



Fortnightly

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# GANDHARA NEWS

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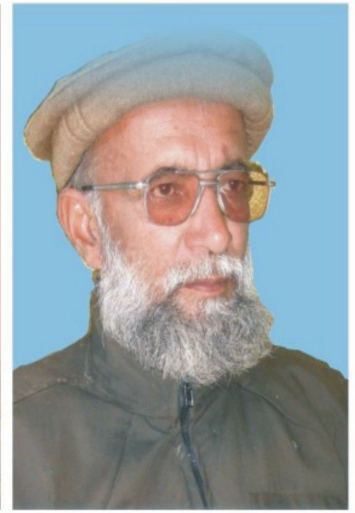
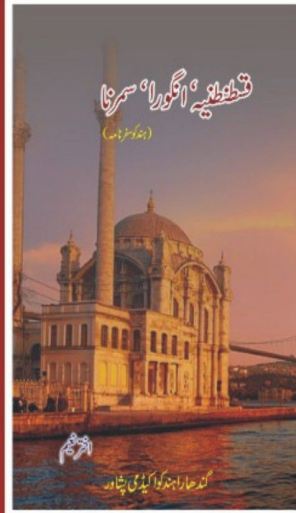
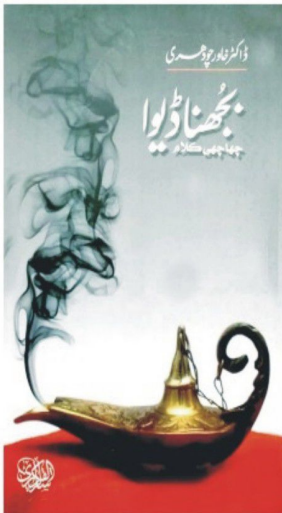
## Two Books Published by Gandhara Receive National Literary Awards

The Gandhara Hindko Academy, established under the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, has earned yet another distinction. In recognition of literary contributions by prominent writers, the Pakistan Academy of Letters has announced the Kamal-e-Fun Awards 2023 for two books published under the Gandhara Hindko Board.

Among these, Dr. Khawar Chaudhry's Hindko poetry collection "Bujhna Dewa" has been awarded the Saaieen Ahmad Ali Award, while Muhammad Akhtar Naeem's Hindko prose work "Qustuntuniya, Angora, Smyrna" has received the Khatir

Ghaznavi Award.

It is to remember that the Gandhara Hindko Academy was established in 2015 as a Public-Private Partnership project between the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. For the last two years, however, the Academy has been facing a financial crisis due to lack of government funding. Despite this, the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar has continued the project using its own limited resources. Previously as well, books published under the Board have received various Academic and Literary Awards from different scholarly and literary organizations.







## MEMORIAL PRAYER CEREMONY FOR THE MARTYRS OF QISSA KHWANI

Just like the previous years, the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar organized a Memorial Prayer Ceremony this year also to honor the martyrs of April 23, 1930, at Qissa Khwani Bazaar. The ceremony was attended by Executive Members of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar including Ahmed Nadeem Awan, Sharafat Ali Mubarak, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Waseem Shahid, Dr. Khadam Ibrahim, as well as President of Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Haji Abdul Razzaq, and staff members of the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar.

Participants laid a Floral garland at the Martyrs' Memorial and paid rich tribute to those who lost their lives on April 23, 1930. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Sharafat Ali Mubarak and

Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi stated that the wounds of the Qissa Khwani Massacre are still fresh. On that day, their forefathers led a peaceful protest against British colonial brutality and tyranny. In response, the British forces opened fire, martyring hundreds of residents of Peshawar, including women and children, but the protesters did not bow to colonial oppression.

They appealed to President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to give this tragic incident the same recognition as India gives to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. They also urged the Pakistan Textbook Board to include this historic event in the national curriculum.

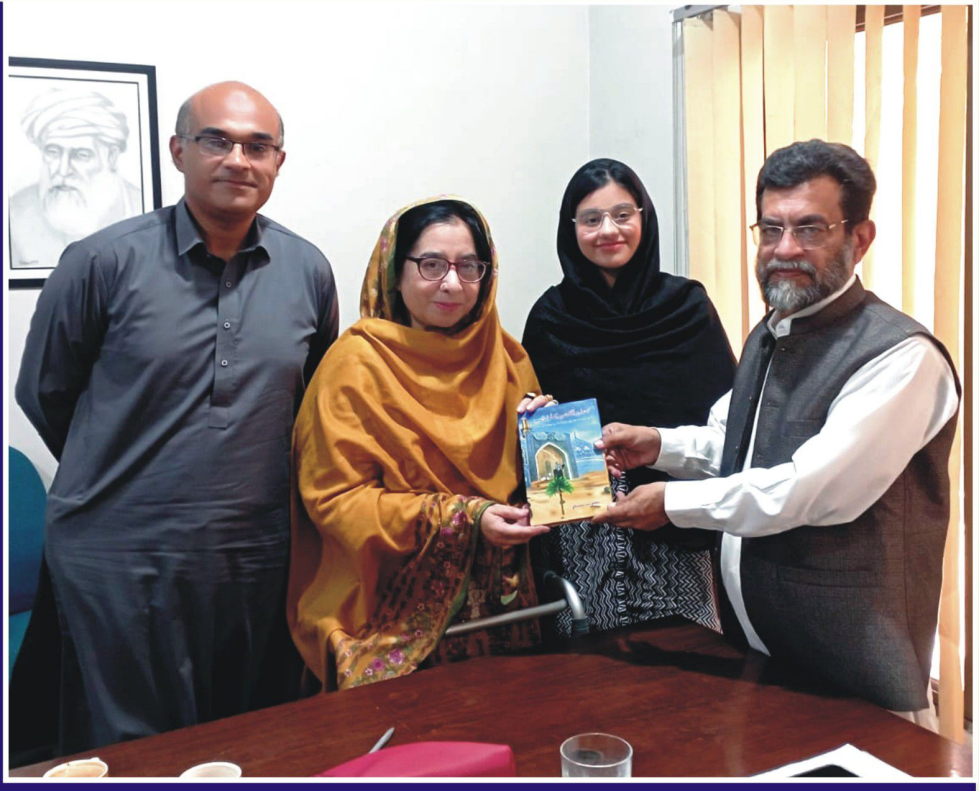




## Nusrat Naseem Appreciates the Work of Gandhara Hindko Academy

Nusrat Naseem, a renowned educationist from Kohat, editor of the Gandhara Hindko Board's literary magazine "Kotal Rang" and author of several books, visited the Gandhara Hindko Academy. During her visit, she met with the General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board, Muhammad Zia Ud Din.

She was accompanied by her son, Associate Professor Muhammad Asad, and her daughter Khadija. Staff members of the Gandhara Hindko Academy, including Research Associates Ali Owais Khayal and Muhammad Nauman Qayyum, Research Assistant Bilal Ahmad, and Librarian Muslim Javed, were also present on the occasion. Muhammad Zia Ud Din briefed her on the contributions of the



Gandhara Hindko Board and Academy in the promotion and development of Hindko and other regional languages. Nusrat Naseem highly praised the

performance of the Academy and presented a gift of her book to Muhammad Ziauddin as a token of appreciation.

## Iftikhar Tishna Appreciates the Work of Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar

Renowned poet and writer of the Hindko and Urdu languages, and Executive Body Member of the Pakistan Writers Guild, Iftikhar Tishna, visited the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar along with Zulfiqar Ahmed. On this occasion, he held an in-depth discussion regarding the Academy's recent literary activities. He appreciated the performance of the Gandhara Hindko Academy and praised Muhammad Zia Ud Din's efforts for the promotion of the Hindko language. Ali Awais Khayal, a research associate at the Academy, presented him with a book as a gift.





## Commitment to the Development of Provincial Languages



Under the patronage of Dr. Najeeba Arif, Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, a grand Two-Days Provincial Conference titled "Literatures of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Contemporary Perspective" was held in Peshawar. Organized by the Pakistan Academy of Letters (Peshawar), the event featured participation from representatives of various regional languages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Hindko, Pashto, Saraiki,

Khawar, and Dumeli. These participants shared their academic, intellectual, and creative insights during the sessions. Muhammad Zia Ud Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, also took part in the conference as a special guest. While presenting his views on the topic "Languages and Literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", he highlighted that around 30 languages and dialects are spoken in the province, with Pashto being the most widely spoken, followed by Hindko. He also mentioned that Saraiki, Khawar, Pahari, and Kohistani add to the cultural richness

of the region.

Zia Ud Din emphasized that the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar has been actively working not only for the promotion of Hindko but also for the development of all regional languages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This includes publishing books, launching literary journals, and organizing national and international conferences, ensuring representation of all the languages of the province. He concluded by saying that languages are not just means of communication, but also a source of national unity and cohesion.



## Award for Dr. Khawar Chaudhry's Book a Great Honor, Say Speakers

Justice (R) Sagheer Ahmad Qadri stated that the National Literary Award presented by the Pakistan Academy of Letters to Dr. Khawar Chaudhry for his book "Bujhna Dewa", published by the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar, is a matter of Great Pride for the entire region. He expressed these thoughts while delivering the presidential address at the celebration held in honor of Dr. Khawar Chaudhry. Patron of the Event, Muhammad Khalid Khan, remarked that Dr. Khawar Chaudhry has shown deep love and devotion to the soil of Hazro. The chief guest, Colonel Sultan Mahmood Khan, shared that his association with Khawar Chaudhry spans over twenty years, describing him as a responsible writer and intellectual. The event was moderated by renowned scholar and literary figure Allama Syed Kifayat Bukhari, who shed light on Dr. Khawar Chaudhry's academic and literary contributions.

