famous Hindko columnists adorn the newspaper every week, receiving not only regional but also national and international recognition.

